## MÉTIS VOYAGEU

#### THE MÉTIS HUNT FOR JUSTICE IN '07

MÉTIS LAWYER JASON MADDEN RUNS DOWN THE MAJOR MÉTIS RIGHTS CASES BEFORE THE COURTS ACROSS THE HOMELAND PAGE 7

**POPULAR ARTS** FESTIVAL RETURNS TO TORONTO PAGE 16



#### TREK IN **FUR TRADE**

THE MNO REGISTRAR FOLLOWS THE OLD **VOYAGEUR ROUTES BUT LEAVES THE** CANOE AT HOME PAGE 9





(from left to right): Chief Negotiator and PCMNO Chair Gary Lipinski, lawyer Jean Teillet, Roger Lemieux, lawyer Jason Madden, Marc Laurin and MNO President Tony Belcourt.

# Another Victory in the Hunt for Justice

by Linda Lord

n June 12th, the Ontario Court of Justice ruled that the harvesting agreement entered into by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) on July 7th, 2004, is legally binding on the Government of Ontario and that the laying of charges by the MNR against three Métis harvesters violated the terms of that agreement.

The Hon. Justice Greg Rodgers ordered a stay of proceedings against the three Métis harvesters involved, Marc Laurin, Shaun Lemieux and Roger Lemieux, all of the French River region of Ontario, south of Sudbury.

During the three years which have passed since the 2004 Interim Accommodation Agreement, the MNR has interpreted the

judgement will now pave the way for us to finally establish an appropriate working relationship with the Government of Ontario that is long overdue."

agreement to apply only to an area of the province north and west of a Sudbury-Temiscaminque line. The MNO interprets the agreement as being provincewide and 50% of MNO Harvest

Card holders are south of that charges against the remaining 22 line and to date, a total of 25 MNO Harvesters who are due to charges have been laid.

Jean Teillet, legal counsel to the Harvesters and the MNO said: "The judge confirmed our analysis of the Crown's obligations when it enters into agreements with Aboriginal people. He said our agreement was 'not merely legally defensible but a highly principled response.' The Minister did the right thing in 2004 when he entered into this agreement with the Métis. Having that affirmed so strongly by the judge should be encouraging to Métis and to government."

Métis Nation of Ontario Chair and Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt, Gary Lipinski, said: "This ruling is going to be a tremendous relief to MNO Harvesters who have been living under a cloud of uncertainty for the past three years. We call upon the government to immediately drop the

go to court....It is time for us to Responding to the verdict, now move on fulfilling all of the terms of our Agreement and the MNO remains committed to return to the negotiations table to continue the discussions that are called for in that Agreement based on the court's clear interpretation of the Agreement."

'We have achieved another major victory in the Metis hunt for justice", said MNO President and Chief Captain of the Hunt, Tony Belcourt. "This judgement restores our faith in the value of negotiated agreements and justifies our position that we wish to work out our issues at a negotiating table. I hope this judgement will now pave the way for us to finally establish an appropriate working relationship with the Government of Ontario that is long overdue."

**MORE COVERAGE ON PAGE 3** 



# NEW MÈTIS COUNCIL IN KITCHENER AREA

Back row left to right: Hank Rowlinson, Mark Courtepatte, Don Crawford, Sean Paquette, Carol Levis. Ruth Robbins, Eric Scofield. Front row left to right: Sandra O'Brien, Linda Giesler, Barb White.

#### Grand River Métis elect Interim Council

On March 31st, Hank Rowlinson and Eric Scofield met with Métis citizens in Kitchener at Conestoga College, where they assisted with the organisation of the Grand River Community Métis Council. An interim council was elected. The representatives

NEW ARRIVAL IN REGION 7

are: President Ruth Robbins; Chair Mark Courtepatte; Secretary/Treasurer Sandra Brien; Senator Don Crawford; Women's Representative Barb White and Councillors Sean Paquette, Carol Levis and Linda Giesler.

There will be a Charter sign-

**CONGRATS** 

Congratulations to Larry and

Janice (nee Lott) Ferris on the

birth of their son, Carl John

2nd, 2007, at Huronia District

Hospital. Larry is an active citi-

Métis community in Region 7.

Ferris. Carl was born June

zen who contributes to the

ing ceremony at a later date. Congratulations and welcome to this new region nine council.

The Grand River Community Métis Council Interim Executive may be contacted through the President, Ruth Robbins at ruthrobbins@rogers.com.

#### Happy Birthday, Louis

A very special Happy Birthday greeting to Louis Quesnelle of Bailieboro, from the MNO, your friends at the Métis Voyageur, and especially from Nancy.





#### MÉTIS RENDEZVOUS September 29th, 2007

#### **ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY** & FISH FRY DINNER

**NEW LOCATION:** Lafontaine Parks & Recreation Centre 342 Lafontaine Road West. Lafontaine, ON

CONTACT: 705-527-1228



## MÉTIS VoyageuR

REGION 7

Grey-Owen Sound Council

uly's Monthly Gathering may take the shape of a Hike at **Hibou Conservation Area**. This beautiful park is the location of the "French Village", formerly "Squaw Point". We anticipate a barbecue or something

All gatherings are held on the

fourth Sunday of each month at

the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Community Gathering Place,

380-9th St. East, Owen Sound, from 2-4PM. Families are encour-

aged to attend. We try to enter-

For more information call us

**Events** 

along those lines.

tain all age groups.

at 519-379-0036.

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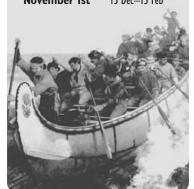
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deadline: date of events: lanuary lst | 15 Feb-15 Apr 15 Apr-15 Jun March Ist 15 Jun-15 Oct May Ist 15 Oct-15 Dec September Ist **November Ist** 15 Dec-15 Feb



## **OBITUARY:**

OPERTI

OSAWANIMIKI, Jason Osawanimiki of Wikwemikong passed away at his residence on Tuesday, April 17th, 2007, in his 24th year. Beloved son of Thomas Tourville of Sudbury and Peggy Osawanimiki of Sudbury; loving friend of Miranda Jacko of Wikwemikong; dear brother of Natashia (friend Stephen) of Wikwemikong; Meagan Eshkawkogan of Sudbury and Jonathon Tourville of Sudbury; grandson of Victoria Osawanimiki of Wikwemikong and the late Patrick Osawanimiki; proud of niece, Rihanna; very dear godchild of Teresa Shawanda and Mervin Osawanimiki. Jason will be sadly missed by cousin Urban Jr., he is survived by aunts and uncles, Ethel (husband Urban Peltier), Sharon Flamand, Bernadette Peltier (friend Rheal), Mervin, Wayne, Ricky (the late James Osawanimiki), numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Funeral Mass was held at St. Anthony Daniel Roman Catholic Church on April 21st, Father Doug McCarthy officiating, interment at Wikwemikongsing Cemetery, Kaboni.

Jason was the son of Métis Nation of Ontario Long Term Care worker, Peggy Osawanimiki.

#### LETTERS:

Like so many reading this, I have worked in various occupations for different companies over the years.

I came to the Métis Nation of Ontario a few years ago, and over time I have noticed that many of my co-workers became much more than just people I work with; they became friends.

We would see each other at training and AGA's, but our discussions were not confined to just work; we talked and laughed, sometimes cried and shared the struggles we face--both in and out of the workplace.

I had never really realised what I had found in this job until recently. What brought this to my attention was a loss. It was not my loss to speak of, but that of someone that was a part of the Health Branch family. I could not express the sorrow I felt at this loss or the amazement I felt at the outpouring of love and generosity that came from our office and so many others across the Homeland.

I knew I was hired to fill a position for the Métis Nation of Ontario, but what I didn't know was that this Nation would be more than an employer and my co-workers more than people I see a couple times of a year.

I have been blessed to be a part of a huge extended family that is there with much more than just words when you need it most.

— from an MNO staff person, name withheld by request



#### Happy 75th Birthday, Reta

Reta, how do I begin to tell vou how lucky I am to have you in my life?

I will start by saying what a gift you gave me 42 years ago when we became husband and wife.

You are my best friend and my rock in times of sorrow. You are the reason for sweet vesterdays and my promise for tomorrow.

I never thought I could feel this loved until you became my wife. You know how to make every year the best ones of my life.

All my love, Ronnie.

#### MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION ANNUAL MEETING

This is to notify all citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario that the Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation's annual meeting will be held during the Métis Nation of Ontario's Annual General Assmbly to be held July 9th-13th, 2007 in Thunder Bay, ON.



#### R V. LAURIN, LEMIEUX & LEMIEUX

**BACKGROUND:** On September 19th 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its decision in *R. v. Powley* in which it confirmed that Métis exist as a rights-bearing Aboriginal people in Canada. The decision was particularly important to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) because it had supported and funded the case on its journey through the courts. It was a journey that took 10 years.

Following the Powley decision the MNO negotiated with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in an effort to establish a mutu-

ally acceptable harvesting agreement. On July 7th, 2004, the Minister of Natural Resources, the Honourable David Ramsay, and MNO President, Tony Belcourt, entered into the *Interim Harvesting Agreement*. (See below)

Briefly, the *Interim Enforcement Policy* states that, "an aboriginal person who identifies himself or herself as such, harvesting or transporting wildlife or fish as food for personal consumption and for social and ceremonial purposes, shall not be subject to enforcement procedures...."

Following this 2004 agreement, the Crown

withdrew existing charges. At the same time it began to insist that the agreement was not "legally enforceable". Eventually, the Crown stated that it would not implement the agreement south and east of Sudbury and new charges were laid. It must be noted that within the *Interim Agreement* there is no reference to geographical limits apart from the harvesting being restricted to traditional territories.

The MNO decided in October of 2005 to join three cases together and bring a motion to stay proceedings. The motion stated that the MNR

had breached the 2004 agreement by laying charges against the defendants. The three defendants were: Marc Laurin, Shawn Lemieux and Roger Lemieux. The motion was filed in November of 2005. It was heard in 2006, on March 22, 23, June 16, October 13, November 2, 27, and in 2007 on February 16th.

Finally, on June 12th, 2007, the Hon. Justice Greg Rodgers ordered a stay of proceedings against the three Métis harvesters stating that the 2004 harvesting agreement between the MNO and the MNR is legally binding.

**LATE BREAKING NEWS:** The Government of Ontario has given notice that it will **not** appeal the decision of Justice Greg Rodgers. (Visit www.metisnation.org for details)

MORE NEWS: On National Aboriginal Day, Premier McGuinty announced the creation of a stand-alone Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, but without expanding the provincial cabinet. The new ministry is headed by David Ramsay, the Minister of Natural Resources, who was already the minister responsible for aboriginal affairs. He will continue to do both jobs. Ramsay is scheduled to attend this year's AGA.



Métis supporters parade outside the Ontario Court of Justice in North Bay on June 12th, 2007 in anticipation of the decision in R v. Laurin, Lemieux and Lemieux.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

## Steps in the right direction



he news that the Government of Ontario will not appeal our recent court victory in the case of *R v. Laurin*, *Lemieux and Lemieux* and the recent announcement that Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty has created a new Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs are definitely steps in the right direction. How big they become is yet to be seen; and we are also missing a similar step by the federal government.

