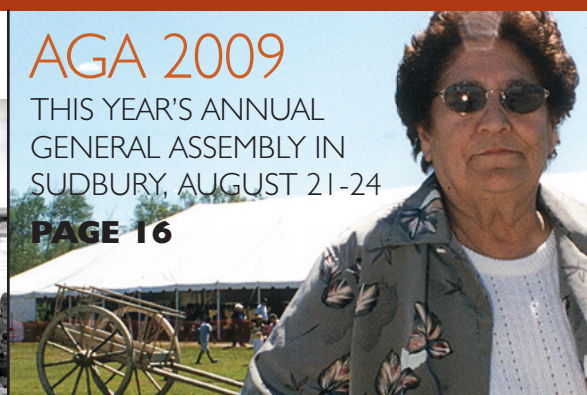
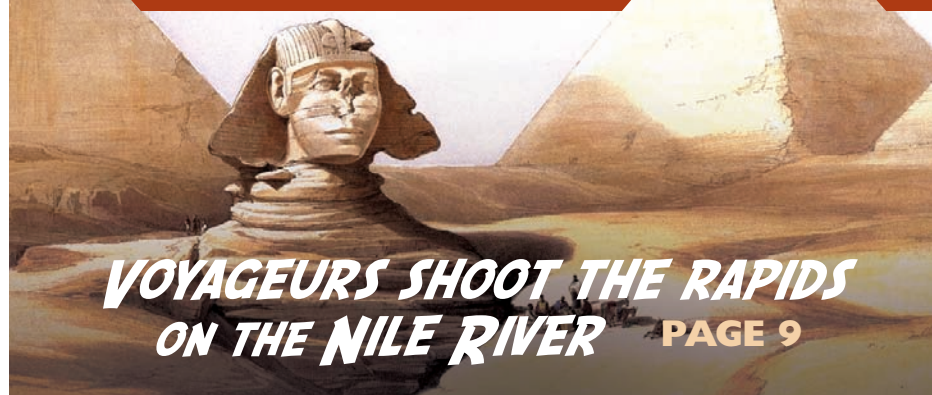


MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



Forging Partnerships

Métis Nation of Ontario signs groundbreaking agreement with Confederation College to support enhanced education opportunities for Ontario Métis

On June 4th, in Thunder Bay, Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Bob Backstrom, Vice President of Corporate Services at Confederation College signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will formalize a long standing relationship and lead to the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational opportunities at the college.

"By building on the existing relationship with the college, we can forge stronger partnerships and expand the range of community based education opportunities available to Métis and others living in the northwest region of Ontario," said Gary Lipinski. "All Ontarians will benefit from greater involvement by Métis in the province's college system and the relationship with Confederation College will contribute to building capacity within the MNO."

College President, Patricia Lang, who was unable to attend

due to illness, said earlier that, "Confederation College welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Métis Nation of Ontario in the development of an innovative program that will prepare learners to live, work and lead in Ontario and beyond."

The college and the MNO will work together to develop a "Métis Technical and Inspections Advisor" program with a focus on innovative construction methods that will increase energy efficiency and promote conservation. The training will build on the "Métis Conservation Workforce Pilot Project" developed in partnership with the Ontario Power Authority for delivery by Housing Branch Technical staff in partnership with the college. The MOU will allow for the ongoing development of the pilot project and lay the groundwork for discussions to identify other potential opportunities for collaboration.

"MNO recognizes the significant role Confederation College plays in the delivery of post-secondary education in north-western Ontario and is pleased to partner with an institution with such an impressive track record in the delivery of programs for Aboriginal students," said President Lipinski.



left to right: **Bob Backstrom, Vice President of Corporate Services for Confederation College; Gary Lipinski, Métis Nation of Ontario President and Brenda Small, Dean of Negahneewin College.**



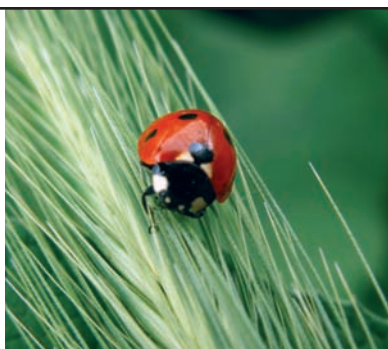
CONFEDERATION COLLEGE welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Métis Nation of Ontario in the development of an innovative program that will prepare learners to live, work and lead in Ontario and beyond." — Patricia Lang, President, Confederation College

ondary education in north-western Ontario and is pleased to partner with an institution with such an impressive track record in the delivery of programs for Aboriginal students," said President Lipinski.

"Our partnership with MNO will reflect a consultative, collaborative approach to ensure programs that foster the socio-economic well-being of its communities and the preservation of culture and traditions," added President Lang.

Brenda Small, Dean of Negahneewin College, applauded MNO's efforts in the north and visibility in the community through the Thunder Bay Community Centre.

Since it was established in 1975, the Confederation College has offered a range of programming options including full-time post-secondary programs, part-time credit and non-credit courses, specialty programs for business and industry, pre-employment and skills training programs, apprenticeship programs and cooperative/workplace training programs.



GROWING THINGS

GEORGIAN BAY MÉTIS COUNCIL STARTS A COMMUNITY GARDEN IN MIDLAND
PAGE 7



IN THE BLOOD

A MÉTIS FAMILY WON'T LET HEMOPHILIA HOLD THEM BACK FROM DOING ANYTHING
PAGE 14



MÉTIS MILITARY

THE MNO IS SEEKING CURRENT AND FORMER MÉTIS MILITARY PERSONEL
PAGES 15



MAKING THE MÉTIS SASH

WELLAND-AREA MÉTIS TAKE ON SASH MAKING PROJECT
PAGE 6



THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

SUMMER 2009, No. 58

editor

Linda Lord

design & production

Marc St. Germain

contributors

Amanda Desbiens
Art Henry
Art Turner
Barbaranne Wright
Barbara Gingras
Cecile Wagar
Chelsey Quirk
Donn Fowler
Gail Leblanc
Glen Lipinski
Hank Rowlinson
Janet Leader
Katie-Sue Derejko
Ken Simard
Lynne Sinclair
Mary Rose Steed
Rebecca Vander-Sanden
Scott Carpenter
Stephen Quesnelle
Terry-Lynn Copegog
TerryLynn Longpre
Tracy Bald
Verna Porter

contact

Linda Lord, editor
RR1 Hartington, ON
K0H 1W0
llord@kingston.net

NEW PHONE/FAX:
613-374-2305

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

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

PUBLICATION #:
PM 40025265



LETTERS FROM CITIZENS:

Métis youth “taking flight”

Dear President Lipinski:

Thanks so much for all you've done to assist my sons. You and your staff have been so helpful and considerate.

First off, thanks for inviting Nick to the symposium and for sending the framed poster back with Maurice Sarrazin. Nick told us that he thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings and I could tell by his enthusiasm that what he experienced gave him much encouragement to pursue his line of studies with a view to ecological sustainability.

Secondly, thanks for the letter

of recommendation you wrote for Nicholas concerning the “Taking Flight Award Scholarship”. He just got word tonight that he will be in the first group of recipients for this award. Finally, please extend thanks to your staff who helped James and Nick in their application to the Olympic Torch Bearer Program; they were most helpful.

James just got word that he will again receive the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation scholarship for studies in Health Sciences. James and Nick both achieved the Dean's List at their respective schools this

year. Isaac, the youngest, is trying to get in on the act also and follow in his big brothers' footsteps. One of Isaac's stories, “The lazy fox and the greedy wolf”, is being submitted for the James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Award. Isaac was eight when he wrote the story.

I've attached a photo of the three boys with the poster you sent. Thanks again for all of your considerations.

– **Steve Callaghan**
(a proud Métis father)



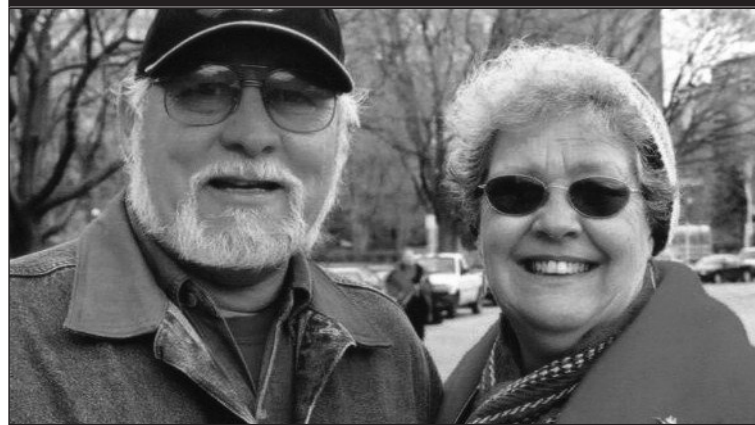
Nick, Isaac and James Callaghan

IN THE WILD



THE DEADLY HEADLOCK, part II: In the May edition of the *Voyageur* (page 23) we included a story by Roly Blanchette of Elliot Lake about the discovery of some locked moose horns. Roly recovered the racks and has had them mounted.

CONGRATULATIONS ERIC & ANNE



Congratulations to Anne and Eric Scofield, of Connaught Ontario, who will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary on July 26th, 2009.

Métis youth on Education Minister's council

In late November, I received an email from Bonny Cann (Provincial Education Initiatives Coordinator, Region 8) telling me of this amazing opportunity to join a new council, which would advise the Minister of Education of Ontario.

I applied soon after receiving the notification and waited anxiously for months with no reply. Then in mid April, I was contacted by a woman from the Ministry explaining how I had been chosen 1 of 60 out of roughly a thousand applications, to represent the student voice in Ontario. I was ecstatic and wanted to tell everyone I knew. However, the woman advised me to tell only family and friends until further notice.

On May 12th, our first meeting was held, whereupon I met with Kathleen Wynn and the other chosen students from across the province. At this meeting they informed us that we were now permitted to tell whomever we liked. Therefore, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Bonny for educating me on this opportunity, and also to everyone at the Métis Nation of Ontario who has provided me with such incredible experiences in the past. Again thank you, meeg-wetch.

– **Tiffany Harrington**

The Métis Voyageur called a “great read”

I finally sat down and read your publication of *Métis Voyageur*, very interesting and well prepared articles in the layout which flows.

I was especially interested in the “A Musical Love Story” as a good Métis having grown up with fiddle music from dad and auntie Caroline this was a natural draw.

The other interest was “Riel's grandmother's life of adventure” a very interesting article; I will now buy the book.

And finally, the story of “Métis on Ice”, hockey stories--especially regarding Métis--always catch my attention because my nephew is presently in the NHL. As a good Métis from Fishing Lake Métis Settlement Alberta he played for the New Jersey Devils three or four years, the Montreal Canadiens, (his grandfather's favourite team) for seven years, and now the Edmonton Oilers. The Canadian Museum of Civilization will soon have an exhibit with some of Montreal's equipment displayed in the “Métis Sports” section of the museum.

Keep up the good work, a very good read.

– **Garry Parenteau**
Federal Liaison,
Ottawa Office, Métis
Settlements General Council

LOOKING FOR A NEW JOB?

Be sure to check out
www.metisnation.org
for employment
opportunities.

MNO expresses condolences on passing of Sam George

Activist praised for pursuit
of justice for brother
Dudley George

On June 3rd, 2009, Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, expressed his condolences and those of all Métis citizens in Ontario to the family of Sam George who passed away on June 2nd. A citizen of the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation, Maynard “Sam” George was the brother of Dudley George, who was killed by an OPP sniper during the 1995 occupation of Ipper-

wash Provincial Park. Sam led the legal battle for an inquiry into the events surrounding his brother's death.

“All Métis and First Nations people in Ontario and across Canada can thank Sam for his efforts to have police and politicians held accountable for their actions at Ipperwash Provincial Park in 1995,” President Lipinski said. “In spite of his grief, Sam found the strength to work with all those involved to shape a fair process that helped to foster a new kind of relationship between

the government and Aboriginal people in the province.”

In 2003, thanks in large part to the efforts of Sam George, the Liberal government called a public inquiry into what happened the night Dudley George was killed. A final report on the inquiry, called the Linden Report, was released in 2007.

Sam George was diagnosed with cancer in August last year. He died at home on the Chipewas of Kettle and Stony Point reserve near Sarnia, surrounded by family members. He was 56.



Sam George

Métis Rights News

DUTY TO CONSULT & ACCOMMODATE | **GEORGIAN BAY**

Georgian Bay region Métis sign historic agreement on Consultation

Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), joined Métis leaders in Midland on April 21st to sign an historic Regional Consultation Protocol (Protocol) that covers the Métis traditional territory of Georgian Bay. This territory roughly includes Bruce, Grey and Simcoe counties with over 3,000 Métis citizens living within the region.

The signing represented the culmination of months of community meetings and discussions with Métis citizens and puts in place a consultation model that ensures the regional rights-bearing Métis community that lives in, uses and relies upon the Georgian Bay traditional territory is effectively consulted.



left to right: **Malcolm Dixon, President of the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council; Larry Duval, President of the Moon River Métis Council; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Alden Barty, President of the Georgian Bay Métis Council and PCMNO Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier.**

"This *protocol* builds on the Supreme Court of Canada's affirmation of Métis rights in the landmark Powley case. By working together in a fair, inclusive and transparent manner, the MNO will ensure all Métis in the region have a say on what is being done on the lands they have relied on

for generations to sustain Métis culture, traditions and way of life," said President Lipinski.