We have always advocated negotiations in preference to litigation or confrontation. Unfortunately, until now, the governments have preferred litigation. The 1991 Interim Enforcement Policy provided that "an aboriginal person" hunting and fishing for food and for social and ceremonial purposes "will not be subject to enforcement procedures" unless they are violating principles and laws regarding conservation and safety. Even though the Constitution of Canada clearly defines our people as one of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada, the Government of Ontario

ignored their own policy and charged our people.

In 2003, in the historic decision by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v*. Powley, the courts confirmed the existence of Métis constitutional rights and called for governments to make accommodation to enable Métis people to access their rights. On July 7, 2004, we reached another historic day when Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Minister, David Ramsay, and I concluded our 4-Point MNO/MNR Harvesting Agreement. Shortly after that the MNR unilaterally declared that this Agreement only applied in our traditional harvesting territories north and west of Sudbury and promptly started to charge our people. So much for negotiations and reaching agreements to settle issues! Again we were back in court-litigation instead of negotiation.

On June 12th the court firmly declared that our agreement was binding on the Crown and dropped the charges in the case. Thankfully the government has announced that it will not appeal that decision. Finally, after long battles with the government over the recognition of our rights to harvest, we now have a step in the right direction.

In my statement following the release of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report I said:

"We have been advocating for

many years for a Minister who would have a clear mandate and authority to deal exclusively with Aboriginal issues at the Cabinet table. We need the tools to work towards reconciliation. We need the tools to ensure justice and fairness to Aboriginal peoples and to make the changes to existing systemic discriminatory policies and processes that impede us. We need the tools to say to our own people the place to work out our issues is at the negotiations table. We need the tools to develop reconciliation and understanding between Aboriginal peoples and other citizens of Ontario and all of Canada."

Premier McGuinty's decision to create a Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs is definitely a step in the right direction, but until there is a "stand alone" minister and not one who is also a minister of a conflicting ministry-such as the MNR or the Attorney General—this is not quite, in my opinion, a full step forward, but a hesitant one. Nevertheless, we now have the leverage to call on the government to take perhaps what it considers a "giant leap" by removing the shackles on the minister whose sole mandate should be to advocate for us and whose attention will be solely on those issues of concern to Aboriginal peoples.

continued page 5





top: Lawyers Jason Madden and Clément Chartier outside the Ontario Court of Justice in North Bay.

left: Lawyer Jean Teillet at the press conference following the decision.

below: Brenda Powley and Aline Giroux share a laugh outside the North Bay Court House.



#### MÉTIS COMMUNITY

**MÉTIS YOUTH:** 

#### Eleven year old Métis bowler racking up trophies

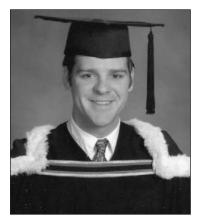
by Linda Lord

iranda Panas of St. Catharines has been making a name for herself as a bowling champion. She's only 11, but she's been bowling for six years. It's a family thingmother, father, brother and grandparents are all active bowlers—but Miranda is racking up the trophies.

As a five-year-old she began with five-pin bowling, but within a couple of years she moved on to ten-pin. Last November she represented her youth league at the regional championships and came in fifth out of 52. In January she won in the bantam division at the southern Ontario championships. This success encouraged her to set her sights on the Canadian Tenpin Federation Championships in Edmonton at the end of May. Although she is competitive and has a regular practice schedule, Miranda says, "You don't have to be really good at it. You can be lucky too, and the whole main idea is just having fun with it."

Miranda is the granddaughter of Senator Elmer Ross.

#### **MÉTIS ACHIEVEMENT:**



#### Métis student earns two law degrees from McGill

n June 1st, 2007, Métis Nation of Ontario citizen, **John Charles Logue Ramsay** received two law degrees from the McGill University Faculty of Law.

John is a proud Métis citizen who has worked hard to achieve these degrees. He was raised by a single mother (Louise Logue) since the age of three and has demonstrated outstanding effort throughout his educational experience. At McGill, he was successful in obtaining the title of the "Director of the Law Students Advocacy Office". He is currently articling at the Ottawa Police Service - Legal Department. He is truly a role model for Métis youth!

SUPREME COURT'S HISTORIC DECISION IN "POWLEY CASE":

#### POWLEY POWER

Senator Brenda Powley speaks to law class about historic Powley case

by Natasha Couturier

y name is Natasha Couturier and I am attending St. Basil's Secondary School. In my grade 11 law class we were learning about Métis law. While reading our law book it had mentioned the *Powley* case, at which time I notified my teacher, Sister Mary Jo, that Steve Powley was my uncle.

Sister Mary Jo asked if I was able to bring any documents to school that pertained to the

case and if I was able to get someone to speak about the case. I approached my Aunt Brenda to see if she could speak about the case for my class; Aunt Brenda gladly said "yes".

First, Aunt Brenda talked about how Uncle Steve and (cousin) Rod had gone out hunting and shot a bull moose, which led to them getting charged. Then
she told how this evolved
into a trip to the
Supreme Court of
Canada for Métis hunting and fishing rights
and how it had
affected everyone.
My teacher
and fellow
class mates
really
appreciated Senator Pow-

ley coming and talking to the class. Sister Mary Jo called her a "shining star" and said she had never expected to meet someone so close to the situation, in the very city where the court case was held.

I was amazed that this case was already in law books, and I appreciate how wonderful it was to have someone so close to me who was able to take the time and speak in front of my class. Again, thank you Aunt Brenda.

MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL NEWS:

## Mactier Métis meeting

by Verna Porter

pring has sprung and the Moon River Métis Council did just that on Sunday, April 15th. We held our spring General Meeting and what a day it was.

Our meeting started off with Leon King from Beausoleil First Nation teaching us about smudging. He then offered to smudge our citizens and many took part in this sacred event.

Once the agenda and minutes were out of the way, the meeting took on an air of excitement and anticipation. Our President, Louise Goulding, has worked very hard over the last two years putting together a report about the historical Métis community of Penetanguishene. With the help of researchers/historians Micheline Marchand and Daniel Marchildon, From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 years of Métis History, was finally unveiled.

This report covers the initial

contact between Europeans and First Nations peoples. It covers everything from land issues to marriages, fishing, hunting and of course the fur trade. As President Goulding stated during the unveiling, "It is a report about Métis written by Métis", which is truly exciting. We hope this report will be used in court cases as a reference and proof that we do exist and have always been here. It is well written and it is obvious that much research went into it. President Goulding, we are proud of you for bringing our Métis heritage to such heights; with you, the sky is the limit. Thank you from your council and I am sure I speak for our citizens as well.

Next on the agenda was the Honourable Tony Clement, Federal Minister of Health; MNO President, Tony Belcourt and MNO Vice-Chair, France Picotte, announcing \$210,000 in bursaries to 30 Aboriginal students from the north. These students are studying in the health field.

Five of these students were in attendance to accept their bursaries from our distinguished guests. What an honour to be able to host this event.

Of course a gathering is never complete without a little music. The Moon River Métis Council's very own Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington composed words and music in honour of our President--Louise's Waltz--and with a little help from Laurie Miller on fiddle, Verna Porter on guitar and the Senator leading on her fiddle, we sang and played this paddling song. It was a huge hit and is a song that will go down in history; that is

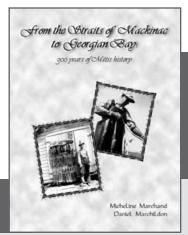
for sure.

The day was topped off with our annual fish fry. What a meal–fish, beans, scalloped potatoes, bannock and dessert-the end to a perfect day! Thank you to all our volunteers: Chris Goulding and his helpers for preparing and cooking fish for approximately 225 citizens; Lynn and Dan who took on the task of kitchen help and did a fantastic job; all our spouses who put up with us during the planning and then got to help too!

Thank you to all our visitors and guests who travelled from near and far to join us on this special day.

Verna Porter is the Chair of the Moon River Métis Council.

Copies of From the "Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 years of Métis History" can purchased for \$20 each by contacting the Moon River Métis Council by phone at 705-746-4974 or by email at moonisland@hughes.net.



**BOOK REVIEW:** From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 Years of Métis History

#### Vision becomes a valuable Métis history resource

by Linda Lord

his densely written and scholarly account of Métis in the Penetanguishene area is a valuable resource for all Métis. The bibliography alone makes the book a bargain. It is possible to read a section, or just a page or two, but it would be a shame not to read it all.

The book is the brainchild of Moon River President, Louise Goulding. Louise explains how it came about. "Almost two years ago, I had an idea and brought it to council. My idea and suggestion to council was that we look into the occupations of the Métis. What did we do to make a living? Where did we do it? How did change come about? I high school thought I could then, perhaps, write a little something about what I found. I was so naïve! pated an help of pated an h

"Needless to say council was very interested in what I had to say and gave me the go-ahead to investigate the possibilities. It wasn't long before I realized it had to be about more than just the occupations of the Métis; it had to be the whole story. Who were we? Where did our people come from? Where were our historic communities? What did we do for work? Who did we marry? There was so much to be researched and written about. I quickly recognized the fact that this was going to be much bigger than I had anticipated and that I needed the help of professionals--which I was not!"

Fortunately, Louise ran into

an old school friend, Micheline Marchand. "I found out that she was a history teacher at a local high school. Of course my gears were already turning as she told me of her thesis while obtaining her masters degree in history at university. Her thesis was titled, 'The Settlement of Penetanguishene by the Voyageurs and Métis (1825-1871): The French Settlement in Huronia'. She had written it in French and it had never been translated. Lucky for me, I also found out that her partner, Daniel Marchildon, had a bachelor's degree in translation. I spoke to them both about my idea and found that they were as interested as I was and that they were prepared to take on the task; all I needed now was the money to pull this "That's where Scott Carpenter comes in, whose enthusiasm regarding this project matches my own. With his help and that of the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives, the Moon River Métis Council applied for and received funding to begin work on a report about the Historic Métis Community of Penetanguishene and area. We also received funding to have Micheline's thesis translated, which by the way will be available soon."

The resulting book is packed with quotations that give contemporary impressions of Métis life, 300, 200, or 100 years ago; impressions that are hard to summarise without losing something. We all have, more or less, the same mental picture of the voyageur: "With his blue capot, his gaudy sash, his deerskin leggings and his gay beaded pouch...." (Landon, p.19) What we may not have is an accurate idea of what it was like to BE that voyageur or his unfortunate wife.

CONTINUED PAGE 5

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MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS:

## MÉTIS YOUTH: We Need You!

hether you are looking for scholarships, travel, or employment, the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) can point you in the right direction.

We are currently developing contacts "for youth from youth." We hope that these initiatives will invite and encourage youth to get involved in everything the Métis Nation of Ontario has to offer.

The youth council is geared up and ready to get involved--get YOU involved! Check out the web site for youth updates and read the *Voyageur* to see what's going on in your community. We can help open the door to travel, scholarships, employment and much more, but we need YOU.

Our network extends all across the Métis Homeland, from British Columbia to Ontario. We can offer you projects on the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Without your involvement,



your voice won't be heard.