President Lipinski added: "This historic *protocol* aims to ensure the Crown fulfills its constitutional duty to consult while creating opportunities for all Métis in the region to engage

government and industry in order to ensure Métis increase their participation in the energy, forestry and commercial fishing sectors within their traditional territory."

President Lipinski was joined for the signing by Alden Barty, President of the Georgian Bay Métis Council; Malcolm Dixon, President of the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council; Larry Duval, President of the Moon River Métis Council; MNO Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt, Louise Goulding, and MNO Region 7

Councillor, Pauline Saulnier.

This is the fifth *protocol* signed between MNO and its Chartered Métis Community Councils throughout the province. It is a way to ensure governments as well as industry are engaging and consulting Métis in Ontario, consistent with the Crown's *duty to consult and accommodate* all Aboriginal peoples.

For more information about the Crown's duty to consult and the MNO's work in this area visit: www.metisnation.org/consultation

DUTY TO CONSULT | **SAULT STE. MARIE**



left to right: **Senator Jack Leroux; Joni Labbé, Youth Representative; Kim Powley, President of the Historic SSm Métis Council; Gary Lipinski, MNO President; Larry Folz, President of the North Channel Métis Council.**

MNO signs sixth Regional Consultation Protocol

The signing of the sixth Regional Consultation Protocol between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Historic Sault Ste. Marie and North Channel Métis Councils will help to ensure Métis in the region have an opportunity to be consulted by industry and government about proposed development on traditional lands.

Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), joined Kim Powley, President of the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and Larry Folz, President of the North Channel Métis Council, at the signing ceremony in Sault Ste. Marie. The event formalizes the traditional working relationship that exists among the Métis in the region.

"The signing of this protocol agreement in a region of the province that has such cultural significance for the Métis is

another huge step forward in the assertion of Métis rights in the province," President Lipinski said. "It demonstrates the commitment of Métis across the province to work together to ensure all citizens have input when projects related to land use planning, energy, mining and forestry on Métis traditional lands are proposed," he added.

Prior to the protocol signing, the official Community Charter for the North Channel Métis Council was signed. From now on the the North Channel Council will represent the Métis formerly represented at the MNO by the Bruce Mines/St. Joseph and Thessalon Councils.

"Once again, MNO has built on the Supreme Court of Canada's affirmation of Métis rights in the landmark Powley case. By working together, we will ensure Métis citizens have a say on what is being done on the lands they

"*The signing of this protocol agreement in a region of the province that has such cultural significance for the Métis is another huge step forward in the assertion of Métis rights in the province***"**

have relied on for generations to sustain Métis culture, traditions and way of life while realizing their potential as full economic partners in the Province of Ontario," President Lipinski concluded.

Shuffling the MNO Staff

Please join us in welcoming newcomers to the MNO as well as old friends in new positions.

It is a pleasure to introduce Frances Scheepmaker as the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator for Region Four, working from the Sault Ste. Marie office, effective May 19, 2009. Fran comes to the Métis Nation of Ontario with vast experience in employment and training. She has extensive knowledge working with the community and will be a valuable member of the MNO team. Fran's contact information is:

Fran Scheepmaker, Regional Employment & Training Coordinator
26 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3
Tel: 705-254-1768
frans@metisnation.org

Consultation (formerly Natural Resources, Environment and Consultations) Branch.

In the branch, **Hank Rowlinson** will continue as Manager, Community Relations, ably assisted by **Glen Lipinski** and **Andy Lefebvre**. Three additional positions will be announced as soon as acceptance of the MNO omnibus *New Relationship Fund* is confirmed. Bob Waldon will continue with the MNO in a consulting role focussing on three broad areas: Corporate Consultation File Management; Regional Protocol Committee Support Services; and Way of Life Framework (WOLF) Program Development.

Congratulations as well to **Katie-Sue Derejko**, formerly Policy/Project Officer Intergovernmental Relations, who will be stepping up and replacing Paul Heighington as Senior Policy Analyst Intergovernmental Relations. For those not aware, Paul has accepted a position with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada/Office of the Federal Interlocutor as a Senior Policy Analyst working primarily with the Manitoba Métis Federation.

Many of you have had the pleasure already of working with **Janet Leader** our Director of Communications. Janet will also be assuming responsibility for the Registry and its entire staff. **Karole Dumont-Beckett** is stepping down as Director of the Registry in order to focus full time on her role as Registrar/Chief Genealogist for the MNO.

Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Guylaine Morin-Cleroux. We are very pleased to announce that Guylaine has accepted the permanent position of Administrative Assistant to the Director of Employment and Training. Please update your directories with:

Guylaine Morin-Cleroux
Administrative Assistant
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
Tel: 613-798-1488 x116
guylainem@metisnation.org

It is a pleasure to introduce respectively, **Melanie Paradis**, formerly Project Manager with AECOM, as the Director, and **Brian Tucker**, just completing his PhD in Plant Ecology, as the Manager of the Lands, Resources and

NATIONAL DAY OF RECONCILIATION • June 11th, 2009



Hundreds gather on Parliament Hill June 11th, 2008 for the government's Apology to Residential School Survivors.

The Reconciliation Era

Thursday, June 11, 2009, marked the first anniversary of Canada's apology for its treatment of children, parents and families as a result of the Indian residential schools system. Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Phil Fontaine, called upon Canadians across the country to remind the federal government that the apology calls for the establishment of a new standard of behaviour toward Aboriginal people.

"Last year, the Prime Minister made a moving and heartfelt

apology to residential school survivors on behalf of all Canadians," said the National Chief. "Now is the time to move forward on the next step in our journey, and that is to enter a new era of reconciliation in Canada. We believe Canadians care, and that they believe in fairness and justice. This is an opportunity to renew relations between First Nations and non-Aboriginal communities. Reconciliation belongs to all of us."

On June 11, 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper stood in the House of Commons and stated:

“NOW IS THE TIME TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE NEXT STEP IN OUR JOURNEY, AND THAT IS TO ENTER A NEW ERA OF RECONCILIATION IN CANADA.”

"There is no place in Canada for the attitudes that inspired the Indian residential schools system to ever again prevail....You have been working on recovering from

this experience for a long time and in a very real sense, we are now joining you on this journey."

The National Day of Reconciliation began with a sunrise ceremony at 5:30 A.M. on Victoria Island. At noon, Aboriginal leaders and citizens, church leaders, politicians and concerned Canadians gathered for a unity rally on Parliament Hill.

Leaders addressed the crowd, while children invited everyone to participate in a round dance, a traditional display of friendship and goodwill.

MNO HOUSING SERVICES ENHANCED THROUGH AGREEMENT WITH ONWA, OFIFC

MNO President, Gary Lipinski says a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed recently in Thunder Bay by the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) and the Province of Ontario will have a positive impact on the lives of Métis citizens and their families in the province.

"The agreement will see MNO working with service providers like OFIFC and ONWA in the administration of a 60 million dol-



lar housing program for low-income Aboriginal households in the province," President Lipinski said. "This opportunity to promote self-reliance for Métis people is consistent with the tradi-

tional values and new priorities the MNO has undertaken in the past year," he added.

According to MNO Secretary Treasurer and Housing Portfolio Holder, Tim Pile, of Thunder Bay, "Both MNO citizens and Housing Branch staff are pleased they will finally have access to monies to assist first time home buyers and be in a position to consider proposals for seniors and transitional housing."

The program is the result of extensive community engagement and consultation across the province. The funding will be

managed by an all Aboriginal board specifically for the benefit of off-reserve Aboriginal people.

The MNO Housing Branch currently manages nearly 600 properties in Thunder Bay and North Bay. The branch employs four technical experts, a certified Information Technical (IT) representative and maintenance staff and is well respected for its history of professional and efficient financial management.

CONTACT:
MNO Housing Branch
Tel: 807-626-9300

MNO PARTNERSHIPS | MIDLAND & OWEN SOUND

Hydro One employment fairs held

More than 30 people from the Georgian Bay Consultation Protocol Region took part in the first of two Hydro One Procurement and Employment Fairs in Midland on May 19. A second session in Owen Sound on May 22 attracted about half that many people.

Everyone who attended was eager to find out more about potential jobs and business opportunities with Hydro One or in the energy sector generally. Representatives from Hydro One gave presentations focused on identifying project-related training, contracting and employment opportunities for Métis.

The sessions are one example of the kind of benefits that can flow when governments and industry live up to the *duty to consult* obligation affirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2004. The so called Bruce to Milton project is one of the first opportunities for engagement presented to the MNO since the 2004 court decision. Local Métis leaders from the Georgian Bay Consultation Protocol are working with MNO's Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations Branch and Hydro One to identify potential impacts of the Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement

Project on Métis rights, interests and way of life in the affected area.

In addition to the information sessions in May, the consultation has also generated information mail outs, community information meetings, and interviews with Métis traditional resources users to collect Métis traditional knowledge related to the project. As well, funding for an independent review of Hydro One's environmental assessment of the project was made available to MNO.

Copies of the Hydro One presentations are available on MNO's web site: www.metisnation.org.

CONTACT:
Enza Cancilla
Manager, Public Affairs
Hydro One Networks Inc.
Tel: 416-345-6799
community.relations@hydroone.com

Shylo Summers
First Nations and Métis Relations
Hydro One Networks Inc.
T: (416) 345-6243
shylo.summers@hydroone.com

For more information about MNO's work with Hydro One contact
Hank Rowlinson
Manager of Community Relations
Tel: 1-800-263-4889
hankr@metisnation.org



EDUCATION NEWS

Métis Nation of Ontario Bursary Fund grows

A Métis Nation of Ontario fund for targeted, sector-specific bursaries for Métis students, in partnership with private sector business continues to grow. To date the Power Workers Union of Ontario, Ontario Power Generating and Hydro One have each contributed \$25,000 to the scholarships fund. MNO President, Gary Lipinski, acknowledged the contributions, saying: "The funding is an important next step in building a fund large enough to ensure that all Métis students in the province have access to the same post-secondary opportunities as others."

Details about how the bursaries will be awarded will be available soon. In the meantime, staff at the MNO continue their efforts to attract additional private sector contributions toward MNO bursaries and scholarships.



uOttawa

Search for Chair of Métis Studies nears completion

The Métis Nation of Ontario and the University of Ottawa have completed the interview stage in the search for a leading scholar. The Chair in Métis Studies at the University of Ottawa will be a catalyst for innovative research, including work on Michif and Métis history in Ontario. The first of its kind, this research chair was developed by the Métis Nation of Ontario in partnership with the Government of Ontario and the Council of Ontario Universities. The interviews follow a national recruitment campaign.

The University of Ottawa has committed one million dollars to the position and the Province of Ontario has provided an endowment of three million dollars. According to President Lipinski, establishing the Chair brings MNO one step closer to confirming the history that establishes the Métis as a distinct people with traditional rights by nurturing common understanding of Métis history within the province.

An announcement about the successful candidate is expected during the summer of 2009.

continued page 5

DUTY TO CONSULT:

Making the *Mining Act*

MNO welcomes the opportunity to work with provincial government in finalizing the proposed Mining Act

Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), says the proposed legislation aimed at modernizing the Mining Act tabled by the Province of Ontario is a step in the right direction and signals MNO's willingness to continue working with the province on this critical piece of legislation.

"The goal of the Métis Nation of Ontario in working with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) on the proposed *Mining Act* legislation is to create a fair, transparent, consistent and effective process that ensures rights-bearing Métis communities in the province are consulted," President Lipinski said.

In its submission to the MNDM on modernizing the Mining Act the Métis Nation of Ontario points out that there is no hierarchy of rights in S. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and therefore the Métis must be treated equitably and fairly on consultation



and accommodation issues.

President Lipinski added that he is encouraged by the solid commitment made to him by MNDM Minister, Michael Gravelle, that the message has been received and Métis will be an equal partner in finalizing the Mining Act legislation. That assur-

ance builds on the commitment made by the province in November when it signed the *Framework Agreement* with the Métis Nation of Ontario.

"The Métis Nation of Ontario is committed to working closely with the Ministry in finalizing the Mining Act legislation and the reg-

ulations that will guide its implementation," President Lipinski said. "The duty to consult and accommodate the Métis is a relatively new concept in Ontario and the MNO must continue its efforts to educate the government and Ontarians about the Métis as a distinct Aboriginal people with a unique culture," he added.

The MNO has established Regional Consultation Protocols that will ensure effective Métis consultation and accommodation in Ontario. Funding provided by the province through the New Relationship Fund is being channelled toward building capacity at the community level and within the MNO to facilitate the additional consultation processes that will be required once the legislation is passed into law.

CONTACT:

Joanne Meyer

Director, Intergovernmental Relations

Tel: 416-977-9881

joannem@metisnation.org

DUTY TO CONSULT:

Consultation Kick Start

Ontario's new system of Resource Benefits Sharing will include Métis

Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, says the announcement that the provincial government will once again honour a commitment it made by creating a new system of Resource Benefits Sharing that will include Ontario Métis is welcome news in these difficult economic times.

"The Métis people and our communities have important and crucial roles to play in harnessing the economic development opportunities that exist in the energy, mining and tourism sectors in this province," said President Lipinski.

Lipinski added: "With today's (April 20th) announcement, the McGuinty government has provided another opportunity that will assist us in doing just that. The Métis Nation looks forward to building on this opportunity to support Métis students, families, businesses and communi-

ties, while also building a stronger Ontario."

The details of the formula for the distribution of the thirty million dollar fund will be released shortly. In making the announcement Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, said: "The fund will kick start a consultation process that will allow us to work together on economic development plans that will provide greater monetary benefit to Métis communities from resource development on traditional lands."

This announcement builds on a government agenda that includes the proposed *Green Energy Act* and the modernization of the *Mining Act*. In the March 2009 Budget, the province also announced its ongoing commitment to the New Relationship Fund, which will assist the Métis Nation in building core consultation capacity at the local, regional and provincial levels. This will help to ensure that the revenue generated comes from resource development projects that honour Métis values and their relationship with the land.

President Lipinski added: "Today's announcement underscores the commitment made last November when the *Framework Agreement* between the province and the Métis Nation of Ontario was signed."



Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs the Hon. Brad Duguid

PROVINCIAL RELATIONS:

Breaking the cycle of poverty

MNO congratulates Ontario on passing of *Poverty Reduction Act 2009*

Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), extended his congratulations and support to the Province of Ontario on the passage of the *Poverty Reduction Act 2009*.

"This important legislation brings the province one step closer to becoming a province in which all residents have access to the supports they need to achieve their full potential," President Lipinski said. "The MNO looks forward to working with Minister Deb Matthews and the Children and Youth Ministry in the delivery of the programs and services that will be initiated and implemented under the Act."

The *Poverty Reduction Act 2009* received the unanimous consent of all parties at Queen's Park. According to the government the legislation will help to ensure that successive provincial governments report annually on programs aimed at poverty reduction and will also require specific poverty reduction targets.

Sharon McBride, Chair of the Women's Secretariat, represented the MNO at Queen's Park as the legislation was passed into law. "It is women who most often feel first hand the effects of poverty on themselves and their children," McBride said. "Confronting poverty head on will help to address resulting social

“Confronting poverty head on will help to address resulting social and economic issues by offering support to those trying to break out of the poverty cycle.”

and economic issues by offering support to those trying to break out of the poverty cycle."

"The government's stated strategy of breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty with improved access to education for children is consistent with the goals and priorities of the MNO," said President Lipinski, adding that the poverty reduction plan is both forward looking and long term.

EDUCATION NEWS

from page 4

Métis Human Resource Development Agreement (MHRDA) example of successful program

A recent report on the success of the MHRDA demonstrates that with the right kind of support, Métis in Canada can become a self-reliant community ready to take on the challenges of self-government. The report is called "A Review of the Potential Impacts of the Métis Human Resource Development Agreements in Canada". It was done by the Ottawa based Centre for the Study of Living Standards (CSLS). "The report concludes that the MHRDA resulted in savings of \$8.5 million annually for the federal and provincial governments. "This is no surprise to the Métis Nation of Ontario who has witnessed first hand the success of the program," President Lipinski said.

The CSLS report is the first independent audit of the MHRDA. According to its authors the skills development and training program is an excellent example of government devolution that works. The funding for MHRDA is up for review in 2010. A copy of the report is available at www.csls.ca/reports/csls2009-3.pdf

MNO Education & Training completes community dialogues

Throughout the spring, MNO Education and Training staff visited five regions to gather Métis input on the implementation of the Government of Ontario's First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework. The framework, written in 2006, will be reviewed at the end of the year. The MNO sees this as an opportunity to provide the Ministry with feedback and suggestions about improvements prior to the roll out.

MNO Chair, France Picotte, holds the Education Portfolio. She says: "MNO's major finding is that the policy is having a positive impact on many of the regional school boards and schools, with Métis awareness and education becoming a major consideration within the umbrella of Aboriginal education reforms in the province. There are however, many regions where those same improvements are not being seen so there is still work to do."

MNO is happy too with the work the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities is doing on drafting a First Nations, Métis and Inuit post-secondary education policy framework. The document will complement the work underway for K-12. We anticipate Métis-specific community discussions on the post-secondary side will take place in the fall of 2009.

Métis Community Councils

MÉTIS ART & CULTURE | PROMOTING POSITIVE SELF AND FAMILY IMAGE

The Making of the Sash

By **TerryLynn Longpre**

On May 26, 2009, the Welland Métis citizens got together and hand crafted the “sash” as worn by the Métis people. Was it a finger woven belt made as they did many years ago? No, this sash was unique in that, it was a sash skirt to be used to decorate our float in the up-coming Welland Rose Festival Parade. What better way to further our cultural promotion in the community than by displaying this symbol of our nationhood and pride. The sash has been the most persistent element of traditional Métis dress worn long after the capote and Red River coat were replaced by European style.

We started with a piece of blue material representing one of the colors of the Métis flag. Using artificial flowers such as red and yellow roses, white carnations, green foliage we studiously lined up rows of these specific colours to match the design of the sash. Flower by flower, we as a group, laboriously glued each flower and petal to the material. We trimmed our sash with black.

During this time we talked



left: **Rita Palardy and Donna Labbe.**



right: **Dalton Vander Sanden and Sarah Paquette.**

about the sash. I for one, new to the Métis culture, felt great pride to be amongst our citizens and in this circle. We discussed the uses of the sash, as a wash cloth, as a source of thread for sewing, as a saddle, as a tourniquet, and as a rope when portaging. We discussed the colors: Red, the colour historically depicted for the Métis sash; Blue and white the colors of the Métis flag; Green signifying fertility, growth and

“ **I FOR ONE, NEW TO THE MÉTIS CULTURE, FELT GREAT PRIDE TO BE AMONGST OUR CITIZENS AND IN THIS CIRCLE.** ”

prosperity and black, symbolizing the dark period in which the Métis people endured dispossession and repression.

As we toiled away, we played fiddle music and shared stories

about our life experiences. There were ten of us in a small somewhat overcrowded board room. However, it was not the size of the room that determined the atmosphere or the sense of kin-

ship that day, it was the circle gathered to complete the task at hand. When finished, we all felt a great sense of pride and accomplishment in our sash. A special thanks is given to all those who participated and the Welland Council for partnering with AHWS and supporting our circle.

TerryLynn Longpre is the Community Wellness Coordinator Welland ON

MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL:



left to right: **Métis youth Victoria Spiers with Inuit songstress and motivational speaker Susan Aglukark.**

Moon River Métis outreach

By **Verna Porter**

The Moon River Métis Council recently attended an informative event held in Bracebridge sponsored by the Trillium Lakelands School Board.

The theme was “Guiding the Way: Messages of Hope and History”. It was a day of information about voluntary self-identification for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. Singer, songwriter, and motivational speaker, Susan Aglukark was the guest speaker. She talked to the students and teachers about hopes and ideas for a better future for Aboriginal people.

Susan sang a few of her songs, and in the evening spoke to parents and the general public.

Moon River Métis Council President, Larry Duval and his wife Fran, Senator Verna Porter, Treasurer, Lisa McCron and Education Liaison, Tammy Porter attended and were well received by the public as well as teachers and parents.

Tammy met with many board members as well as teachers who were interested in having representatives from the Métis community come and speak to classes about Métis history and culture. The celebration of National Aboriginal Day at area schools was also discussed.

Victoria Spiers attended the evening show and is shown here with Susan Aglukark.

Verna Porter is the Senator on the Moon River Métis Council.

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL:



left to right: **TerryLynn Longpre, AHWS; Glen Lipinski, Coordinator Natural Resources, Environment & Community Relations; Rebecca Vander Sanden, Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator; Tammy Wintle, LTC Coordinator; Senator Stephen Quesnelle; Rachel McLaughlin (seated).**

A HAPPY DAY

By **Stephen Quesnelle**

I would like to give a big thank you to the MNO Registrar Karole Dumont-Beckett and her staff for expediting Rachel McLaughlin's citizenship card, so that the Niagara Region Métis Council was able to present it to her at a gathering of friends and family, along with staff of the MNO Health Department, to celebrate her 95th birthday. It was a great honour

and privilege for me to present Rachel with her citizenship card and to see the look on her face. She said it was one of the happiest days of her life. It is something I will never forget.

Senator Stephen Quesnelle sits on the Niagara Region Métis Council.

ELECTION NEWS

Region Four Councillor Vacancy

The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) wishes to inform citizens of Region Four of a vacancy for a Regional Councillor to represent the area as a member of the PCMNO. MNO citizens interested in filling the position should submit their resumes and cover letters to the MNO's Deputy Chief Electoral Officer on or before July 30, 2009, 5:00 PM, EST.

Hank Rowlinson

*Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
C/O Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
T: 613-798-1488
TF: 1-800-263-4889
F: 613-722-4225
C: 613-858-4809
hankr@metisnation.org*

Pursuant to “Article 10” of the MNO Secretariat By-Laws, based on information provided by the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, the PCMNO will review all the applications received. The successful candidate will be appointed to fill the vacancy until the term of office expires in 2012.

Article 10

“If any vacancy occurs the PCMNO may appoint as a replacement, a citizen of the MNO and that person shall hold office until the next election.”

Making good things grow

By **TERA LYNN COPEGOG**

The time of year for yard cleaning and garden preparation is upon us. The Aboriginal Healing and Wellness program here in Midland has been enjoying the good weather the last few months. After pricing out the costs of building a garden, mini ties, fill and triple mix, fencing, seeds and gardening tools, the approval came through. During the month of May the land was cleared, the soil arrived and the perimeter was built; it is now ready for seeding.

Measuring 24 feet by 16 feet and 16 inches high with an all day sun exposure, the garden is a treasure for the Georgian Bay area. We are located in an industrial district on the south end of Midland with lots of space.

- A special thank-you goes to:
- Morland Lyn for allowing us to use part of his land to the east of our parking lot;
 - Leon Saulnier from Leon's Tilt 'n' Load for supplying the two workers, bobcat and trans-



- porting the bobcat to clear the land and level it;
- Dennis McLachlan, a community member, for transporting the fencing, poles and wire from the hardware store and also for building the garden's perimeter;
 - Kyle Lepage for helping me with leveling the nine square

yards of soil.

The crop from the garden will go to those who express a need for food support through our Health Branch and the excess will be canned or frozen for use in the future. Anyone in need of assistance with fresh foods or anyone who would like to share their

expertise in weeding, watering, picking and all the other good things that come along with gardening can contact me.

Tera Lynn Copegog is the Community Wellness Coordinator in the GBMC office in Midland. She can be reached at 705-526-6335 ext. 221.

COUNCIL NEWS

New Council in Chapleau

By **Hank Rowlinson**

I would like to announce a very successful meeting with the MNO citizens in the Chapleau and Terrace Bay area. The purpose of the community meeting was to gauge the interest in resurrecting the community council to once again give the citizens a community, regional and provincial voice within the MNO family.

Please join me in congratulating the Interim Council of the Chapleau Métis Council.

- President - David Hamilton*
Vice President - Henry Byce
Senator - Micheline Boisvert
Councillors: Stewart Fiaschetti;
Dave Lavallee and Todd Woods

GBMC Meetings

General Meeting on **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2009, 2:00 PM** at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in the Bill Thompson Room.

General Meeting on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2009, 2:00 PM** at the North Simcoe Sports and Recreation Centre in the Senior's Room.

The Georgian Bay Métis Council meets the first Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Georgian Bay Métis Council Office and would appreciate it if you spread the news by *Find a Friend, Tell a Friend*.

355 Cranston Cres., Box 4
Midland, ON
Tel: 705-526-6335
gbmc@telizon.ca

GARDENING



Avoid garden pests with diverse and native plants

Even though Ontario's cosmetic pesticides ban is now in place, gardeners should take heart that they can still have a beautiful garden and one that can help control pests naturally.

One of the best ways to fight pests in your garden is to fill it with many different kinds of plants, shrubs and trees that are native to your area. Ask your nursery or garden centre for suggestions. Native plants are better suited to surviving in local growing conditions and will have developed a natural resistance to many local pests.

Even better, your garden will be more interesting and easier to maintain because different plants will be blooming at different times and will provide cover throughout the growing season. Having a single plant variety is inviting to insect pests that favour one type of plant because

it provides a plentiful food source in one location and allows pests to thrive. A more diverse garden can help make it difficult for pests to take control.

Diversity is not only beautiful and healthy, it helps attract bees and butterflies that make your garden an enjoyable place. Encourage other natural predators like bats, toads, and birds by building bird feeders, bat-houses and installing bird baths. Nature has a way of working in our favour when we give it a chance.

Experiment with native plants and worry-free landscapes, such as mulched perennial beds or rock and alpine gardens. Once they get started, they are drought resistant and require less work and less water.

For more tips on gardening naturally and information on the cosmetic pesticides ban, visit the Ministry of the Environment's at www.additupontario.ca.

UPDATES

Interest in Métis culture grows thanks to efforts of MNO Citizens

In the last edition of the *Voyageur* (page 12), Niagara Region Métis Council Senator, Stephen Quesnelle, and his granddaughter, Rebecca Booth, were seen spreading the word about Métis culture at Glynn A. Green School.