The MNOYC is extremely interested in seeking out new groups aged 18-30 who want to be involved in projects revolving around scholarships, training,

education, language, culture, environment and travel.

Our programs can reach youth 10 to 30 with everyone's help, including parents, brothers, sisters, beloved elders and senators and anyone who knows a youth. These programs are crucial because today's youth are tomorrow's leaders. Passionate and enthusiastic youth can assist the Youth Council by going to left to right: Senator Roland St.Germain (PCMNO Youth portfolio holder), Alison Croft, Amber Griffiths, Benny Michaud, Joni Labbe, Sean Barrie, Scott Russell and Ashley Saulnier.

conferences and meetings all across Canada through a quickly expanding network of people.

Young people are regarded as trend-setters and early adopters of important philosophies. We are the people who are building upon ideals and making them a reality. Through a collective youth vision we can start a wide-spread acceptance of up and coming ideas. Get involved today! Call or email us:

#### **Chelsey Quirk**

Provincial Youth Coordinator 613-798-1488 or 1-800-263-4889 chelseyq@metisnation.org

Or email the MNOYC representative in your Region. (see above)

## 300 Years of Métis History

FROM PAGE 4

Marchand and Marchildon (p.31) not only provide some of the less charming facts about the life of the voyageur, they also go a very long way toward proving that Métis community was not

tied to one place, but rather travelled with the people.

"...The Métis that will move to the Penetanguishene area had already formed a community before moving to south Georgian Bay. That is to say the community definitely exists in Drummond Island (as of 1815), and to a certain extent in St. Joseph Island (between 1796-1812) as well as on Mackinac Island (between 1780 and 1796) and in Michilimackinac (before 1720 and 1780)."

In a little over 100 years the Métis community had five distinct locations. Repeatedly, fami-

lies were forced to leave their homes and belongings behind when they fled to the next location. In every instance the people moved not of their own volition but because of wars between England and the United States that created and shifted the border between the US and Canada. The men fought on the side of the British and built their homes around the fort. The women and children lived there even when the men

were off hunting or trapping–sometimes for as much as nine months of the year. Despite their mobility and long periods of separation the Métis remained a community. Quoting Petersen (1985), Marc-



hand and Marchildon say:

"By 1815, tangible evidence of a 150-year long alliance between men of the fur trade and native women was everywhere in abundance. Throughout the upper Great Lakes region, towns and villages populated by a people of mixed heritage illustrated the vitality of the intermarriage compact. The absence of vital records nearly everywhere makes enumeration of the residents of the Great

Lakes fur trade society difficult; that they were a sizeable and influential population should be obvious, however."

Louise sums it up: "And here we are, almost two years later unveiling the report. What is

truly exciting for me, having read the report already, is that it clearly shows that our community does in fact exist, something that the Ministry of Natural Resources refuses to accept. It clearly shows that we had a community before effective control or when the Métis way of life began to change and that our community continues to exist to this very day."

President, Tony Belcourt agreed. "I certainly want to see this get into the hands of every federal and provincial Cabinet Minister and to senior officials of all of the relevant departments we

deal with including the MNR, Culture and Heritage, Education, Ministries of Colleges and Universities, DIAND and Natural Resources Canada. This should be in school libraries, including those in colleges and universities

The creation of this remarkable document is a great service to the Métis Nation in Ontario and should inspire other regions to undertake similar histories for their locales.

#### The Right Direction

FROM PAGE 3

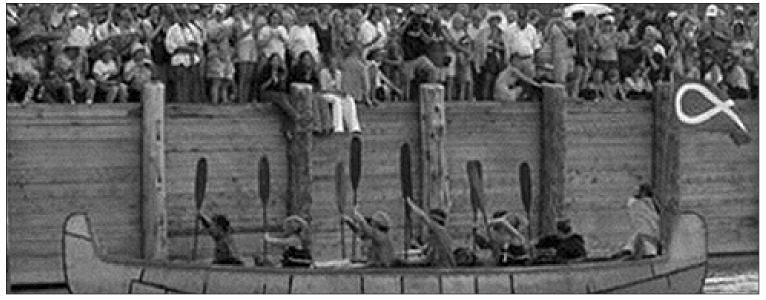
I hope these steps in the right direction will be the catalyst for similar steps to be taken at the federal level. Very regrettably, the Métis were excluded from the recent announcement of a new land claims process that the Federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs called "Justice for All -Justice at Last". Métis National Council President, Clement Chartier, issued a plea for an expansion of this new policy so that Métis would finally have a process open to them for the negotiation of their long-standing land claims. The only process now available is to resort to the courts. President Chartier characterized the federal announcement as not "Justice for All", but "Justice for Some".

I am very anxious to return to the table with the Government of Ontario to urge that the steps they are taking will result in justice for the Métis Nation. The Premier stated, in creating the new ministry that it will "work with the federal government on a new process that would expedite land claims here in Ontario". I call on the Premier and the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to work with the federal government and us to ensure that the "new process" does not perpetuate the past practices of exclusion of the Métis but that there will be clear provisions to allow our people and our communities to address their legitimate claims. Justice demands a step in that direction.

The Premier's announcement also calls for the "Launch of a New Relationship Fund, which will help Aboriginal communities strengthen their skills and resources to work more seamlessly with governments." That too is a step in the right direction, but where the Métis Nation is concerned it does not go far enough. While the government has announced a new offer to First Nations for funds from gaming in Ontario that will be in the billions of dollars, the Métis have been glaringly excluded from any such funding. Establishing a fund from gaming revenues specifically for the Métis Nation will be a matter high on the agenda in our future discussions with the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. It is a fundamental step in the direction of finally according equity and justice for the Métis.

I wish to congratulate the Premier and the Government of Ontario for taking the positive and important steps it has taken. As the Premier said: "We have to roll up our sleeves and do the hard work to building trust and forging a more productive relationship with Aboriginal peoplebecause we know from the past that confrontation doesn't work". I agree with him. He has taken the first steps in the right direction. I am anxious to build on them.





The first Métis Canoe Expedition arrives at Fort William during the Great Rendezvous in July 2003.

## THE HISTORY OF FORT WILLIAM

by Virginia Barter

ort William and the North West Company (NWC) form part of an important and colourful chapter in Canadian history. Many of the great names of Canadian exploration—David Thompson, Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Simon Fraser—were all at one time affiliated with the NWC.

The NWC was officially formed in 1784, and was comprised of a loose coalition of independent Scottish traders based in Montreal. The demand for fur in Europe was stronger than ever, so their success was remarkable indeed. They were determined to challenge the London based Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) for control of the fur trade in

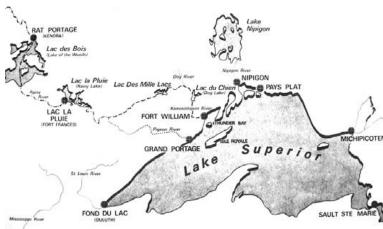
North America. This was no easy task considering the нвс had a monopoly over the lands drained by the Hudson Bay watershed in what was then known as "Rupert's Land". So, to compete with their rival, a

new trading strategy had to be established. The Nor'Westers had to move deeper into the interior regions of Canada. Voyageur canoe brigades could not penetrate the western interior, pick up furs from isolated posts and return to Montreal before freeze-up, so a midway trans-shipment point needed.

Initially, the Nor'Westers built a trading post at Grand Portage, near Pigeon River. However, the establishment of the American border in 1783 and the subse-

quent threat of customs duties forced the Nor'Westers to find another inland base. They resurrected the old French route at the Kaministiquia River in 1801. Here they

(the original name of Fort William). In 1803, the NWC partners gathered to hold their first Great Rendezvous of partners and traders. This soon became



#### MAJOR FUR TRADE SITES AND WESTWARD ROUTES

an important yearly event. Essentially, this was an annual general meeting of the company where partners and directors came together to set policies and make the business decisions for the coming year. In 1807 the name was changed to "Fort William", in honour of William McGillivray, who served as Chief Director of the North West Company from 1804-1821.

Administratively, the companies had radically different strucestablished Fort tures. The HBC primarily built its Kaministiquia forts on the shores of Hudson Bay where the Indians came to trade with them; eliminating the need to travel inland. The HBC directorship and management was based in London and many

of these men never even visited fur trade country. The NWC, on the other hand, was comprised of truly active partners who had first hand experience of fur trade life. Those who had spent a winter in fur trade country--proving themselves rugged and worthy as it were--obtained the rather heady company status of "wintering partner".

Fort William was huge. It took a thousand men to build it. It was a complex community and the centre for the trade of the Fort William Department which included the region around Lake Superior and west as far as Rainy Lake (Lac la Pluie.) It was the central warehouse depot for

CONTINUED PAGE 8

#### A NEW BEGINNING FOR OLD **FORT** WILLIAM



In the 1960's, the Ontario Government decided to consider a project to reconstruct Fort

William. As part of the preliminary research, archaeological work on the site of the North West Company's Fort William depot at the mouth of the Kaministiquia River in Thunder Bay was conducted over a three year period from 1968-1970. What they found was that the north half of the NWC site lay beneath a residential area and the south half was used by the Canadian Pacific Railway as a cleaning yard. This severely limited the area available for excavation. As information accumulated, it became clear that the site at the mouth of the river had been used since prehistoric times by many cultural groups. Thus, a complex and confusing picture of land use emerged for the archaeologists. With rare exceptions, it was virtually impossible to designate a feature in the ground as belonging to the precise period of reconstruction.

Finally, in the spring of 1971, retiring Premier John Robards announced the government's plan to reconstruct Fort William at Pointe de Meuron, ten miles upstream from the original site. This new site would be unencumbered by modern development, and it still had a significant historical link to the old fort. Pointe de Meuron was the place of the encampment of the Swiss de Meuron soldiers who accompanied Lord Selkirk in 1817 on his campaign to quell the troubles in the Red River Settlement. The massive reconstruction was opened to the public in 1981.

Both buildings and surroundings have been faithfully reproduced. The Great Hall for example is a nearly perfect duplicate of its antecedent and features several of the original paintings that graced the walls two centuries ago. Even the cows and sheep in the farm are the heritage breeds that would have grazed there 200 years ago.

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w/ Virginia Barter & Pierre Lefebvre, Métis Nation of Ontario This workshop is FREE of CHARGE and is limited to 30 participants

Virginia Barter is a Toronto based historical writer and researcher, and "The Fiddlers of lames Bay". One of the Cree fiddle players in the film publisher of the "Spencer Family Newsletter", chronicling stories of the social history of the fur trade. She has given numerous presentations on her Métis family history and most recently she was a guest speaker at the 2006 North American Fur Trade Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Her Métis family history, Searching for the Silver Fox will be published this coming year as part of an anthology by Wilfred Laurier University Press, The Long Journey of a Forgotten People: Métis Identities and Family Histories. "One day I came across a National Film Board documentary called,

was from Fort George on the eastern shore of James Bay. In the film he explains--in Cree--how his great grandfather had come there with the Hudson's Bay Company. Then he held up a picture and pointed to his great grandparents-- and they were my great grandparents too! That launched me on this extraordinary discovery of Métis family history.'