After the presentation was covered in *The Welland Tribune*, Stephen was invited and has made similar presentations at St. Elizabeth School in Wainfleet; at a meeting of Welland's Historical Museum; at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre for Niagara's Aboriginal Education Day; at St. Catharines Collegiate, and at the old Fort Erie powwow.

Interest in Métis culture and history is certainly growing and we have people like Stephen Quesnelle to thank for volunteering their time and energy.



CULTURE:

Aboriginal Culture & Heritage Take Centre Stage at Peel Gathering

The rich culture and heritage of Canada's Aboriginal peoples was celebrated on May 28th at the second annual "A Gathering: Peel's Aboriginal Celebration".

Hosted by the region's Early Learning Services division, *A Gathering* is a one-day event to recognize Canada's 'original peoples.' This year's theme, "The Three Nations" honoured the diversity of Canada's three distinct groups of Aboriginal peoples: First Nations, Métis and Inuit.

The 2006 census data indicates that Peel's population claiming Aboriginal ancestry is nearly 12,000--an increase of nearly 26% over 2001.

"The Aboriginal population in Peel is an often overlooked and under-served portion of our community," said Regional Councillor John Sanderson. "I am proud to be part of a Regional Council that supports our indigenous peoples, and even more so to have the opportunity to be part of the planning committee for the 2009 *A Gathering* event."

This free, family-oriented festival featured cultural entertainment including First Nations drummers and dancers, Métis fiddlers and jig-gers, Inuit throat singers, story-telling and traditional Elder teachings. Guests had the opportunity to browse exhibits featuring services directed to families with children up to the age of six.

"*A Gathering* is not only an opportunity to celebrate Peel's Aboriginal community, but also to reach out to Aboriginal families and engage them in programs and services that are age and culture appropriate," said Janet Menard, Interim Commissioner of Human Services.

Through the Best Start initiative, the Region of Peel's Early Learning Services division has been working with the Credit River Métis Council, Métis Nation of Ontario, and the Peel Aboriginal Network, to address service/program gaps for Peel's Aboriginal children and their families. They established the Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee (PASC) in June 2007. PASC specifically seeks to identify Aboriginal people in Peel; identify space for Aboriginal activities, and develop programs and services for Aboriginal families with children from birth to the age of six.

For more information on the Region of Peel
Tel: 905-791-7800
or visit www.peelregion.ca

FIDDLE TRADITION:



SUBTLE, SMOKY SIERRA

Most readers of the *Voyageur* are familiar with the name "Sierra Noble". Although she breezes through Celtic, Bluegrass, Pop, Jazz, World beat and other styles of music with stunning ease, we know her for her stirring rendition of traditional Métis music. Since the age of seven, Sierra has been a student of both classical music and Métis fiddle. Her talent has taken her around the world where she has amazed audiences with her exceptional instrumentals, energetic step-dancing and her infectious down to earth charm.

Never one to rest on her laurels, it is no surprise that 19 year old Sierra wants to expand and develop her musical talents. With a new EP to her credit, aptly named "Possibilities", Sierra's journey as a singer-songwriter is off to a promising start. Her voice has been described as "a study in gorgeous contradictions, wonderfully pure yet layered with subtle, smoky tones. Her songs speak of universal themes of love, longing and discovery wrapped in infectious melodies and delivered with sincerity and conviction." Below is an email from Sierra recounting her experience.

HEY EVERYONE!

I wanted to let all of you know about some really exciting news that has been building up for the past little while!

A few months ago, I got called by Maple Music Records with the idea of doing a music video for the single off of my recently released vocal album "Possibilities."

There were two directors I was given names of to look up and choose from, one of them was Jeth Weinrich.

Jeth has received three Juno awards for his music videos

for artists such as Jann Arden ("Good Mother" and "Insensitive"), Junk House ("Burned Out Car"), and also has worked with Chantal Kreviasuk, Van Halen, and

**"WE
CONNECTED
INSTANTLY
IN THE
CREATIVE
SENSE AND
QUICKLY
BECAME
FRIENDS."**

Chris Isaak. When I started searching some of Jeth's work on the net I was blown away. Not only is he one of the world's best music video directors but he is a breathtaking film maker and a true to the core artist. I knew right away that I wanted him to do my video. Turned out that he had

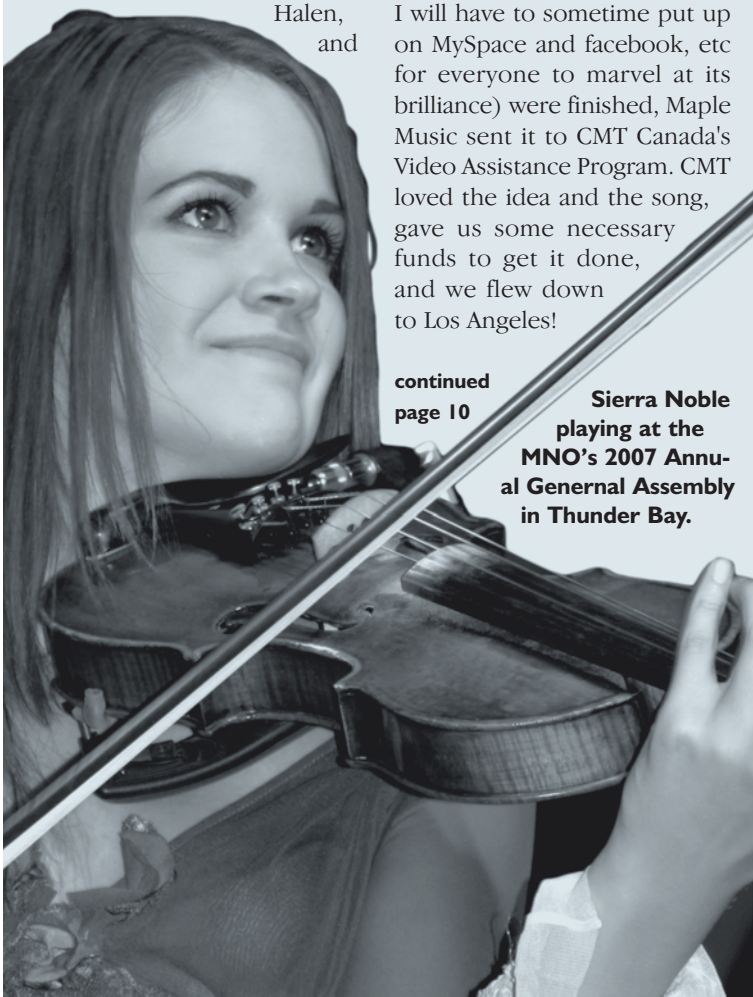
fallen in love with my song, (which I wrote with the wonderful Chris Burke-Gaffney and Keith Macpherson) "Possibility", just as much as I fell in love with all of his work. We

connected instantly in the creative sense and quickly became very good friends.

After all of the edits of his treatment for the video (which I will have to sometime put up on MySpace and facebook, etc for everyone to marvel at its brilliance) were finished, Maple Music sent it to CMT Canada's Video Assistance Program. CMT loved the idea and the song, gave us some necessary funds to get it done, and we flew down to Los Angeles!

continued
page 10

**Sierra Noble
playing at the
MNO's 2007 Annual
General Assembly
in Thunder Bay.**



CANOE CULTURE | GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL



The canoe named Niimki surrounded by Grand River Métis Council members plus their friends and family at a council meeting in Kitchener last March.

Inouk and Niimki bring family together

By **Barbara Gingras**

I am proud to say Niimki's partner for her adventures, Inouk, arrived safe and sound!

I am about to relate a story to you, that has me both in awe, and happy beyond belief. It is a story that has made my heart sing. The story of Niimki brought us a piece of art in the form of a paddle, but it did far more than bring these two spirits together; it brought a family together.

The paddle donator, Micheline Boisvert, and I began an amazing email journey to keep in touch, and get to know each other further. I wanted to know more about her and she wanted to know more about me. I had no idea where this journey was going to take us, but it is a journey that brought me chills, tears, and a sense of spiritual connection I have not felt in many years. The journey took my breath away, and brought me much joy. Micheline shared the story of her life and I have translated it below as she shared it with me. I can only hope I do this story justice.

"LUCKY ME"

Micheline Fleury Boisvert was born in Quebec. She was abandoned by her family at age 4, and ended up in the children's aids system. Micheline was uprooted to live with 13 families; she was one of the good kids, and she says "lucky me". She met her father André Fleury again at age 7. It was a visit she would remember for the rest of her life. They met in a motel room, where he gave her 10 cents, and it wasn't until 22 years later, while pregnant with her second daughter that she saw him again. Her mother Rita had a rough time: no schooling, no job, and then she left the house. Micheline does not remember seeing her parents together, and commented that her siblings had

**"...it is
a journey that
brought me
chills, tears,
and a sense of
spiritual con-
nection I have
not felt in many
years. The jour-
ney took my
breath away,
and brought me
much joy."**

told her that it was better that way. She also felt what she didn't know couldn't hurt her.

A lifetime later, children grown, Micheline contacted me about the canoe, and our request for a paddle, and learned the name of Niimki's generous donator, Marcel Labelle. This led Micheline to email Marcel, and begin an email trail that brought joy to many.

Micheline had just gotten off of the telephone with her sister Elsa who lives in Chelmsford. They had been talking about their family--what their names were and where they lived. She decided to email Marcel and give him the details about who her parents were. She told him that she had two brothers, Georges and Leon Fleury, who lived in Paris, Ontario and a sister, Elsa who lived in Chelmsford. She said that her 84 year old mother Rita lived in Brantford. Micheline went on to tell Marcel that she had an Aunt Antoinette who had married Albert Labelle. She knew that Aunt Antoinette and Uncle Albert

had five sons, one of whom was named "Roger". It turns out that Roger is Marcel's father!

She began this email hoping that perhaps Marcel would know the family of Labelle's she was talking about; she never, in her wildest dreams had any idea that Marcel would indeed be family.

I received an email from Marcel, asking me to contact Micheline as soon as possible, saying that I would be shocked. I called her immediately, and together we cried over the telephone. She was thrilled to have found family!

This story continues. I met Leon Fleury in November, 2008, at the AGA in Toronto. He told me that Marcel was his cousin. I was happy to have met a cousin of a dear friend. I had no idea where that would lead either as the article seeking a paddle had not yet been published.

In March, we held our all citizens meeting in Kitchener. It was at this meeting, that I was told that Leon was Micheline's brother. Then I met Georges who is also Micheline's brother. In one evening, I met her family, who were absolutely thrilled that this canoe and paddle had brought a family together.

I am proud to call both Marcel and Micheline my friends, and my Métis brother and sister. I look forward to the first time Micheline and I meet. I think it will be a meeting to remember always. We will meet at the launching of Niimki and Inouk into the Grand River for sure and, who knows, perhaps sooner!

Now, speaking of Niimki and Inouk, I apologise to all who are looking for tickets to the canoe raffle. We have run into obstacles in securing a license for the raffle. The MNO has now committed to helping us get the license. As soon as tickets are available, we will advise. Thanks for your patience.

Feel free to contact us for more information: metisof-grandriver@hotmail.com.

For the complete story of Inouk and Niimki, see the last two editions of the *Voyageur*, January/May, 2009.

Our Stories

The Métis Voyageur has carried many stories about our namesake “voyageurs” over the years. The following story is an account researched and written by **Barbaranne Wright** that places the voyageurs in a different setting—one of which you may not have been aware. —LL

VOYAGEURS ON THE NILE

The Nile Expedition was the first time a totally Canadian volunteer regiment was sent off to foreign shores. Our Métis ancestors, those rugged men of Canadian waterways, with their special skills, were among those mustered by Garnet Wolseley to rescue a British contingent under the command of General Gordon at Khartoum in Central Africa. Wolseley was confident that the Canadians were the best men for this special mission.

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY,
50 MEN
to accompany
GORDON RELIEF EXPEDITION
in Egypt to take charge of small boats
on the rapids of the Nile. Must be good
boatmen. Men who were in Red River
expedition preferred.
Wages from \$30 to \$40 per month and
expenses. Applications will be received by
the undersigned until the 6th Prox.
Expedition leaves Quebec for
Liverpool on the 13th Inst.**

The advertisement above appeared in the *Manitoba Daily Free Press* and the *Winnipeg Sun* for the week of the 29th of August to the 6th of September, 1884.

In August, 1884, Frederick C. Denison of Toronto accepted the command of the contingent and two weeks later 387 voyageurs enlisted. The volunteers going to Africa would wear no uniforms, bear no arms and take no part in the rare skirmishes engaged in by Wolseley. Unfortunately, Gordon and his troops were wiped out before their rescuers could reach them.

The Canadian volunteers, (164 from Ontario; 101 from Quebec, and 92 from Manitoba) included a large number of Métis and embarked for Alexandria, Egypt, from Halifax on September 14th, 1884.

Those who enlisted were committed to a six month term. Pay would be \$40.00 to \$75.00 a month, clothing and rations included. The ages of the boatmen varied from several 18-year-olds to the oldest at 64.

The Whaler Rig

Once the authorities had made up their minds to send a flotilla of boats to Cairo for the relief of Khartoum, not a moment was lost in issuing orders to the different shipbuilding contractors for

completion, with the utmost dispatch, of 400 “whaler-rigs” for service on the Nile. They were light-looking boats, built of white pine, and weighing about 920 lbs each without the gear. They were supposed to carry four tons of provisions, ammunition, and camp appliances, sufficient for 100 days.

Each boat was fitted with two lug sails, which could be reefed to accommodate an awning underneath to protect the men from the sun. As is well known, the wind blows for two or three months alternately up and down the Nile, and the authorities expected the flotilla would have the advantage of a fair wind astern for four or five days at least. Some modifications to the whaling rigs were made by the voyageurs themselves.

The crew is said to have numbered twelve men, soldiers and sailors, the former rowing, while the latter (two) tended the helm. Initially, many of the boats were overloaded, and 500 pounds was ordered removed from the cargo. Normally, six men pulled at the oars, with a voyageur at the rudder. When it was impossible to row, all the crew except the bows man and steersman disembarked, and pulled the boat via a tracking line while walking along the shore. At a bad rapid, up to five crews with up to 40 men would be put on the

line. Usually bad rapids meant unloading part of the cargo. The work went faster when boatmen were left permanently at each of the rapids rather than accompanying the boats from one rapid to the next. The dangerous bit was allowing too much slack on the towline for the current would then catch the boat and often overturn it throwing the voyageurs out.

Shooting the Rapids to Khartoum

During the attempt to reach Khartoum in time to rescue General Charles Gordon from the siege of the Mahdi, the Canadian voyageurs ascended more than 1400 miles of dangerous river. Not only were the many cataracts and rapids serious challenges to navigation, but the underwater obstacles were always hidden from view by the sediment carried by the waters of the Nile.

Sixteen of the Canadian voyageurs died in Egypt; some drowned, some fell victim to diseases such as smallpox and typhoid fever. Leon Pilon and William O'Rourke, both from Ottawa, accidentally fell off a train taking them from Assouan to Cairo. They were both crushed beneath the wheels of the train, as they neared the ship that would have taken them home. One of them was said to have carried a half

crown coin in his boot which was used to pay for his burial in the European cemetery at Assouan.

The Egypt Medal

The Egypt Medal was presented to members of the army and navy who took part in the Egyptian Campaigns between 1882 and 1889. The medal has 13 various bars and was also awarded without a bar. There were 392 medals given to the Canadian voyageurs with the bar and the words 'THE NILE', of which 46 also received the KIRBEKAN bar. All the Canadian boatmen were awarded the medal with the bar. It in turn was awarded to those who served south of Assouan on or before 07 March 1885, as part of the expedition to relieve General Gordon, then under siege at Khartoum. Many Canadian boatmen qualified for this bar.

The Kirbekan bar was awarded to those members of the expedition to relieve Gordon who actually reached Khartoum and was only awarded together with THE NILE (1884-85) bar. The Canadians who received this bar were under the command of Lord Wolseley who had commanded the Red River Expedition of 1870.

Please refer to Veteran Affairs Canada website for the *Books of Remembrance* to view the 16 brave and proud voyageurs who did not make it back to their Métis Homeland.



The “Manitoba Boys”

A plaque erected to honour the "The Nile Voyageurs" may be found at Kitchissippi Lookout off the Ottawa River Parkway, first right, west of Island Park Drive in Ottawa. You may also view the plaque on-line:

www.ontarioplaques.com/Plaques_MNO/Plaque_Ottawa18.html

SOURCES:

www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/
“Books of Remembrance”

The “Manitoba Boys” of the Gordon Relief Expedition AND Canadians on the Nile, 1882-1898,
Roy McLaren

The National Archives of Canada
Manitoba History, Number 42, Autumn/Winter
2001-2002

Veteran Affairs Canada

Legion Magazine, January 2004

The Sketch Account of Aboriginal Peoples in the
Canadian Military, John Moses

Pilon International

Our Stories

TINY BUBBLES

MNO citizen Jim Turner’s encounter with a grand lady and expert soap-maker

By Jim Turner

I had the good fortune to be invited to a very special and interesting event; it was a soap making demonstration, hosted by a wonderful woman who is 94 years young.

Is she Metis? No one knows for sure as she won’t talk about that side of her family.

What is important is the fact that she was gracious enough to show us how she makes home made soap. Among other things that make this lady very, very special is the fact that she, knits socks and gloves, cooks and plays euchre until all hours with the dexterity of a teenager, and when she hosts euchre games at home the snacks don’t come out until the time I usually go to bed. She belongs to church organizations and loves to have company come to the house.

This grand lady is Angelique Roy, born January 22nd, in Bathurst New Brunswick. She tells us that she had 24 children in her family-ten from her Dad and fourteen from her mother.

She was the 22nd child, and there was such a gap in the ages of her siblings that she was 65



Angelique Roy making soap at her home.

when she met one of her sisters. The sister was 95.

She told us that she was married to Germaine Roy on August 6th, 1935; they were the first couple to get married in the old wooden church.

This is very rocky land, sheep country, and they were given a piece of land of 100 acres about two and a half miles south of Bathurst. She didn’t follow the tradition of having a lot of children; she had only two, Berth and Jeanne.

Angelique worked in some lumber camps as a young girl and I’m sure if she had the time, she would have told us of an exciting life, fraught with hardships, but also very rewarding.

I wanted to share this story with everyone because we have to remember some of the old ways, and pass them on to our younger generation. She still makes her soap with the old tried and true recipe, and she is very good at it.

Her spry candor and straight

forward determination confused me at times as I never knew what was coming next, but she gave us her life story condensed to about an hour.

She was more than eager to show us her soap making technique in her kitchen. We gathered around her range as she prepared the fat and boiled it down.

I’m sure there are a lot of old timers who made their soap at home, but for those who haven’t, it is quite an experience to watch a pro. She made it look so easy, probably because it comes so naturally to her.

I have to say that this soap will remove grease from clothing and make your hands squeaky clean.

Before we left she gave us a pair of socks she had knitted, and showed us a bag full of gloves that she had knitted for friends. Of course the highlight of the afternoon was her soap demonstration.

She insisted we take some mint sprigs from the garden and of course we did. I have since planted them and they are doing well.

Angelique is truly an amazing woman, and the old saying applies here, “they don’t make em’ like they used to”.

ANGELIQUE ROY’S SOAP RECIPE

10 LBS FAT
WATER
GILLETT’S LYE (9.5 OZ)

Melt down 10 lbs. of any kind of animal fat (deer, moose, pork). Cut fat into small pieces and put in a pot with 2 cups water. Boil slowly until all fat is melted and water evaporates. Scoop fat out as it melts.

Mix Gillett’s Lye with 2 ½ liters of water using a metal dish. This mixture will get hot!

Set aside to cool (won’t take long). Pour slowly into melted fat and mix well. Mixture will thicken as you stir and it cools--looks like it is curdling. Pour into a greased glass pan (Pyrex) and let set.

The next day tip out of pan on a cutting board and cut into pieces to dry out. Takes about one week to harden.



Captain’s Corner

by KEN SIMARD
CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT, REG. 2

Spring Cleaning Tips for Home and Cottage

It’s always a reward when you finish cleaning and know that everything is now cleaner than ever before. These are spots that are usually missed.

- 1 - Under the bottom of the fridge and the fridge coils
- 2 - All door handles (big time) in and out of the home; they carry lots of germs.
- 3 - Under cook stoves, and above exhaust fans.
- 4 - Under all beds.
- 5 - Don’t forget the furnace; the filter must be changed at least twice a year.

This is a lot of cleaning, so now you can sit back and relax and have yourself a cup of tea knowing that the most important things are clean and you can breathe much better.

SUBTLE, SMOKY SIERRA

from page 8

We shot for three days--in the hotel room, downtown LA, and out near Palmdale in the beautiful barren desert of California. We ended up with around seven hours of footage--that means about 120 times through a three and a half minute song! Needless to say I had no voice by the end of it, having refused to “lip sync” the song while shooting.

I also had another once in a lifetime opportunity while I was down there. I had the chance to work with Jeth’s best friend, photographer Raphael Mazzucco. Raphael has been named one of the top 10 fashion photographers in the world. His major campaigns for clothing companies such as Guess Jeans are considered to be some of the most influential campaigns in fashion history. He has shot the cover of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit more than once. He is truly unreal. And guess what? He’s Canadian!

When Jeth played him the single, “Possibility,” he called me himself and told me how much he loved it and asked me if I would want to do a photo shoot with him while we were down in Los Angeles shooting the video. I said “no”--just kidding! I was so honoured and excited and well, simply shocked.

That photo shoot was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. I felt myself being welcomed into this whole new level of the world. I felt that way the whole time I was down there, working with both Jeth and Raph.



A still from Sierra Noble’s new video Possibilities.

Aaaanyway. Fast forward to today. After this past week of editing and re-editing of the video, it looks AMAZING. I could not have imagined a better video for this song.

To top how excited Jeth, and Maple Music, and I are about this beautiful video, CMT is just as excited! Got some amazing feedback from them on it the other day!

...I want to take this moment to thank you all for your continuous support over the years.... Another thing you can do if you would like to help, is to request “Possibility” on your favourite local radio station as well as the video on CMT Canada! You could also request any local music carriers across Canada to start carrying my album in store.

Popular request is what is driving this industry these days it

seems, so I’ll accept all of the help I can get from all of you wonderful folks out there!

Thanks so much for taking a couple minutes to read this, Love you all! Sierra

P.S. If you haven’t yet heard the single! You can listen to it on: myspace.com/sierranoble

Possibilities is available on iTunes, MapleMusic.com as well as in music stores across the country (including McNally Robinson Booksellers). For more information--including some blogs and videos from LA--visit:

www.myspace.com/sierranoble
www.facebook.com/pages/Sierra-Noble/8021433969
www.twitter.com/sierranoble
www.cmt.ca/artist/sierranoble

Métis Cookhouse

by Gail LeBlanc

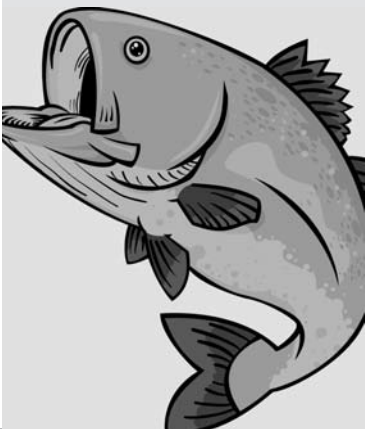
There are many great salmon recipes but my husband was really taken by our niece’s salmon recipe which he wanted to share with you. You will find it great for the BBQ this summer too.

- 2 salmon steaks
- 1/4 cup soya sauce
- 1 garlic clove (finely chopped)
- about 1 tbsp ginger (finely chopped)
- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 tsp honey

Place salmon in deep dish. Mix remaining ingredients then spread over the salmon and leave in fridge for about one hour to 90 minutes.

Remove from fridge and place salmon in a cooking pan (we use an 8” x 8” cake pan) and cook on BBQ or in oven ‘til done.

Enjoy



Arts & Culture

BOOK REVIEW | ABORIGINAL POLITICS

A Disrobing of its Own

By KATIE-SUE DEREJKO

The title of Frances Widdowson's and Albert Howard's most recent book, "Disrobing the Aboriginal Industry" is a play on words. It comes from the popular fairy tale "The Emperor's New Clothes". The title is fitting because the book reads like a fairy tale and requires a "disrobing" of its own – especially of its claim that it is an "academic and scholarly" work.

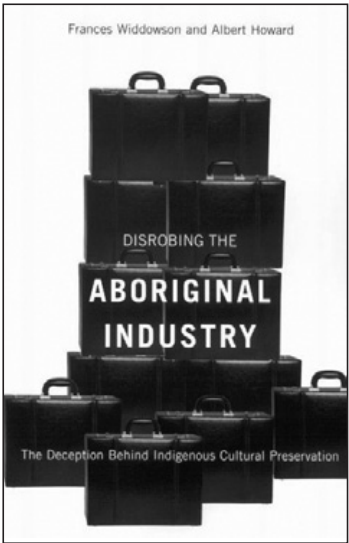
I admit, a small part of me was interested in reading a new argument about how "parasitic non-aboriginal" professionals continue to profit off the injustices experienced by Indigenous peoples in Canada, which is essentially how the authors portray the "Aboriginal Industry". However, it didn't take long to realize that Widdowson and Howard have nothing new to add to this decades old argument. Instead, the book serves as a smoke screen to spread incorrect, distorted--not short of racist--and offensive opinions about the Indigenous peoples of Canada.

I will not bore you with a detailed analysis of the misconceptions and distortions found in every chapter of this book. It is

beyond the scope of this review and I don't think the editor would give me that much space! Instead, I will focus on what I see as the fundamental problems with their argument because it underscores every other argument in the book.

As an anthropologist, I should have been tipped off by the subtitle, "The Deception Behind Indigenous Cultural Preservation." Current cultural theory no longer considers the idea of "cultural preservation" valid. Neither is the definition of culture put forward by Widdowson and Howard. They suggest "culture" is unchanging or somehow locked in a "traditional" state. Rather than employing current cultural theory or better yet an indigenous perspective of culture, the authors keep returning to the argument that a "cultural gap" (proclaiming western cultural dominance) between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples is the cause of all "Aboriginal ills". Including current cultural theory or an indigenous perspective would however negate their central argument.