Currently Virginia is employed as a full-time historical researcher for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and she will be presenting along side Pierre Lefebvre, MNO Executive Director.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article was prepared in February, 2007. Although months have gone by, it still provides a detailed backdrop for the recent victory in R. v. Laurin, Lemieux & Lemieux

## The Métis Hunt for Justice continues in '07

by Jason Madden

s in 2003, with the Métis Nation's historic victory at the Supreme Court of Canada in R. v. Powley, 2007 will also be a precedent setting year in the ongoing Métis 'hunt for justice'. In total, it is expected, that at least five decisions on Métis rights will be delivered by courts across the Métis Nation Homeland this year. Each one of these cases, in its own way,

will be important to the development of Métis rights case law.

Collectively these cases will continue to push all levels of government to come to grips with Métis rights. Since 2003, some governments, such as Alberta, Ontario and Canada, have heard and acted on the directions from the Supreme Court of Canada in Powley. Those governments sat down with Métis in order to negotiate and accommodate Métis harvesting rights. Other governments, such | as Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, have chosen an adversarial, costly and time consuming approach. Instead of engaging in negotiations, as mandated by section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and the honour of the Crown, these governments have forced Métis into the courts, at great financial expense to the Métis Nation and all taxpayers in those provinces.

The anticipated cases can be grouped into three categories:

(I) cases to establish a Métis r pursuant to the Powley test,

(2) cases that deal with the enforceability and interpretation of negotiated Métis harvesting agreements, and

(3) a case that will answer whether the Crown has fulfilled its duties and obligations to the Métis pursuant to the Manitoba Act.

In the first category, we have the R. v. Goodon (Manitoba) and R. v. Belhemeur (Saskatchewan) cases. In the

and R. v Kelley (Albert third category, we have the Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada case.



Jason Madden is a Métis lawyer originally from north-western Ontario. He practises in his Toronto law firm, ITM LAW, where he specialises in Métis issues.

#### MANITOBA

#### R. v.Goodon

#### What is a Métis community?

Will Goodon was charged under s. 19 of the Manitoba Wildlife Act for harvesting a duck in the Turtle Mountains. Mr. Goodon did not have a provincial hunting licence, but was harvesting under the authority of his Manitoba Métis Federation Harvester's Card. The Goodon trial began in May of 2006 and it was expected that the evidence portion of the trial would be completed by the end of March 2007. By then, over 15 community witnesses and four experts would have testified.

This case is important because it tackled the question of "what is a Métis community?" in Manitoba. Further, because the Manitoba Crown is arguing that Métis harvesting rights in the province have been extinguished, the court had to answer this important issue as well. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered 2007.

#### SASKATCHEWAN

#### *R. v.* Belhemeur

#### A unilaterally imposed line

Donald Belhemeur was charged while ice fishing near the Qu'Appelle River in southern Saskatchewan. Mr. Belhemeur did not have a provincial fishing licence and was charged under s. 11(1) of the Saskatchewan Fisheries Regulations.

In Saskatchewan, even though Métis harvesting rights have been

proven in court cases in northern Saskatchewan (R. v. Morin & Daigneault and R. v. Laviolette), the provincial government has refused to formally accommodate Métis harvesting south of a unilaterally imposed line. It is hoped that a victory in the Belhemeur case would force the Saskatchewan government to finally act honourably and accommodate Métis harvesting practices throughout the province, rather than forcing Métis to establish rights hectare by hectare. The trial portion of the case was set to conclude in March, 2007, following the testimony of two experts and 17 community witnesses. It is anticipated that a decision will be rendered in Belbemeur in the summer of 2007.

#### ONTARIO

#### Laurin, Lemieux & Lemieux

## Another victory for Ontario Métis

in Goodon in the summer of In July, 2004, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) reached an interim harvesting agreement with Ontario. The four points of the agreement were straightforward: (1) the MNO would issue up to 1,250 Harvester Cards; (2) holders of these 1,250 Harvester Cards would not be charged for harvesting within their traditional territory as long as they abided by conservation and safety requirements; (3) the interim agreement would stay in place until a final agreement was reached; (4) the MNO would agree to a third-party audit of its Harvester Card system and the parties would undertake joint research to use in negotiating the final agreement.

> In the fall of 2004, Ontario began to charge MNO Harvester Card holders south of a unilaterally imposed line, even though the text of the negotiated agree-



SEPTEMBER 19th, 2003: Steve Powley is swamped by supporters and media as the Supreme Court decision in the case that bears his name is released. Steve passed away in 2004. PHOTO: Marc St. Germain

ment did not include any mention of such a limitation. Messrs. Laurin, Lemieux and Lemieux were charged with various charges under the Ontario Fisheries Regulations for fishing on the French River (which is south of Ontario's imposed line). These MNO Harvester Card holders filed an application for stays of proceedings (in other words, charges are dismissed), based on Ontario's breach of the harvesting agreement.

This case was important to

over 50% of the MNO's Harvester Card holders because they harvest south of Ontario's arbitrary line. Moreover, the case dealt with the Crown's obligations with respect to asserted, but as yet unproven Métis rights, and how the accommodation agreement should be interpreted. A decision was rendered on June 12th, 2007, in North Bay. (See page 1 and 3 for more details as well as the MNO's web site: www.metisnation.org).

CONTINUED PAGE 13

#### **GLOSSARY:**

#### THE CROWN:

Originally, the good name and word, plus authority and obligations of the reigning monarch toward his or her citizens were directly associated with the British king or queen. The federal and provincial governments, as representatives of and acting on behalf of the monarch in Canada, became known and referred to over time as "the Crown". (See also "Honour of the Crown" below.)

#### **DECLARATION BY THE COURT:**

Lawsuits include asking the court for a remedy to the alleged wrongdoing on which the case is based. Remedies often include damages (money for loss or injury), forbidding or requiring certain actions by one or more of the parties, or declarations, which are legal findings or statements from the court with respect to the issues in dispute. Declarations, because they make note of the wrong committed, and attribute responsibility for that wrong, are usually very significant not only for the case itself, but for their influence on related circumstances and cases in the future.

#### **EXAMINATIONS:**

refers to processes in the pre-trial and trial stages of a court case which allow the parties involved to discover information (facts, circumstances, opinions and evidence) that pertain to the case, and ask questions of witnesses.

#### **EXTINGUISHMENT:**

In its simplest form, the legal concept of extinguishment means that former rights and privileges which may have been recognised by law or practice only (or in other words, by convention), have been ended, or extinguished by specific action on the part of either or both (or several, if more than two) of the parties involved. Extinguishment can take place in a number of forms, such as by agreement, by enactment of specific laws which intentionally override the previous right or privilege, or abandonment through non-exercise of the right or privilege. In practice, determining if extinguishment has taken place can be a very complex legal issue, combining consideration of land rights, traditional land uses, cultural significance, continuous practice and other questions.

CONTINUED PAGE 13

Her Excellency, the Right Honourable, Michaelle Jean, Governor General of Canada, flanked by Louise Logue, left, and Louise's mother, Helene, right. Louise's sons, Cst James Ramsay, and John Charles Logue Ramsay stand behind their mother.

## It Runs in the Family

Métis woman receives award for her work with youth and extensive community service

OUISE LOGUE is a truly remarkable individual who has dedicated her entire life, professionally and personally, to the well-being of others, particularly young people. She is a pioneer in the field of youth intervention and is highly sought after for her expertise. She has provided advice and given presentations to organisations across Canada and internationally.

Ms. Logue joined the Ottawa Police Service as a civilian member in 1994 after a long career in nursing where she acquired an extensive background in crisis, addiction and youth counselling. She maintains her status as a licensed Registered Nurse in

As the Youth Intervention Diversion Coordinator for the Ottawa Police Service she is responsible for developing and co-ordinating prevention, intervention, diversion and educational strategies for at-risk youth who come into contact with the police. She also develops programs relating to risk-needs assessment, trains police officers and acts as a police liaison with municipal, provincial and national organisations, governmental and non-governmental organisations (NGO), that develop and offer programs for youth at risk.

In her position with the Ottawa Police Service, Louise has developed numerous programs and training manuals that have been widely emulated. Some of them include: Project Early Intervention, which targets young people at risk of being recruited by street gangs; Current Issues and Trends Regarding Youth, which trains healthcare professionals on youth current trends like raves, drug use, youth gangs, juvenile prostitution, etc; Early Identification

Intervention, which is a comprehensive assessment program that helps police officers in identifying at-risk youth. Parent Information Sessions are two-hour presentations offered city-wide on a regular basis for parents having trouble with their children, including drug use recognition, gang awareness, and how to access community services. She has also co-authored a comprehensive manual distributed nation-wide by the RCMP on illegal drugs.

Louise Logue does not merely create programs, she takes an active hands-on role in individual cases of young people atrisk. She works closely with the parents, offering them practical advice on how to keep their children away from drugs and gangs. She will also provide support and guidance on resources available in the community for youth who have substance abuse problems. She is a source of knowledge, strength and comfort to countless parents, making herself available day and night, far beyond the requirements of her position.

Ms. Logue has been a member of the Board of Directors or advised a large number of community organisations including the John Howard Society, the Roberts Smart Centre (an inte-

#### **HISTORY OF FORT WILLIAM**

trade goods, provisions and furs being shipped along the interior

The Fort's importance can also be underlined by the many other roles it fulfilled under the North West Company.

It became the service centre for manufacturing and repairing trade items and containers for shipping, storage and cooking; and the centre for building and repairing fur trade transportavehicles, including schooners, bateaux and canoes. It was also a major agricultural base for supplementing provisions of company personnel and providing quarters for lodging, provisioning and equipping North West Company personnel. Perhaps most important, it served as the hub for social activities and festivities for gentlemen and other personnel of the NWC. With its grand reception halls and works of art it was the epitome of European taste and grandeur.

The grand heyday of the North West Company and its shining jewel, Fort William, soon came to an end when the British Government forced the two rivals to merge in 1821 under the name of the "Hudson's Bay Company".

The new company was governed by officers from both of the former companies.

However, the direction of the new operation marked the decline of Fort William as an important trade centre. The primary shipment routes for furs and goods, would no longer be the ones to Montreal. The old нвс depots of York Factory, on Hudson Bay, and Moose Factory on James Bay became the principle depots for shipments of goods to and from Europe.

Goods from Moose Factory went to Michipicoten, which became the main distribution

OURTESY OF Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society

John McIntyre, was an important figure at Fort William. He was born in Scotland and by 1841 was an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company at Lachine. He was in charge of the post at New Brunswick (Missanabie) until 1855 when he was transferred to Fort William. He remained a clerk in the company until he became a factor in 1872 and after his retirement he became Indian Agent for the Savanne District in 1880. He was also a companion to Governor Simpson on his around the world tour.

YEAR:	NAME:	RANK:
1821	A. Stewart (former NWC)	Chief Factor
1823	R. McKenzie	Chief Trader
1830	D. McIntosh (former (NWC)	Chief Trader
1834	W. Nourse	Clerk
1836	D. McIntosh	Chief Trader
1839	J. Swanston	Clerk
1843	H. McKenzie	Clerk
1845	J. McKenzie	Chief Trader
1851	P. McKenzie	Chief Trader
1852	J. Ermatinger	Chief Trader
1854	F. Boucher	Chief Trader
1855	J. McIntyre	Clerk
1881	T. Richards	Caretaker
		(Also served as clerk 1857-60 1875 1878)

centre for posts in the Lake Superior District, including Fort William. With Fort William's function as a depot removed, the major reason for its existence suddenly disappeared, as did the rendezvous and the need for vast warehouses and full-time specialised labour to manufacture goods for an extensive network of western posts. Fort William still functioned as a trading post for the local Indians and a smaller yearround staff of clerks and traders was still required to maintain the fort and its farming operations. The economic importance of the fur trade continued to diminish throughout the latter half of the 19th century and Fort William finally closed its gates in 1883.

The list above will give you a glimpse of who some of these traders were. These people were in charge at of those in charge at Fort William after the merger of the companies in 1821 until the Fort closed in 1883. Perhaps you may find a Métis ancestor among them!

National Integrated Committee for First Responders on Chemical Drugs and All Night Dance Parties.

Frequently recognised publicly for her dedication to the community, Louise was most notably honoured in 2002 by the YMCA/YWCA with their "Woman of Distinction Award" in the Public Service Category, cited for her innovative professional endeavours. She was also recognised in 2004 by the Ontario Women in Law Enforcement with their "Laura Ellis Award for Commuservice of the Cree Nation of Mistissini and spending a week in the remote community of Chisasibi assisting nurses and doctors working in a community afflicted by substance abuse and suicide. In Ottawa she works with aboriginal groups such as the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health and Minwaashin Lodge - Aboriginal Women's Support Centre where she recently helped produce a hip-hop music video titled "Love You Give" aimed at Inuit, Métis and First Nation youth to prevent violence

who had nowhere else to go. The countless letters of praise and gratitude received from police services, government organisations, community groups and individuals attest to the profound effect she has on those she comes in contact with. She has fundamentally impacted the way police services and other public service organisations in Canada and elsewhere address issues facing young people, such as drugs, gangs and violence. On May 25th at the Governor General's residence,

#### Frequently recognised publicly for her dedication to the community, Louise was most notably honoured in 2002 by the YMCA/YWCA with their "Woman of Distinction Award" in the Public Service Category

grated children's mental health agency) and Rideauwood Addiction and Family Services, to name just a few. She has also cochaired several government advisory committees at the provincial and federal levels including the National Auto Theft and Joyriding Prevention Subcommittee, the Provincial Date Rape and Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault Training Program and the

nity Service".

As a Métis, Louise Logue is profoundly attached and proud of her aboriginal roots and in her free time frequently travels to aboriginal communities in northern Quebec to share her knowledge and render assistance as a nurse. Recent examples include providing her expertise on substance abuse and crime prevention to the local police

and promote healthy equal relationships.

Louise is a rare individual who has a tangible day-to-day effect on the lives of people around her. Her compassion for and dedication to young people in the community knows no bounds. Her commitment goes beyond her professional life. She has also been a surrogate mother to a number of youth

Louise Logue was awarded the Governor General's Member of the Order of Merit. Despite this great honour, Louise says, "As a single mom, I am most proud of my achievements in raising my sons. John has received two law degrees (see page 4) and James is a police officer with the Ottawa Police Service."



## The North Shores to Old Fort William

by Karole Dumont-Beckett

itchi Gami, Lake Superior, is a name that evokes grandiose scenery, remoteness, and abundant wildlife. A motorcycle tour of Lake Superior filled our dreams for many years; unfortunately, time was not on our side until we finally decided to take the plunge in August 2004! We refrained from overly planning this week-long ride in favour of spontaneous discovery and perhaps a chance to capture our ancestors' state of mind as they paddled the Big Waters some 200 years ago in their quest for furs. Our own quest into our cultural heritage has previously taken us from Montreal to Ottawa, then from Ottawa to Mattawa. The third and final leg of our expedition would bring us to Old Fort William, the inland headquarters of the North West Company prior to its amalgamation with the Hudson's Bay Company.

Leaving our comfortable country home near Mattawa we turned onto Hwy 17 west amidst a mix of sun and clouds for the 3,000 km bike ride around Lake Superior. A red shouldered hawk crossed our path then soared high into the crisp air. Over the years, the sight of a hawk had become a sign that our journey would be safe--that this would be

A motorcycle trek in fur trade country

stopped just as we paid our bill, proof that good actions are repaid tenfold. Soon after though, I wondered when exactly had we reached the North Pole? Must have been sleeping at the handlebars! We were downright shivering by the time we reached Sault Ste-Marie shortly before 5<sub>PM</sub>. The cabin we had reserved at the KOA campground was constructed of mere plywood but supplied with an electric heater, which ran full blast all night long--this was early August! Thank goodness for warm sleeping bags. It seemed we had just fallen asleep when we bolted upright, then almost slid off the vinyl-covered mattress, jerked awake by a train that seemed to be coming right through the cabin! That was our first inkling that perhaps camping, even in a cabin, was not

A hearty breakfast at Husky House North made up for the lack of sleep and the road ahead once again felt like a wonderful adventure—although I still think there's a prosperous mosquito farm in the area! The road on the other hand was a shock! Now, to



applied. There were no potholes, cracks, bumps, or dips. Sell our leathers, we've gone to heaven!

Of the many breathtaking scenes we encountered, the North Shores stand way above the rest. The view may lull you into slight boredom one moment then suddenly jerk you into bewilderment the next. There are so many sites to explore--from trickling waterfalls to sandy beaches, smooth boulders, and scenic parks--that it could take an entire day just to complete the first 200 kms!

Our very first glance at Lake Superior drove home the daunting task our voyageurs faced so long ago. This is the lake that took down the Edmund Fitzgerald after all, vet our brave ancestors conquered it year after year in fragile birch bark canoes--a humbling moment indeed!

We stopped at the Agawa

ing the white sandbar was difficult but our goal was to reach Terrace Bay and hopefully a heated swimming pool before dark. Unbeknownst to us though, this was just one of many impromptu little hikes along Lake Superior's awesome shores.

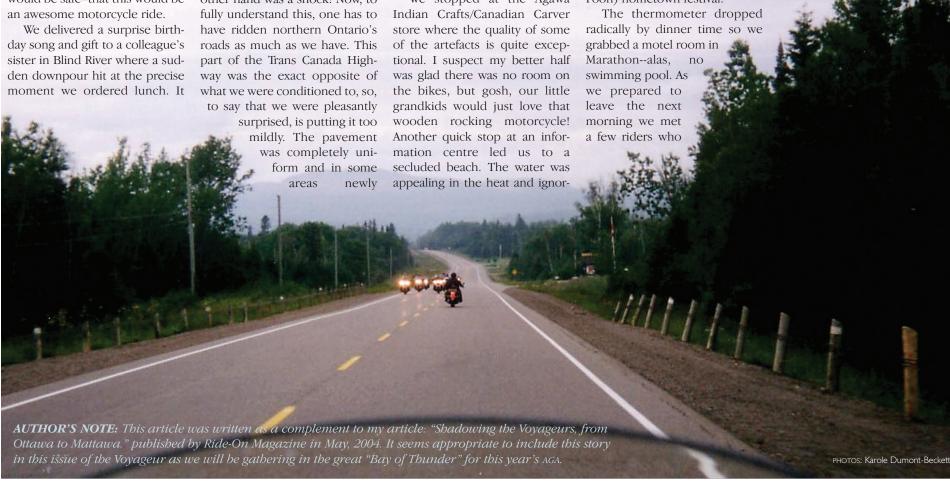
We found a few lookouts nestled among small twisties and long stretches. The road was a real pleasure to ride and everywhere we stopped we met fellow motorcyclists who were either doing the circle tour or on their way to Sturgis, USA. We stopped in Wawa for mandatory photos at the base of the giant goose then resumed our ride.

The stretch from Wawa to Marathon was mostly bush and offered little diversion. That is, except where the road slithers between the lake and a bay; the crosswinds almost blew us off our bikes! Before long though, we were again marvelling at the road, sometimes nestled between rock cuts and sometimes hugging the shore. We stopped for gas in White River, host of the annual Winnie (the Pooh) hometown festival.

grabbed a motel room in Marathon--alas, no swimming pool. As we prepared to leave the next morning we met a few riders who

looked as though they were doing an Iron Butt Race. If I ever considered doing an iron butt, the thought completely vanished with the morning fog at the sight of a small gas can and sleeping bag strapped behind the hardestlooking saddle I ever saw! I'll keep my big heavy cruiser thank you very much! We enjoyed the early morning ride as we tried to outrun the light drizzle and reach the clear skies ahead, but it wasn't to be. The transport drivers turned out to be our rays of sunshine as they often courteously yielded the road rather

than drench us in their wake. The Aguasabon Falls and Gorge in Terrace Bay were a welcome break and leg stretcher. The rain finally stopped just as a short trek led us to a viewing pod. The water was low and we couldn't see the waterfall very well so I followed a tiny trail through the woods to get a better view. Words of wisdom here-mind your steps. If there's a ledge it's awfully narrow and there is no guard rail! I snapped a shot just as a light mist rose between the tall rock cliffs of the narrow canyon. Words simply fail to describe this precious Kodak moment!





## NORTHE MEDICINE

By Rick Garrick

"We're building ambassadors for the Métis Nation of Ontario."

Tim Pile is looking towards the future, when today's students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine graduate and become the future physicians of northern Ontario.

"They can teach other doctors about the Métis Nation and culture," says Pile, Secretary-treasurer of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario and a member of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's Aboriginal Reference Group (ARG).

Tim's role this spring has been expanded: he will be the Local Community Co-ordinator for NOSM'S ICE 106 Aboriginal community placement in Thunder Bay's Métis community. During the community placement, groups of two or three NOSM firstyear students live in and learn about an Aboriginal community and its people, culture and beliefs over a four-week period while continuing with their studies and learning about the operations of the local health clinic.

"It's important that the students learn about the Métis culture," Pile says. "They'll see that the Métis people are alive and well within the communities." While in the community, the students will have an opportunity to learn about the Métis traditions, such as canoeing and trapping.

"We're planning a mini-canoe voyage," he continues. "We also have an opportunity to go onto a Métis trap line, where the students will learn how to skin a beaver. They may also have an opportunity to stay overnight in a trapper's shack."

Pile originally joined the ARG after attending NOSM's "Follow Your Dreams" Aboriginal Workshop in 2003, when the committee was first organised to advise northern Ontario's first medical school on Aboriginal issues.

"My specific role is about issues pertaining to the Métis community of Ontario," he says. "Encouraging the recognition of the Métis Nation of Ontario would be a primary role."

Since Tim Pile became an ARG member, he has seen an increasing recognition of the differences between the Métis and First

> "The needs of the Métis community are far different from the First Nations community," he

says. "Last year we had one Métis student.'

der Bay Métis Council Senator, sits on NOSM's Aboriginal Admissions Sub-Committee, a group

Nation communities at NOSM.

says.