On the topic of culture, the failure of the authors to acknowledge their own cultural world view with its own inherent biases and perceived "truths" is ludicrous.



“
...INSTEAD, THE BOOK SERVES AS A SMOKE SCREEN TO SPREAD INCORRECT, DISTORTED--NOT SHORT OF RACIST--AND OFFENSIVE OPINIONS ABOUT THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF CANADA.
”

crous. Not once do they acknowledge their arguments are as 'culturally' based as the Aboriginal approaches they attempt to discredit. 'Disrobing' one's own inherent cultural bias is an essential component of contemporary cultural theory. However, because contemporary cultural theory is ignored throughout this book, so too are Widdowson's and Howard's alarmingly evident cultural biases.

On top of outdated theory and fundamental misconceptions about "culture" as a concept, the book lacks scholarly research. Really it reads more like an opinion piece--or fairy tale. I struggled to find appropriate references for continual misrepresentations--the hard facts on which the authors generated their "ideas." Alas, few references could be found. This lack of credible sources is acceptable when a 'tale' is being told. However, the implications of accepting a work like this as "fact" or as a set of theories that spark intelligent debate or the generation of knowledge, as this book proclaims to do, is troubling on many levels.

Equally troubling is the pan-Aboriginal approach in the book and its failure to acknowledge the vast diversity of the three distinct Aboriginal peoples of Canada--not

to mention the diversity found within each cultural group. Painting "Aboriginal peoples" with one broad brush stroke not only ignores that rich diversity, it casts a shadow over the larger jurisdictional and funding issues which affect each group and cannot be separated from any discussion on Aboriginal issues in Canada.

I am not suggesting you ignore this book. However, if you choose to read it, I suggest you approach it as you would the opinion section of your local newspaper. Remember the book is comprised of a set of fundamental 'oversights' which colour the arguments, outdated theories and un-referenced "facts", all viewed through a neo-colonial cultural lens. I would also suggest you borrow the book from your local library or spend a day in the book store reading it there. If you buy it you are only contributing to the monetary gains of the "Aboriginal Industry" that Widdowson and Howard so strongly (or so they claim) dispute!

Katie-Sue Derejko is a Senior Policy Analyst with the MNO based in Ottawa. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Masters in the Anthropology of Health with a focus on Indigenous health and health policy in Canada.



Oshawa Métis artist exhibits in Midland

From June 6th to June 26th the work of Métis artist, Timothy Mohan, was on exhibition in Midland at the Huronia Museum at Huron Ouendat Village in the Georgian Bay town.

"I want to create original themes that reflect First Nations culture, as well as intertwining more modern themes, history and techniques," Mohan said.

The show's opening day celebrations in the museum auditorium featured free admission, as well as a chance to meet Mohan and ask him about his work while enjoying a wine and cheese reception.

The museum, located at 549 Little Lake Park Rd., is open seven days a week from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. until October 31st.

For more information visit www.huroniamuseum.com.

ATTENTION ARTISTS & CRAFTERS:

Caravan in the works

An artists' caravan is being started in Toronto. It will run weekends from the end of September to Christmas. Exact hours have not yet been determined. If you handmake your own work (no imports) and are interested, please contact Elsie Bordyniuk at 647-302-7942 or via email lbord@hotmail.com.

Halls are being booked in the Beaches, Danforth, Port Credit, Lakeshore Blvd at Brown's Line, and Bloor West Village and will cost about \$50 to \$60 per day.

The project is looking for a variety of 40 to 50 artists and crafters--not exclusively Native. Applicants will be screened for excellence.

BOOK REVIEW

Métis writer pens account of time working in P4W

George Caron, a former warden of the Prison for Women (P4W) and a citizen of the MNO has recently written a book about his experience as the male warden of an infamous women's prison. His account follows one inmate in particular from her incarceration to her release into the community.

The book, published by General Store Publishing House, offers an intimate look behind the walls of the well-known Kingston prison, recently closed. Mr. Caron shares anecdotes, history, and his recollections of an exciting and unpredictable career. Drugs, illicit weapons, illicit relationships, death threats, Doukhobors, and many other topics make this absorbing reading.

George Caron follows one inmate in particular--"Mouse"--from her incarceration to her victorious release into the community. Viewed by many as a place of punishment and suffering, the P4W nevertheless offered educational opportunities and other types of programs to inmates who had the interest and ability to benefit from them.

These real-life stories and the saga of the inner prison reality



are fascinating and profoundly intriguing.

About the Author

Proud of his Métis background, George Caron was born and raised in Vancouver's lower mainland, the oldest of seven children. He graduated from Western Washington State University in 1967 with a degree in psychology, anthropology, and sociology. George received his Masters of Social Work degree in 1971 from the University of Calgary.

MOUSE ON A STRING AT THE PRISON FOR WOMEN

General Store Publishing House
Tel: 1-800-465-6072
www.gsph.com

He worked in a variety of social welfare and children's services before commencing a career in adult corrections where he was employed for 35 years with the Correctional Service of Canada.

Beginning as a federal parole officer in Alberta, during the 70s and 80s up to the end of 1987, George Caron was assistant warden and then warden of the Prison for Women. After leaving the P4W, he was assigned as District Director of Parole for Eastern Ontario for approximately six months and was then appointed warden of a male prison. Before retiring in 2007, George was involved in national investigations with the CSC.

Caron lives in the Kingston area with his wife and two children, two dogs, one chicken, and one goose. If the book is successful he plans to fund a scholarship for the children or grandchildren of former Aboriginal inmates of P4W.

MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTION:

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS FOR THE
OTTAWA MÉTIS COUNCIL

Consistent with the Métis Nation of Ontario Community Charter agreement, By-laws and Community Council Electoral Code, a ballot box election has been called to fill vacancies and renew the mandate of the Ottawa Métis Council. All registered Métis citizens in the council area are encouraged to participate fully in this election either as candidates or by exercising their right to vote.

THE COUNCIL AREA IS: **South-West to South-East Border** - Beginning at Balderson, draw a vertical line east to Numogate, follow Numogate follow Hwy 43 to Winchester; **South-East to North-East Border** - From Winchester follow the Nation River north through Berwick, Chyrsler, Casselman, and Riceville until you reach Wendover; **North-East to North-West Border** - From Wendover follow the Ottawa River and Quebec border through Ottawa to Amprior; **North-West to South-West Border** - From Amprior follow Hwy 508 south-west to Calabogie. From Calabogie follow Hwy 511 south through Brightside, Hopetown and Lanark until you reach Balderson.

If you are a registered Métis citizen in this area you are eligible. The election process:
POLLING STATION: **500 Old St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4**
DATE/TIME OF ELECTIONS: **Friday, July 24, 2009, between 9:00 AM & 5:00 PM**

VOTERS' LIST: **June 30, 2009:** The Preliminary Voters' List will be posted at the MNO Head Office located at 500 Old St. Patrick St. in Ottawa. MNO citizens are encouraged to contact the Returning Officer to ensure their names and addresses are correct. **July 17, 2009:** The Final Voters' List will be posted at the MNO Head Office at 500 Old St. Patrick St. in Ottawa. Official Candidates will receive a copy of the Final Voters' List upon request to the Returning Officer.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL CODE: A copy will be posted at the MNO Office.

VACANT POSITIONS ON COUNCIL: There are 10 vacant positions as follows: President; Chair; Secretary-Treasurer; Senator; Youth Rep; Women's Rep; Councillors at Large (4 vacant positions to be filled)

NOMINATION PROCESS: Nominations Close 5:00 PM, EST, Tuesday, June 30, 2009. Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Returning Officer by this date and time. Nominations must include the name of the person being nominated (the candidate), the position the candidate is seeking, the names and signatures of two registered MNO citizens resident in the council area and the signature of the candidate accepting the nomination. Candidates can be nominated for only one position.

Announcement of Official Candidates: 5:00 PM, EST, Friday, July 17, 2009.
At the request of the Returning Officer, the MNO Registrar will verify the documentation of all candidates nominated following the close of nominations. The verification process ensures that all required genealogical information and proof of Aboriginal ancestry is in the candidate's records at the MNO Registry.

SCRUTINEERS: Candidates may appoint one person to be their scrutineer at the polling station. Candidates may appoint alternative scrutineers but only the scrutineer or the alternate can be present at one time in the polling station. The name of the scrutineer and alternates must be provided in writing by the candidate to the Returning Officer. One scrutineer per candidate may witness the counting of the ballots.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Any questions concerning this process should be addressed to the Returning Officer. lgadue@aol.com

ELECTIONS AT 2009 MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Filling of vacancies on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council

Date of Election: **Saturday, August 22, 2009**, in conjunction with MNO Annual General Assembly
Hours of Polling: **9:00 AM, ET to 5:00 PM, ET**
Polling Station: **Holiday Inn, Regent St. Sudbury ON** (Room TBA)
Close of Nominations: **August 1, 2009, 5:00 PM, ET**

POSITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATIONS: All candidates must submit written acceptance of the nomination and a statement that confirms the candidate has read the MNO Electoral Code Bylaws and is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in the MNO election.

THE FOLLOWING POSITION ON THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (PCMNO) WILL BE FILLED: Youth Representative (Candidates must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election) Nomination requires four signatures of registered voters less than 29 years of age from each region.

THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ON THE MÉTIS VETERANS' COUNCIL OF THE MNO WILL BE FILLED: President; Vice President; Secretary Treasurer; Women's Representative; Youth Representative. Nomination requires signatures of four electors who are also veterans. A signed Veteran's Affirmation (statement that confirms the candidate is a veteran)

THE FOLLOWING 9 REGIONAL POSITIONS WITHIN THE METIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH (MNOY) WILL BE FILLED: Regional Youth; Representative - MNOY (Nomination must include confirmation the candidate will be between 16 and 26 on the date of the election.) Must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election. Nomination requires signatures of seven registered voters less than 29 years of age from the candidate's region.

NOMINATION FORMS: Available at MNO Community Council offices, on the MNO web site or by email from the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer. (hankr@metisnation.org)

NOMINATIONS: Accepted by the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer up to the end of the day on which nominations close, August 1, 2009, and can be presented in person, by mail, email or facsimile.

POSTING OF CANDIDATES: August 14, 2009. Following a review of nominations and verification by the Registrar, the MNO Deputy Chief Electoral Officer will issue an official candidates' list. The list will also be posted on the web site: [HYPERLINK http://www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org) www.metisnation.org

ELIGIBLE VOTERS: PCMNO Youth Rep – Only youth registered as delegates to the 2009 MNO General Assembly in Sudbury are eligible to vote. MNOY Regional Reps – Only those youth who reside within their respective region and are registered delegates to the 2009 MNO General Assembly in Sudbury are eligible to vote. MNOVC - Only those veterans who are registered delegates to the 2009 MNO General Assembly in Sudbury are eligible to vote.

For more information or to request a copy of the *MNO Electoral Code* please contact:
Hank Rowlinson, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer - T: 613-764-1077, F: 613-722-4225, hankr@metisnation.org

Election correspondence can be mailed to:
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4

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

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



Métis Health & Wellness

KICKING THE SMOKING HABIT:

The Hardest to Quit

By Linda Lord

The Community Wellness Coordinators of the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Health branch recently had the opportunity to travel to Toronto to attend a five-day training session geared to help them help others to quit smoking. Tracey Dale of Bancroft pointed out that the program included "a two-day specialty course on tobacco interventions with Aboriginal people. This course offered tips and strategies to support community members through their journey of smoking cessation."

Kurv Makkappalil from Grey-Owen Sound said: "I found this training to be very informative and very educational. Facilitated by a group of dedicated and well-trained professionals, we were taught ways to screen, assess and treat people with tobacco dependence. The Aboriginal component highlighted the difference between traditional tobacco use and modern commercial tobacco use. It was emphasized that traditionally tobacco was used as one of the four sacred

plants in Aboriginal ceremonies. Commercial tobacco use is something completely different in that chemicals have been added that cause addiction, and disease. Some of the statistics reported indicate that 60% of on-reserve First Nations people between the ages of 18 and 34 smoke. Smoking rates are double the Canadian average. Leading causes of death for First Nations people are circulatory disease, cancer, and respiratory disease.

"As you can see tobacco addiction among Aboriginal people has reached epidemic proportions. Whether First Nation, Métis or Inuit, Aboriginal people must stand united in their effort to fight this disease. Along with the rest of Canadian society, we must all take a stand to butt-out, if we are ever going to succeed. This is a matter of great urgency- life and death hangs in the balance of that one cigarette. We, as a collective, can come together and work with those in need of assistance. Thanks to the TEACH course, I now have a much better understanding of the complexities surrounding this issue. Cigarette addiction is said to be the hardest to quit. So, it may be hard to

conquer, but let's try doing it with one cigarette at a time."

Lynne Sinclair from Sault Ste. Marie pointed out that, "according to the 2006 Census on the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, the Métis population represents 30% of the Aboriginal population in Ontario. At the training session in Toronto the Métis Nation of Ontario accounted for about 11% of those in attendance. I suspect that there were many other people of Métis ancestry there, but representing different organizations. The number of Métis in attendance may have been closer to the 30% mark as is represented in the population. The Métis Nation was well represented as our workers spoke on several occasions about our issues. Senator Roland St. Germain was a speaker at the session and spoke about the Métis population and some of the social struggles and health related issues that surround our people. Our voice was heard and as our numbers increase every year we need to continue to have a strong voice."