Pile also spoke about the importance of encouraging Métis people to pursue a medical education at NOSM. "In the first year we

had two Métis students," Tim

Senator Bob McKay, a Thun-

PCMNO Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Pile, (right) jots down a few notes during the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) Aboriginal Reference Group meeting in Thunder Bay in late April.

which reviews all the Aboriginal admissions stream applicants and makes recommendations to NOSM'S Admissions Committee. Two seats are designated each year for Aboriginal students. "This year we had 35 Aboriginalstream applicants," McKay says. "Out of the 35, probably about 16 were Métis. We chose 11 of the 35 applicants for the interview process."

The interview process takes two days over a weekend, with about 60 people involved in the interviews, which are scheduled to begin every 10 minutes. "It's a very interesting process," says Senator McKay. "First we sit at round tables and go over the lists of applicants we have to interview. If you have any conflicts of interest, you have to move to a different table."

Once the groups are sorted out, the interviews begin with



Senator **Bob McKay** 

each applicant required answer one question at each 10 ten-minute interview session, with a different interviewer for each session. "I did 20 interviews the

first day and 20 the second day," he says. "It's a very good system."

Senator McKay is also involved with NOSM's Aboriginal Elders Group, which has helped to promote Aboriginal culture at the school. "And in the future they are looking to set up an Elders' registry and data base for the Elders across northern Ontario," McKay says. "The registry will itemise what each Elder is an expert in. Each of the Elders has their own strengths." McKay's strengths are mediation and the history of the Great Lakes.

#### CRYSTAL METH: A SPEEDY WAY TO DIE, PART TWO IN A SERIES

by Ernest Matton

be most potent form of speed available, with or without a prescription, is methamphetamine, AKA crystal, crank, tweak, go-fast, jib, ice and dozens of other names. More often though, it's cooked in makeshift labs and sold on the street as a powder, which is injected, snorted, or swallowed. A smoke-able form of crystal, called "ice," is also

Widely available in the 1960's, crystal faded in the '70s, as controls were tightened on legal production, which reduced its diversion onto the black market. However, in the early '90s, crystal made an amazing comeback, and it's been back in a big way ever since.

The result is that crystal became a hot new high to a new generation of users too young to know firsthand--or to have heard secondhand--the downside of uppers and what a downside

FREaks

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Crystal has become a hot new high to a new generation of users too young to know firsthand--or to have heard secondhand--the downside of uppers and what a downside they have!

they have! Risks are so extreme because the drug works, so well at over-revving the central nervous system and zapping feelings of hunger and fatigue. It allows a person to escape from reality, numb pain, and on and on.

The result is the same sort of physical stress that follows any

extreme exertion, bungee jumping for example, or skydiving, but instead of giving the old body/mind a chance to chill between jumps (as any selfrespecting bungee-jumping skydiver would do), crystal users extend speed "runs" for days or weeks, without food or rest, put-

ting impossible demands on their bodies and brains.

For needle users, add in the hazards that come with injecting any drug--Hepatitis "C", HIV--and for ice smokers, multiply it all by the still largely-unknown risk factor of exposing lung tissue to vaporized meth crystals.

That's why it's not a big surprise that you don't run into many old "speed freaks" in the real world. They don't live long enough to get old. The speed scene has undergone major changes over the past few years with the resurgence of crystal, the introduction of ice, and a renewed interest in stimulants as a medical treatment for obesity and attention-deficit disorder.

Not only that, but the definition of what speed is and what it isn't has been subject to a lot of revisions as look alikes and act alikes and legal herbal stimulants have come and gone and come around again.

One thing hasn't changed and isn't likely to; that's the idea that over-revving on speed--any type

of speed--is a pretty risky way to live your life. You might want to rethink your priorities if you think you need speed to put you where you want to be. When I am seeing individuals and they say to me, "I won't do that", my answer is simple. Simply insert the word "YET" if you are not going to deal with those internal issues. One other fact about speed that hasn't changed over the years is still the most important fact of all: Speed kills and what it doesn't kill, it burns out.

I will continue part three in my next article. For more information, on workshops or to book an appointment please call 705-533-1579. Watch for up-coming articles on How to Build and maintain Healthy Relationships; Anger Release; Signs of Addictions, also watch for news about specific workshops that I will be conducting in the near future.

Ernest Matton I.C.A.D.C., E.F.A.P., is an Addiction Behavioural Specialist in the Midland area.



MNO WORKING WITH THE NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (NOSM):

## Doctors on the trapline

Northern Ontario School of Medicine Métis medical student learns about his Métis culture

by Rick Garrick

teven Poirier has learned more about his Métis heritage during the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's (NOSM) four-week Integrated Community Experience Aboriginal placement than he previously knew.

"I didn't really understand the history and traditions," says Poirier, a first-year medical student from New Liskeard, Ontario. "The Métis are actually a nation, a nation within a nation."

Poirier was pleasantly surprised during his placement with the Métis Nation of Ontario in Thunder Bay, which is just one of 25 northern Ontario Aboriginal communities who hosted NOSM's 56 first-year medical students during the month of May.

"It's been quite the experience," Poirier says. "It's not at all what I expected. It's been really enlightening for me because I am Métis myself."

Poirier and his two fellow NOSM students, Bruce Cook and Mary Ellen Fergusson, even had the opportunity to spend a day with a Métis trapper on his trap line about an hour east of Thunder

"It's really beautiful back there, nice and quiet," Poirier says. "He's got a trapper's cabin, and he showed us around his camp. He even took us out on an Argo, which can travel on both land and water."

During their visit, the trapper showed the medical students the different stages of trapping, from setting a trap to the rough skinning, to the final cleaning, to the nailing of the pelt to the stretching board. "First he showed us a couple of pelts," Poirier says. "He had a nice gray wolf pelt."

The three students have also been doing some clinical work at Anishinawbe Mushkiki, an Aboriginal community health centre with the mandate to improve the health of Aboriginal people by means of an holistic approach combining western, traditional and alternative medicine.

"It really opened our eyes," Poirier says, explaining that they have been exposed to some of the traditional healing components in use at Anishinawbe Mushkiki. "Today we had a teaching circle in the healing lodge. We've also talked about how the



The Métis Nation of Ontario was one of 25 northern Ontario Aboriginal communities who recently bosted placements for the Northern Ontario School of Medicine's 56 first-year medical students.

patients are using the traditional medicines."

The three students also had a social event with Métis from the area, including Senators and a group of fiddlers.

"I had an opportunity to play fiddle and guitar with them," Poirier says, adding that his grandmother taught him to play, a tradition that has been passed down from generation to generation in his family. "We play about 70 per cent of the songs the fiddler was playing."

While the students were also scheduled to work in a clinic in Geraldton, a community situated about two hours north east of Thunder Bay, to go on a fishing trip with some Métis fishermen, and to take a voyageur canoe expedition, they still had to complete their final module of the school year, on the muscoskeletal system, while on placement.

"We have time set aside for our discussions," Poirier says, noting that the students had been working in groups of eight throughout the school year and continued to do so while on placement, through the Internet and teleconferences as well as the use of materials which were loaded onto their computers before they left NOSM for the placement. "We still have to work on our muscoskeletal course while at the same time experiencing a different culture."

Poirier believes that the challenges the students have faced with balancing the placement and the muscoskeletal module will prepare them for their future careers.

Métis medical student, Steven Poirier (left) with Métis trapper, Kevin Muloin (right)

"It's more challenging than any other course I've had, but it will help us in the end," Poirier says. "We've already been sharing experiences; it's been really enlightening.'

Poirier has found that NOSM's medical school model, which has community placements in all four years, is geared towards giving students a good exposure to northern Ontario and the challenges of practising medicine in

"It will teach us to be more adaptive," Poirier says, "in the sense that you don't have specialists at your fingertips."

#### NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (NOSM)

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## **HEALTH** FUNDS FLOW FOR MÉTIS

Ministry of Health pledges funds to increase number of Aboriginal people in health professions

arlier this year the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, announced \$10 million in funding to support efforts to increase the number of Métis working in Canada's health care system. The Minister made the announcement at the meeting of the Métis Nation Health Committee attended by the Métis National Council (MNC) Minister of Health, David Chartrand, and approximately 25 health officials and technical staff from across the Métis Nation.

The funding supports bursaries and scholarships for Métis students pursuing studies in health sciences and builds the capacity of Métis organisations to engage in health human resources planning. (See some recent recipients in the March/April Voyageur and learn how you can benefit from this pro-

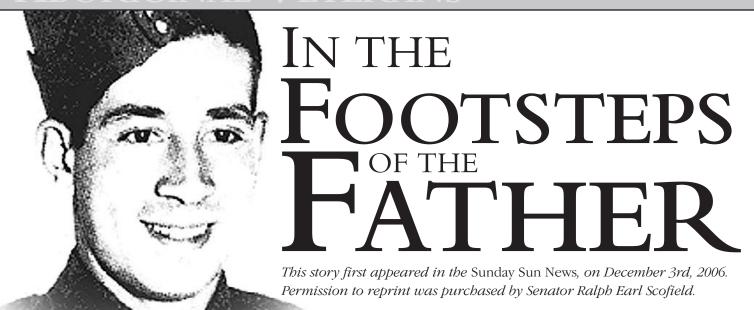
"This investment will significantly increase the number of Métis students entering health careers through bursaries and scholarships. It will create the conditions to improve access to health care for all Aboriginal people by helping to reduce future wait times and staff vacancies," said Minister Clement.

Through the \$10 million in funding, the MNC is working to develop and implement a Métis Nation Health Human Resource Strategy in each of the Métis regions. The strategy aims to increase the number of Métis in health-related employment fields, and provides a cultural context for non-Métis health personnel working in Métis communities. Funding will start flowing to Métis students this year for health bursaries and scholarships.

The \$10 million was made possible through Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Human Resources Initiative, which aims to develop health human resources strategies that respond to the unique needs and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis.

See page 15 for information on the Métis Nation of **Ontario's Health Careers** Support Program.

#### Aboriginal Veterans



harlie Byce—both junior and senior—distinguished themselves on the battlefield for Canada. But their wartime heroics have gone largely unnoticed.

by Peter Worthington

Charlie Byce, a Métis who died in 1994 at age 74, is largely unknown in Canada. It's a pity, for he was quite a man.

His mother was a Cree from Moose Factory and he was Canada's most highly decorated Aboriginal soldier in World War II, winning the Military Medal (MM) for bravery and the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM), second only to the Victoria Cross. Only nine Canadians out of nearly a million in uniform in wwII, were awarded both a DCM and MM.

In the apple doesn't fall far from the tree category, Byce's father (also Charles)—a trapper/guide as a young man—also won the DCM, in World War I.

Not only that, his father also had an MM from WWI—not the British MM, but the Medaille Militaire—France's second highest bravery award, more respected than even the Croix de Guerre. Only 55 Canadians were awarded the French MM in WWI.

That the military record of the Byce father and son is barely known, even by military historians and the National War Museum—not to mention Aboriginal historians—is an unfortunate oversight.

When Charlie Byce returned to civilian life after wwii to work until retirement at the pulp and paper mill at Espanola, he put the war behind him.