THE TEACH PROJECT

The Training Enhancement in Applied Cessation Counselling and Health (TEACH) Project is geared toward training health care professionals in the public, private and non-profit sectors who provide counselling services to people who use tobacco. The program is designed to enhance the knowledge and skills in the delivery of intensive tobacco cessation interventions.

Project Goal:
The goal of the project is to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use in Ontario by increasing identification and treatment capacity. TEACH is funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion in Ontario, as part of Smoke-Free Ontario in order to offer accessible, clinically relevant curricula to a broad range of health practitioners.

CONTACT
175 College Street, 3rd Floor
Toronto, ON M5T 1P7
Tel: 416-535-8501 ext. 1600
teach@camh.net



TheSilverMoccasin



Authentic Canadian Native Arts & Crafts


A store for discerning quality-conscious buyers of authentic native arts and crafts and complementary products. The store celebrates Canada's unique Aboriginal culture and history!

Moccasins, Mukluks, Mitts Leather Crafts Birch Bark Baskets Jewelry, Original Artwork Art Cards, Ceremonial Items Métis Sashes, Flags, Pins, Stickers and much more!



38 Silver Street Cobalt Ontario 705-679-5353
Shop online! www.silvermoccasin.com

Recipes from Métis Kitchens



Soon we will have fresh produce from our gardens and be wondering what to do with it. This recipe is a strawberry and apple freezer jam, perfect for diabetics, because there is no added sugar. Hope you enjoy.
- Tracy Bald

Strawberry-apple jam with orange peel

Ingredients:

- 6 cup fresh strawberries, washed and hulled (about 1 3/4 pounds)
- 1 medium apple, peeled and finely shredded (about 1 cup)
- 1 tsp grated orange peel
- 3 cups sugar substitute, such as Splenda
- 1 3/4 oz pectin for low sugar recipes, dry
- 1 cup water

Directions:

- In a large bowl crush strawberries thoroughly using a potato masher.
- Stir in apple and orange peel and set aside.
- In a large saucepan, combine sugar and pectin. Stir in water. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, stirring frequently.
- Cook and stir for one minute.
- Remove from heat and add strawberry mixture.
- Stir for 1 minute or until well combined.
- Ladle into clean half-pint freezer containers, leaving a 1/2-inch headspace. Seal and label.
- Let stand at room temperature for 24 hours or until set.
- Store for up to three weeks in the refrigerator or for up to one year in the freezer

Tracy Bald is the Community Wellness Coordinator in the Georgian Bay Métis Council office. She can be reached at 705-526-6335.

A MÉTIS FAMILIES DEALS WITH HEMOPHILIA:

IN THE BLOOD

By **Mary Rose Steed**

My name is Mary-Rose Steed and I am a 34 year old stay-at-home proud Métis mom to my five year old daughter Emma and my three year old son Michael. I am a hemophilia carrier type A. My late father who passed away December 24th, 1998, was a severe hemophiliac.

Hemophilia is a hereditary condition. This means that it's passed on from mother to child at the time the baby is conceived. The blood of a person with hemophilia does not clot normally. He does not bleed more profusely nor more quickly than other people; however, he bleeds for a longer time.

Many people believe that hemophiliacs bleed a lot from minor cuts. This is a myth. External wounds are usually not serious. Far more important is internal bleeding (hemorrhaging). These hemorrhages are in joints, especially knees, ankles and elbows; and, into tissues and muscles. When bleeding occurs in a vital organ, especially the brain, a hemophiliac's life is in danger.

Hemophilia A is called by two other names: "Classical hemophilia", because it is the most common of the factor deficiencies, and "Factor VIII deficiency hemophilia", because it is the lack of the factor 8 (written factor VIII) protein in the blood that causes the clotting problem.

Both hemophilia A and B are very rare disorders. Hemophilia A affects fewer than 1 in 10,000 people, or about 2500 Canadians. Hemophilia B is even less common, affecting approximately 1 in 50,000 people, or about 600 Canadians.

Without proper treatment, hemophilia is crippling and often fatal. With modern treatment,



Mary-Rose Steed with daughter Emma and son Michael.

most people with hemophilia can lead full, active lives.

Hemophilia is classified as severe, moderate or mild.

Severe hemophiliacs with less than 1% of the normal level of factor VIII or IX in the blood have hemorrhages several times a month. The bleeding is often the result of a minor bump or twist. There is often no apparent cause for the bleeding.

Moderate hemophiliacs bleed less often. Their hemorrhages are often the result of minor trauma, such as a sports injury.

Mild hemophiliacs have even fewer hemorrhages. They may be aware of their bleeding problem only in the case of surgery, a tooth extraction or a serious injury.

If hemophilia is severe in a bloodline it will stay severe, just as mild stays mild, and moderate stays moderate for all future generations. We suffer from "severe hemophilia" having less than 1% of the normal clotting factor.

Now that I've educated you about the disease, I want to tell you my story. My daughter has a 50/50 chance of being a carrier like me. When my daughter was born they did a test using her umbilical cord to determine whether she was a carrier but unfortunately they did the test wrong and now we won't know until she's 12 and McMaster will test her then. When I was pregnant with my son, I was so happy but also very afraid that he would end up being like my late father. I was ignorant of the new medications that are now available to children who have hemophilia. I was used to seeing my father suffer through his "bleeds"; it broke my heart. There were many mixed emotions over my son. When he was born the hospital did the test through his umbilical cord to see if in fact he was a severe hemophiliac and he tested positive. I cried and cried and then I pulled myself together and

said "let's move forward." I was anxious to set an example for him and not to let his disease hold him back from doing anything. I was seen right away at McMaster and was educated along the way on what was going to be available for him when the time came.

Michael started walking at nine months. It was my worst nightmare, when it would be another mother's glory. I was so scared of him falling! I have a great support system at home with friends and family. In June, 2006, at age one Michael had a Portacath surgically put into his chest. There is now a synthetic factor available. My husband and I were trained for six months at McMaster on how to give Michael his needles in the Portacath, instead of poking his veins all the time. Since our training we are now set up at home to give him his Factor 8 ourselves every other day to prevent bleeds and injuries before they happen. This preventative care saves us all

“
**I CRIED
AND CRIED
and then I
pulled myself
together and
said “let’s move
forward.”**
**I was anxious to
set an example
for him and
not to let his
disease hold
him back from
doing anything.**
”

the runs to the hospital and so far with Michael getting his needles every other day he hasn't suffered anymore joint bleeds. They have really come a long way since my late father was a child. In June, 2010, they will surgically take the Portacath out and we will be trained to give his needle right in the vein. Some of the hemophiliacs are trained as young as nine to give needles to themselves.

When Michael was one year old, I joined Facebook. I automatically posted notes about his condition in hope that I would find a mother my age who had a son around Michael's age. About three months later someone finally contacted me. We talked via email for about a month back and forth and then finally exchanged numbers. We talked and set up a play date right away. She was my age, and her son Brady is only 9 months younger than Michael. She only lives five minutes from

continued page 16

BREASTFEEDING YOUR BABY



By **Amanda Desbiens**

Women have been breastfeeding since the beginning of time. Yes, even our Métis ancestors breastfed their children.

It's so important to promote holistic foundations for our families and this includes breastfeeding. We can start by promoting perfect nutrition prenatally and encourage and support families through the process of breastfeeding from very early on. One of the benefits to breastfeeding

our children is a decrease in the risk of diabetes. Since the Aboriginal community is at high risk for diabetes, it's very important that we promote breastfeeding.

In the 21st century we see a huge decrease in women nursing their infants. Some causes for the decline in breastfeeding could be global marketing, the lack of role models, lack of follow-up support, some negative health practices, employment policies and cultural and societal biases. As health professionals we need to be aware of dangerous advertising and marketing tools provided to our clients. Company freebies might be great, but, why not promote and show our families that they don't need free formula when they can provide perfect nutrition to their babies at no cost. As health professionals it's important to tackle all the misconceptions that go along with breastfeeding in today's society.

To enable mothers to establish and sustain exclusive breastfeeding for six months, the World Health Organization and UNICEF recommend:

- a) Initiation of breastfeeding within the first hour of life;
- b) Exclusive breastfeeding- that is the infant only receives breast milk without any additional food or drink, not even water;
- c) Breastfeeding on demand- that is as often as the child wants, day or night;
- d) No use of bottles, teats or pacifiers.

— excerpted from the World Health Organization web site

Artificial baby milk has made its way onto the market during the last century with some negative results. The risks of using artificial formulae include: allergies, risk of contamination, infections, and also interference with the establishment of breastfeeding. Artificial baby milk should be used as a last resort for infant feeding. The World Health Organization (WHO) states that artificial baby milk is the fourth best option when we need to

- feed our infants:
- 1) Breastfeeding is the best
 - 2) Breast milk pumped and given through a bottle
 - 3) Wet nurses
 - 4) Artificial formula

It's important to remember that breastfeeding is a natural behaviour for us mammals and with some practice and proper latching techniques, breastfeeding will be successful. Women

and caregivers need a lot of support to establish and sustain good breastfeeding practices. There are many advantages to breastfeeding, some of which are:

- breast milk has the perfect nutrients for our babies;
- it protects the mother and baby against infections;
- it helps create bonding;
- exclusive breastfeeding reduces infant mortality, and
- it also helps promote sensory and cognitive development.

The advantages for the family are that it's cost effective, decreases health care costs, improves productivity and protects our mother earth and environment.

Amanda Desbiens is the Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program Coordinator in the MNO's North Bay office.

Métis Veterans

MÉTIS WHO SERVED IN WWI & WWII TO BE HONoured WITH MONUMENT AT JUNO BEACH

COURSEULLES-SUR-MER, FRANCE--

A monument to Métis Nation citizens who fought during the two World Wars will be erected at Canada's Juno Beach Centre in Normandy, France. The Métis National Council's Minister for Veterans Affairs, David Chartrand, made the announcement while attending commemoration ceremonies marking the 65th anniversary of D-Day--the June 6, 1944, liberation of Europe by Allied Forces during World War II.

"Thousands of Métis Nation citizens bravely and selflessly answered the call to serve during the World Wars," said Chartrand. "This monument will stand in eternal remembrance to those Métis who fought, who were wounded, and who died defending their people, their country, and world freedom."

The monument will consist of an exhibit highlighting the history of the Métis Nation in Canada and a Red River Cart--a widely recognized symbol of the



David Chartrand

Métis Nation--currently being constructed in the Métis Nation Homeland. Métis Nation veterans and youth will escort the Red River Cart to Juno Beach in November, where they will take part in its unveiling with a dedication ceremony during 2009 Remembrance Day events.

"Métis soldiers, sailors, and aircrew made incredible sacrifices for Canada's war efforts," said Chartrand. "This monument is a long overdue acknowledgment to these brave Métis men and women."

Minister Chartrand went on to thank Veterans Affairs Canada and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis for their assistance in making the monument possible and providing resources for Métis Nation veterans and youth to participate in its dedication ceremony.



Royal Canadian Navymen landing on Juno Beach on June 6th, 1944.



ARMYNAVY AIR FORCE LOOKING FOR ALL MÉTIS MILITARY PERSONNEL

**Are you currently in the Canadian Forces?
Do you know of any Métis person who is
or was in the Canadian Forces?**

At this year's Annual General Assembly (AGA), we of the Métis Nation of Ontario would like to show our respect to all our Métis military personnel who served Canada in times of war and peace. Please send us the names and if possible the rank and the war, or location in which they served. We want to know our veterans and our currently active Métis in the Canadian Forces, Army, Navy or Air Force.

Please send information to:

Joanne Meyer

Director Intergovernmental Relations

joannem@metisnation.org



Métis Nation Veterans' web portal launched

On May 22, 2009, Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clément Chartier, launched the Métis Nation Veterans Web Portal, a new web site that will help share the stories of Métis Nation veterans, celebrate their contributions to Canada, and help ensure every Métis Nation veteran has access to all the benefits and services they are entitled.

"This portal is a place for all Canadians to learn more about the brave and selfless sacrifices Métis Nation veterans have made in service to this country over the last 125 years," said Chartier. "It's also a valuable resource for Métis Nation veterans and their families to find information on services available."

The Métis Nation Veterans Web Portal will feature photos and videos of Métis Nation veterans and will have a continuously updated list of commemoration ceremonies being held across the Métis Homeland, Canada and around the world. Although not fully functional, the web portal is now on-line and worth a visit.

www.metisveterans.ca

Genes and Genealogy

Regular readers of the *Métis Voyageur* will be familiar with Donn Fowler's ongoing quest to learn as much as possible about his ancestors. Many of us are engaged in our own quests and understand the ups and downs that invariably accompany such a search. Donn has now taken his hunt into new territory--the mysterious land of DNA. The mission continues. -- LL

By **Donn Fowler**

Here is an update on my expanded "genealogical" search for reliable and detailed information on my only known Aboriginal ancestor, Mary (Daniel) Corrigan (b.1788-d.1823), and information on the four DNA results I have purchased from the National Geographic and IBM's "Genographic Project", including three mitochondrial DNAs (mtDNA) and one yDNA (mine). The three individual female mtDNAs are for Mary (Daniel) Corrigan; my mother, Grace; and my wife, Eva.