His brother, Gordon, and Charlie's six adult children want that rectified. They feel the wartime heroism of the two Byce's—unprecedented in military annals, as reflected in their medals—is something all Canadians should share. Especially as a tribute to Aboriginal and Anglo heritage blending in a common cause.

Canada's most famous Aboriginal soldier is Sgt. Tommy Prince, who died in 1977, and whom I ostensibly commanded in the latter days of the Korean war. Prince won the MM in Italy in WWII and a US Silver Star while serving with the Americans in France. A Silver Star doesn't approach the status of a DCM.

Francis Peghamagabow, an Ojibwa from Parry Sound, won an MM and two bars as a sniper in

WWI with 378 "kills" on his record and 300 prisoners—one of the most remarkable stories of World War I

Another Aboriginal sniper, Henry Norwest, a free-spirited former rodeo rider, won the MM and bar in WWI and knocked off 115 Germans.

The above are all honoured in the War Museum—where, if there's any justice and pride of country, the Byce father and son deserve a special alcove or presentation.

"Yes, we'd like to see my dad and granddad remembered," says Rick who served in the army, while his two brothers were air force and navy.

This sentiment is shared by Rick's uncle Gordon, a retired Anglican minister and son of WWI Byce, who died in 1957.

"My dad talked about the war more than my brother did," says Gordon. "Charlie mostly talked about it when he was with those who'd served with him. He put the war behind him."

I've mentioned the Byce medals to War Museum CEO Joe Geurts, who seemed surprised that a father and son had both won the DCM and MM. No other Canadian family holds this distinction. Likely no one in the world

The National Aboriginal Veterans Association (NAVA) would also be interested in preserving the Byce medals, as would The Lake Superior Regiment museum in Thunder Bay. But the Byces' wartime story is larger than a regimental museum and belongs to all Canadians.

The elder Byce earned his DCM at Amiens in 1918 when a company attack on German trenches was pinned down.

Although seriously wounded, Byce led a bayonet attack on a German machine gun post, killed those who resisted, and took 31 prisoners.

His son Charlie's MM citation in WWII is testament to leadership and courage. On the night of January 20, 1945, in Holland, Cpl. Byce' section of five men was to cover the flank of a 24-man fighting patrol behind enemy lines.

This section came under fire from three sides, and "acting on his own initiative," Byce located the source of the fire and attacked head-on using grenades and dispersed them.

He then came under fire from a camouflaged dugout, and again attacked and took a prisoner. Again he came under fire that killed the prisoner whom Byce dragged out of the line of fire to obtain his unit identification.

While the main fighting patrol was attacked, Byce put in a flanking attack that killed or wounded all the Germans, and allowed the patrol to escaper with few casualties.

The citation reads: "Due to his magnificent efforts, the patrol was able to reach its objective and withdraw safely with valuable information...his aggressive initiative and unselfish gallantry has been an inspiration to all ranks."

That's Byce's MM.

Six weeks later, at the Hochwald forest, "C" Company of the Lake Sups was ordered to take a group of buildings.

For those interested in what a recommendation for a VC looks like, despite being slightly downgraded to a DCM, here's what Acting Sgt. Charlie Byce did that March 2, 1945.

**6 6**Charlie Byce, a Métis who d

a Métis who died in 1994 at age 74, is largely unknown in Canada. It's a pity, for he was quite a man.

"C" Company attacked at 4:30 a.m. and was on the position at first light when intense enemy artillery fire and mortar fire knocked out their supporting tanks.

The company commander and all officers became casualties, so Sgt. Byce assumed command.

With the enemy entrenched 75 metres away, directing heavy fire on his platoon, Byce personally led an attack on the position and drove the enemy out, while suffering some 20 casualties. Byce moved from post to post, directing fire, reassuring the troops, maintaining contact.

When German Tiger tanks, with their deadly 88mm guns, prepared to attack, Byce took the only remaining PIAT anti-tank gun and stalked them. His first two shots missed and, as machine-gun fire rained on him, he calmly took aim and knocked out the leading Tiger. The crew were shot as they scrambled out.

As four other tanks moved for-

ward, Byce sought to get in position but was held up by fire from a farmhouse—which he immediately attacked and cleared with hand grenades. Having no antitank ammunition, he ordered his men to let the tanks pass through, then opened fire on the infantry coming behind and forced them to retreat.

With tanks in a commanding position, Byce realised he and his men were sitting ducks, so he ordered the remnants of "C" Company to withdraw and join up with what was left of "A" Company. The Germans called upon the Canadians to surrender which Byce refused.

It was now mid-afternoon and as his citation reads: "Despite the fact that he had accomplished so much and had fought steadily under the most trying circumstances, Byce refused to stop fighting."

While his troops withdrew, he took up a sniper's position and for the rest of the afternoon fired on the Germans and was seen to shoot 18 enemy, which enabled the Canadian to withdraw safely. Then he withdrew.

The citation concludes: "The magnificent courage and fighting spirit displayed by this noncommissioned officer when faced with almost insuperable odds are beyond all praise. His gallant stand, without adequate weapons and with a bare handful of men against hopeless odds will remain, for all time, an outstanding example to all ranks of the regiment."

Francis Richard of Thunder Bay and S.F. Hogue who served with Byce feel he deserved the VC. Richard told the Thunder Bay Chronicle Journal that he felt Byce's "Indian-blood" denied him a VC. "Anyone that's alive from the Hochwald, it's because of him," Richard said. "He was the best soldier that ever left the Lakehead."

The Byce family, as well as those who served with him, wonder if his Indian blood didn't rob him of a vc in those more prejudiced times. Byce's daughter, Janice Phillips, thinks father's medals on display in the war museum would be a tribute both to his bravery and native heritage: "My father endured a lot of prejudice in his life, but never spoke about it and never complained...my brothers and sisters have always been very proud of him and his extraordinary bravery."

CONTINUED BACK PAGE

MNO VETERANS' CONFERENCE

# Veterans' Affairs Outreach program open to Aborignal vets

By Senator Elmer Ross

attended the National Métis Veterans' Conference in Winnipeg on the 20th of March, 2007. The meeting was opened by the National Métis Veterans' Association President, Ed Borchert, who welcomed all veterans in attendance from each of the provinces from British Columbia to Ontario.

The Métis National Council (MNC) has appointed David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), as Minister of Veterans' Affairs. The Minister elaborated on the Métis veterans being badly mistreated after returning home from World War I, World War II, and the Korean War by being denied their claims for compensation, disability or pensions.

Victor Dudas of Manitoba, who was attending in place of Victor Scarlet, discussed benefits. He said that they now have an "Aboriginal Outreach Program". This program is to assist Aboriginal veterans in understanding the Veterans' Affairs Canada programs, services, and benefits that are available to them and their families. It provides a liaison between Aboriginal veterans and the government offices that they must deal with to ensure that they have access to all areas in which they have entitlement.

This program assists
Aboriginal veterans
understand VAC
programs, services, and
benefits available to
them and their families

The liaison office of the Aboriginal Outreach Program helps to co-ordinate the Aboriginal veteran's efforts in dealing with the many offices of government. Information sessions are held to ensure that everyone is kept up to date with what services and benefits are available. As well, they hold consultations with elders and community leaders which allows them to promote their ideas and solutions for how to best serve the needs of Aboriginal veterans.

The outreach officers are available to assist all Aboriginal veterans with questions or concerns about their benefits and services at Veterans' Affairs Canada. Ph: 1-866-522-2122

# Ontario Government Invests \$1.6 Million in Aboriginal Health

Multi-Year commitment addresses disease prevention and health promotion

he McGuinty government is providing \$1,685,737 over two years for 13 initiatives that address the disease prevention and health promotion needs of Ontario's Aboriginal communities, Health Promotion Minister, Jim Watson, announced.

The funding will go to Aboriginal organizations and agencies to implement culturally appropriate initiatives that will best address particular challenges facing the Aboriginal population.

"The McGuinty government appreciates that Aboriginal communities experience particular challenges with respect to healthy and active living and tobacco misuse, which is why we are pleased to invest in these 13 necessary



programs," said Watson. "We asked organizations and agencies that service these communities to tell us how best to address these challenges in their communities and these initiatives are as a result

"This funding is very important to Aboriginal communities across Ontario," said David Martin, President of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres. "These programs will help us to address incidents of chronic disease, such as diabetes and cancer which are many times higher than the provincial average. Most important, we will empower our youth to lead efforts to reduce commercial tobacco use in our communities. We very much

of this healthy partnership."

appreciate this opportunity to work with the Ontario Government toward improving the quality of life for Aboriginal people."

The 13 programs that have received funding are:

- Mohawk Council of Akwesasne, Kanonkwa' Tesheio:oi Centre, Cornwall. (\$96,146)
- Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Thunder Bay. (\$166,250)
- De dwa da dehs ney>s Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Hamilton. (\$209,870)
- Ganaan De We O Dis ^Yethi Yenahwahse Health Centre, London. (\$6,042)
- Gizhewaadiziwin Access Centre, Fort Frances. (\$131,600)

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation, Thunder Bay. (\$35,800)
- N'Mninoeyaa Aboriginal Health Centre, Cutler. (\$175,000)
- Noojmowin Teg Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Little Current. (\$131,250)
- Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (\$346,630)
- Ontario Native Women's Association, Thunder Bay. (\$84,435)
- **Wabano Centre,** Ottawa. (\$146,828)
- Wassay-Gezhig Na-Nahn-Dah-We-Igamig Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Keewatin. (\$128,888)
- The Union of Ontario Indians, North Bay. (\$25,000)

dent, Tony Belcourt and Ontario's Health Promotion Minister, Jim Watson at the Aboriginal Youth Summit, a Cancer Care Ontario initiative funded by the Ministry of Health Promotion. The conference brought together over 200 Aboriginal youth from across Ontario to create a five year action plan targeting Aboriginal youth with anti-commercial tobacco messages.

Métis Nation of Ontario Presi-

PHOTO PROVIDED BY Adam Grachnik, Press Secretary to the Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion

The McGuinty government

also recently introduced the

province's first Aboriginal-spe-

cific media campaign to raise awareness of the harmful effects of commercial tobacco.

Smoking kills an average of 16,000 Ontarians each year. Tobacco-related diseases cost the

Smoking kills an average of 16,000 Ontarians each year. Tobacco-related diseases cost the Ontario health care system at least \$1.7 billion a year, result in more than \$2.6 billion in productivity losses, and account for at least 500,000 hospital days each year.

Ontario's tobacco consumption has fallen by 18.7 per cent or more than 2.6 billion cigarettes since 2003. During that time, the government has increased its investments in tobacco control six-fold to a total of \$60 million.

#### THE MÉTIS HUNT FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES IN 2007

ALBERTA

#### R. v. Kelley

## Alberta under "constitutional imperative" to accomodate Métis harvesting

In September, 2004, three Alberta Ministers signed the Interim *Métis Harvesting Agreement* (IMHA) with the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA). The IMHA included a commitment that MNA members could "hunt, fish and trap," on designated lands, without fear of being charged, as long as the harvesting was consistent with agreed-to conservation and safety rules.