In summary, these four DNAs are basic identification of our four unique Haplogroups; namely: "A" (Mary); "U5a1" (my late mother); "H" (my wife, Eva), and "R" (for my R1b1b2a1b).

Already I have identified a few "R" expanded exact Haplogroup individuals having my exact haplogroup not only in Europe but also in both North and South

America, but with a strong "paternal only" emphasis on the Palatine and in Quedlinburg in Germany. It is becoming difficult to keep ahead of the inter-communications with these newfound related individuals, scattered such as they are today.

One interesting connection is with a lady whose name is Catherine Daniel, and also to a gentleman who is identified by his e-mail ID as "chiefnwife" but I have yet to determine if that gentleman is a "Chief" of a clan or tribe in the United States where he lives.

Persons deeply interested in their male and/or female ancestors would do well to connect with the "Genographic Project" with their computer's browser (simply type "genographic project" into your search engine). All it takes initially is to swab the inside of each cheek for several seconds; pop the swabs in the two little bottles and send it all off to the mailing address indicated, and back will come your basic

haplograph. Males can determine not only their own haplograph letter, but also their own mother's haplograph, because the male swabs will cover both the male yDNA and their mother's mtDNA as well. Male chromosomes are XY and female chromosomes are XX, but fathers cannot pass on to their children their own father's mother's inherited mtDNA. He can pass on only his yDNA to his sons. However, mothers can pass on only their own mtDNA to their daughters only, which makes the female DNA highly significant in tracing one's own female origins.

Every female has an XX chromosome and it can be passed on from her to her daughter's, daughter's daughters as long as there is no male chromosome interjected in the (unbroken) female linkage and every mother's XX chromosome will pass on to each one of her OWN sons but those sons can NEVER EVER pass that mtDNA along to their sons or daughters.

Every male has an XY chromosome and it can be passed on to his sons only, who in turn can pass it only to their own sons etc. However, every living male has both an XY chromosome (to pass on to son's sons etc.) and also his own mother's chromosome.

Moreover, from two separate

and uncontaminated 60 second swabs, (taken from the inside of a male's cheeks) the male's father's yDNA can be obtained as well as his mother's mtDNA and that singular male can then have both his father's and his mother's Haplogroup identified so that after the geneticists finish their "fully sequenced"--incidentally the most expensive--work that man will then have both his father's and his mother's haplotypes. For example my male haplotype (my father's yDNA) is "R1b1b2a1b" and my mother's haplotype (mtDNA) is "U5a1" but I cannot pass it on to my sons or daughters. I can only pass on to my SON my own yDNA--in my case "R1b1b2a1b". He would therefore not only have my yDNA but also his mother's mtDNA which he can never pass on to either a daughter or a son. My only child, a son--has only my yDNA (Haplogroup R) and his mother's (my wife's) mtDNA (Haplogroup H) which is her haplotype "H1".

My Aboriginal ancestry from 1823, Mary (Daniel) Corrigan, is presently a haplotype "A2", but I am awaiting additional information on the identification of her own native mother if possible. That would then confirm her mother as a haplotype "A2" as well. Stay tuned!

Some Definitions:

The Genographic Project is a five-year research partnership led by National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Spencer Wells. Wells and a team of international scientists and IBM researchers are using cutting-edge genetic and computational technologies to analyze historical patterns in DNA from participants around the world to better understand our human genetic roots.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is the genetic material found in mitochondria. It is passed down from females to both sons and daughters, but sons do not pass down their mother's mtDNA to their children.

YDNA is one of the two sex chromosomes, X and Y. The Y-chromosome passes down from father to son. Females do not receive it. The fact that the Y-chromosome goes down the paternal line makes it valuable for genealogy studies, since it typically follows a surname line.

Haplogroups: One way to think about haplogroups is as major branches on the family tree of Homo Sapiens. These haplogroup branches characterize the early migrations of population groups, which can today be associated with a geographic region.

Adenine is the "A" of the four bases that make up DNA. The other bases are thymine (T), guanine (G) and cytosine (C). Adenine always pairs with thymine.

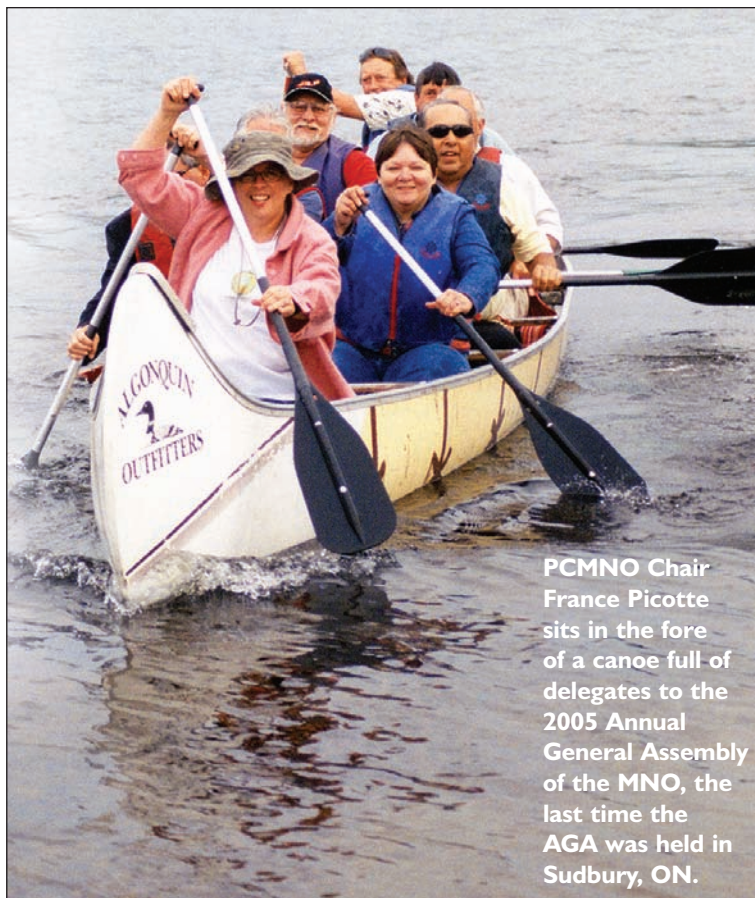
ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY | August 21-24, 2009 • SUDBURY

Annual General Assembly planning in full swing

Planning for the 2009 Annual General Assembly in Sudbury, is in full swing. Volunteers and staff across the province are putting the final touches on what promises to be a jam-packed weekend hosted by the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and the MNO Veterans Council. The PCMNO chose August 22 to 25, 2009, as the dates for the gathering. Additional planning aimed at hosting a youth forum sponsored by the Ontario Power Authority and a consultation and information session with the Nuclear Waste Management Organization for Friday, August 21, 2009, are also in the works.

On Saturday, a second morning session for youth is planned with Saturday afternoon being set aside for meetings of the senators, youth, veterans and women. Plans for Saturday evening include a sunset welcome at the Mine Mill Campground on Richard Lake with some of our Métis officials arriving at the site in the traditional Métis voyageur canoe; cultural entertainment under the big tent will follow. (Mine Mill campground is located at Richard Lake on Highway 69 south of Sudbury.)

Sunday morning brings a formal Grand Entry to officially open the AGA at our meeting venue, the Holiday Inn on Regent Street South in Sudbury. After the opening ceremony and dignitaries' speeches, a full day of business will follow. Don't forget to stop in at our trade show to view interesting informational booths from our sponsors. Visit and shop



PCMNO Chair France Picotte sits in the fore of a canoe full of delegates to the 2005 Annual General Assembly of the MNO, the last time the AGA was held in Sudbury, ON.

with a variety of unique crafters and vendors.

Pack the glad rags; Sunday evening promises to be a gala event.

Monday begins with a half-day of business at the Holiday Inn followed by an afternoon of cultural activities for the entire family at the Mine Mill Campground. The evening will feature a community campfire and entertainment under the big tent. A final business meeting will be held Tuesday morning, before everyone heads home in the afternoon.

For those wanting to rent a hotel room the MNO is arranging

special group rates at nearby hotels. This information will be announced on our web site and will be made available from the MNO's Regional Intake Officers. If you are interested in complimentary camping at the Mine Mill Campground, please contact Andy Lefebvre or Richard Sarrazin.

Renewing old friendships and making new ones are only two of the many reasons to attend the AGA. More information and highlights about the AGA and the venue will be posted on the web site at: www.metisnation.org as they become available.

AGA CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camping:

ANDY LEFEBVRE
Tel: 705-264-3939
andy@metisnation.org

RICHARD SARRAZIN
Tel: 705-897-6847
richards@metisnation.org

Senators Contact:

RETA GORDON
Tel: 613-722-7078
retag@metisnation.org

Delegate Inquiries:

LOMA ROWLINSON
AGA Chair
Tel: 613-798-1488
lomar@metisnation.org

Trade Show:

JOANNE MEYER
Corporate Sponsors
Tel: 416-977-9881
joannem@metisnation.org

GUYLAINE MORIN-CLEROUX
Vendors
Tel: 613-798-1488
guylainemc@metisnation.org

AGA Updates:

Check www.metisnation.org or the Regional Intake Officers near you:

JULIE MERAW / Ottawa
613-798-1488 x 128

HUBERT CHARLEBOIS / Midland
705-527-1228

FAYE NAVEAU / Sudbury
705-674-1502

MARI BEATON / Thunder Bay
807-624-5014

Mary-Beth Eltherington-Vaughan
Toronto - 416-977-9881



NOMINATIONS FOR 2009 SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD CLOSE ON:
JULY 15TH, 2009

The Suzanne-Rochon Burnett VOLUNTEER of the Year Award

The Concise Oxford English Dictionary offers the following definitions of volunteer:

**A person who freely offers to do something OR
a person who works for an organization without being paid**

At the Métis Nation of Ontario there is no need to look in a dictionary to define the term "volunteer." No matter where you work – either as a volunteer or staff – you deal everyday with individuals who define volunteer far better than any dictionary. Yet even in a nation founded on hard working volunteers there are exceptional individuals – those who give continuously above and beyond the call of duty – people like **Senator Reta Gordon** (2007) and **Richard Sarrazin** (2008). In addition to their willingness to serve, the other thing these selfless individuals have in common is that they have been recipients of the Volunteer of the Year award. Once again this year, a new Volunteer of the Year will be recognized at the Annual General Assembly in Sudbury.

OBJECTIVE: The objective of the Volunteer of the Year Award is to recognize those who volunteer for the Métis Nation year round. One volunteer per year will be selected as the recipient of the Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year by a special group of panellists. The winner will be announced and honoured at the 2009 Annual General Assembly which takes place in Sudbury, August 23, 24 and 25th, 2009.

PROCESS: The deadline for nominations this year is July 15, 2009. Every MNO citizen can nominate a volunteer for the award by completing a nomination form and filing it by the July 15th deadline. Nominations must be received by the MNO head office at 500 Old St. Patrick Street, in Ottawa by 5:00 PM on July 15th.

CRITERIA: The individuals nominated should exemplify the volunteer contributions made to the Métis Nation and their community according to the standard set by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort. They will have been strong advocates for the Métis Nation and have established an outstanding record of selfless commitment. They will be seen as caring, giving individuals others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

DR. SUZANNE ROCHON-BURNETT was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. She was named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario. A member of the Canada Council, Suzanne was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. The MNO honoured her memory and recognized her outstanding service to the Métis Nation by naming her the first recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award.



the Métis
Nation of
Ontario

IN THE BLOOD | A Métis Family deals with Hemophilia

from page 14

my house. Michael and Brady have the same doctor at McMaster. Brady is a severe hemophiliac, just like Michael. Now we are best friends and have a wonderful bond through our sons, even though we both have a great support system of friends and family. It's just so nice to have a bond with someone who actually knows what we are going through. Kristy is her name, and

when she decided to go back to work, I chose to babysit her son Brady twice a week. When the boys reach school age we are going to send them to the same school so that they can support one another. Experts from McMaster University/Hamilton Hospital will come to the school that we choose to educate the whole staff about hemophilia. Michael and Brady both have to be seen every three months at McMaster for a checkup. McMas-

ter has a clinic designed just for hemophilia. When we go to the appointment we see the whole team which includes a physio therapist, social worker, the doctor, nurse and someone from the Hemophilia Society. They have come to be like family to us.

As far as Kristy and I know Michael and Brady are the only two little Hemophiliacs in this region. Brady's story is a little different. Although he is a severe hemophiliac, his family has no

other family member that is a hemophiliac. This means that while Kristy was pregnant with Brady a mutation occurred and when the cells were being formed the factor gene was not formed; this is called a mutation. So now a whole new line of hemophiliacs will start with Brady and continue with his future kids, grandchildren and so on.

I feel very blessed that God brought Kristy and Brady into my life and thanks to the Internet I

found a real friend.

Since Michael was born I've learned that many people know nothing about hemophilia and I want to bring awareness to the community and maybe find others like us.

Mary-Rose Steed
905-646-9423
mrsteed2002@hotmail.com

To learn more about Hemophilia visit: www.hemophilia.ca