In December, 2004, Kipp Kelley, a MNA member, was teaching his children how to trap squirrels in the tradition of his Métis culture. Mr. Kelley did not have a licence and was charged under s. 24(1) of *Alberta's Wildlife Act*. At trial, Mr. Kelley was convicted because the judge found that Mr. Kelley could not rely on the IMHA as a defence. On January 23rd, 2007, the Alberta Court of Queen's Bench reversed the lower court's decision and overturned Mr. Kelley's conviction.

The appeal court held that Mr. Kelley, and Métis harvesters like him, can rely on the IMHA as a

defence to charges. The appeal judge held it would "shock the conscience of the community" if Alberta was able to proceed with charges against Métis harvesters in the face of the IMHA which explicitly authorised such harvesting. Equally important, the court recognised that following Powley, Alberta was under a "constitutional imperative" to accommodate Métis harvesting practices. The IMHA was Alberta's attempt to fulfil this imperative and the honour of the Crown demanded that the commitments within the IMHA be fulfilled.

The Kelley case is also important because the appeal court found that the IMHA and accommodations like the IMHA do not depend on first proving a constitutionally protected Métis right. Métis do not have to establish harvesting rights all across a province prior to a government entering into an accommodation with them.

Accommodations are workable arrangements that achieve the constitutional imperative, outside the adversarial process and without the time and cost of litigation. Accommodations have benefit for all involved - Métis, governments and taxpayers. Alberta has decided not to appeal the Kelley decision and it remains good law in that province. The MNA has asked Alberta to deem the IMHA a regulation in order to correct the legal defect that was pointed out by the court. As set out in the IMHA, Alberta and the MNA continue to negotiate on a longer term harvesting agreement. Additional information on this case can be found on the MNA's web site at www.albertametis.com.

#### MANITOBA

#### Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada

## 20 years in the making

This is the most anticipated decision in 2007. The case is in a league of its own. It has taken over 20 years to get to trial, involves over 10,000 documents and took over three months of court time to complete. If it is successful, the case will most likely set a new course for Crown-Métis negotiations and settlements for the next generation.

At issue is whether Canada and Manitoba fulfilled their obligations to the Métis with respect to the Manitoba Act's commitments to establishing a Métis land base, as set out in sections 31 and 32 of the Manitoba Act. The MMF is asking the court to make declarations that: (1) Canada and Manitoba failed to fulfil their obligations to the Métis that are set out in Manitoba Act; (2) Manitoba's taxation of Métis lands granted pursuant to s. 31 of the Manitoba Act was unconstitutional; and (3) in 1870 Canada and the Métis reached a

The case does not ask for specific lands to be returned to Métis nor for a specific sum of money. However, if the MMF is successful in obtaining some of these declarations, it is likely that Canada and Manitoba will have to enter

into negotiations with the MMF in order to address these issues (i.e. lands, compensation, etc.). This is similar to what governments have already done with Indian and Inuit peoples through negotiating modern day land claims or treaties in order to address the Crown's outstanding obligations, as a part of the reconciliation process that is mandated by s. 35 and the honour of the Crown.

The case's significance does not end there. It could have broader implications for the entire Métis Nation, because the Métis scrip process that was set up by Canada pursuant to the Dominion Lands Act, was largely based on what was done in Manitoba. As such, a Métis treaty or land claims policy may be required. Furthermore, in dealing with the MMF's requested declarations, the court may also have to deal with the issue of whether Métis, as an Aboriginal people, fall under federal or provincial responsibility (that is, decide whether the Métis are "Indians" for the purposes of s. 91(24) of the Constitution Act, 1867).

All of these scenarios combine to make this an important case for the entire Métis Nation. It is expected that a decision will be rendered in the summer of 2007.

thout question, 2007 will be a pivotal year for the ongoing development of Métis law. The message that has come from the cases decided so far and what will most likely come from the upcoming decisions, is that governments have obligations and duties to the Métis, as a full-fledged rights-bearing Aboriginal people. These obligations and

#### **GLOSSARY**

#### HONOUR OF THE CROWN:

The "honour of the Crown" implies governments must deal respectfully. fairly, and with the utmost honesty and integrity in carrying out their responsibilities and duties toward citizens. Regarding Canada's Aboriginal peoples, the honour of the Crown has special meaning because governments are bound not only by historical and modern agreements, constitutional and other laws, as well as court decisions, in their dealings with Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples, but in keeping with the Crown's special (fiduciary) relationship with Aboriginal peoples. Governments must act in irreproachable, principled ways in making and carrying out their decisions and actions affecting Aboriginal peoples, or the honour of the Crown will be compromised or destroyed - something which is considered completely unacceptable by the public and courts alike. In fact, last year, our country's highest court, the Supreme Court of the Haida and Taku River cases, that the honour of the Crown is a constitutional duty which at various times and situations can create enforceable obligations on the Crown.

duties, as a part of the reconciliation process that is mandated by s. 35 and the honour of the Crown, require ongoing consultation, negotiations and accommodations between the Crown and the Métis in order to move toward final settlements.

Currently, there are not very many substantive Crown-Métis negotiations taking place from Ontario westward. Hopefully through the anticipated court decisions in 2007, this reality will be very different at the end of this year, and charges against Métis harvesters will be much closer to being a thing of the past.



#### REK IN FUR TRADE COUN

FROM PAGE 9

Maps can be quite deceptive we quickly found out somewhere between Terrace Bay and Nipigon. We didn't expect that hills and tick forests would only grant an occasional glimpse of the Kitchi Gami. Nevertheless, we particularly enjoyed the long sweeping curves flanked by towering rock cliffs. At one point, the hairpin curve places you where you just rode, where you are and where you're about to ride. One has to experience it to understand. It would have been another Kodak moment had there been a safe spot to stop.

The road offers stretches of pure black ribbon where--if it wasn't for the many, many moose-on-the-loose warnings-one could test one's machine. I mean really test it, but we didn't. A wise decision it was too, judging by the many memorial wreaths and crosses adorning the roadside, sobering testimonies to nature's deceitful beauty. The North Shore highway, fabled for its deserted state in winter, explodes into life in the summer months (in unison with the gas prices). Yet, traffic on this Civic Holiday long weekend was negligible. In fact, we felt like we owned the road at times!

The one and only road construction project we came upon was quite short. We did miss the turnoff to the highest and best lookout, and might have turned back for it had it not started to rain again. We bypassed Nipigon and before we knew it we had reached Dorion where we came upon the one and only moose we would encounter on this trip. The gentle giant beast stared directly at us--from the east end wall of the Canyon County Esso on which it was painted. Michael O'Connor's gigantic artwork is a masterpiece in its own right. A pack of timber wolves occupy the west-end wall while the front of the building (south wall), showcases the local Wolf River and scenic sites. Its focal point however, is a gigantic brook trout, and that's no big fish tale! It took first place in a world wide mural competition in 2000. Tearing ourselves from the bigger-than-life art exhibit we walked to a manmade rendition of a stone monument called "Indian Head". A plaque informs visitors that the

real rock formation can be viewed at Ouimet Canyon; our unscheduled next stop.

Another pleasant surprise awaited us in the form of some 11 km of paved, narrow twisty road up a mountain. Having shed our leathers we dropped our twonies in the donation box for the brief hike on the well maintained timber staircase and wooden pathways leading to a massive timber bridge which spanned a small gorge. As we reached the first viewing pod we understood why so many visitors made the trek, even in such humidity! As if to reward us Mother Nature shed her cloak of grey clouds and revealed her rugged canyon face in all its glory. The spectacular steep-sided canyon, formed by jointing planes in the Precambrian bedrock was much larger than we expected, as is the "Indian Head" standing on the bottom of the canyon.(See The legend of the *Indian Head*)

The sky had now cleared completely, offering an ever-expanding view for miles around. Since all good things must come to an end we trekked back to our bikes for the fun ride down the mountain. Had it been a bit earlier in the day we would have tested Ontario's longest suspension footbridge in Eagle Canyon nearby.

We reached Thunder Bay, land of amethysts, early evening and quickly found the KOA campground where we had reserved a cabin for the next two nights. These squared-log lodges are quite attractive. For a true rustic feel, the double bed, two bunkbeds, and the chair are also constructed with peeled logs. We spent the evening lounging in the heated pool, deciding that the next day would be reserved strictly for rest and relaxation between the pool and the cabin. The only exception to this lazy schedule was a steak dinner at the much acclaimed Prospector Steak House and a leisurely stroll along Thunder Bay's marina. We arrived just as the sun began to fade away, shrouding the legendary Sleeping Giant in its

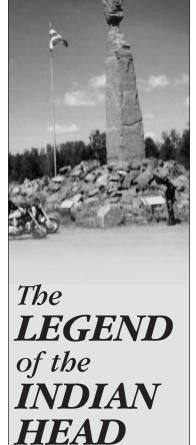
golden glow.

As we sat by our campfire later that evening we agreed that the ride from Sault Ste-Marie to Thunder Bay was worth doing again, but next time in the same manner as one should eat very expensive chocolate: very slowly, one tiny bite at a time! It has everything motorcyclists look for: tight twisties, sweeping stretches, steep hills, gentle slopes, luscious valleys, and just enough pit stops. It's little wonder that the group of seven favoured this highly inspiring part of Ontario. As if to convince us to return, the weather remained warm fairly late that night. One last stroll through the RV-filled campground hinted that "cabining" might have been a good idea after all, even if the washroom facilities were a little distant from our humble abode. We might even have converted to it had it not been for the expressway traffic noise depriving us of precious sleep!

CONTINUED PAGE 15



(top of page) The banquet hall at Old Fort William. (clockwise from above left) Voyageur birchbark canoes at Old Fort William. A dramatic view of Aguasabon River Gorge. A replica Ojibwa lodge at Old Fort William.



A long time ago there was a giant, Omett, who helped Nanna Bijou, a great spirit of the Ojibway people, to raise mountains and make new lakes. Omett fell in love with Nanna Bijou's daughter Najomi.

One day Omett was moving mountains when a piece broke off, fell upon Naiomi and killed her. Afraid of Nanna Bijou's anger Omett hid her body in a shallow lake and covered it with a rock shield.

Searching for Naiomi, Nanna Bijou walked over the shield and felt vibrations from under the rocks. He reached into the sky, grabbed a large thunder bolt and drove it into the ground. The rock split open, and in the wide canyon he discovered Naiomi's body. Nanna Bijou buried Naiomi in the bottom of the canyon. From her grave, rare and beautiful flowers now grow.

To punish Omett, Nanna Bijou turned him into stone and placed him before the canyon wall to watch over the grave forever.

Learn more about Fort William, visit their website: ww.fwhp.ca.

### **SUMMER FUN** N NORTH BAY

Summer is quickly approaching and we want to let you know about some new and fun activities and events that will be held in North Bay and area. Hosted by the Healthy Babies Program we will now be having weekly activities. Some highlighted events are:

Family Fun Playgroups every Friday from June 1st-August 31st. They will be held at Lee Park in North Bay, games, refreshments, sports provided by the Sports Initiative program.

Talking Stick workshop on July 25, 2007 from 2-4PM at the North Bay Métis Council Office.

series of **Parenting Circles**: July 23; July 30; August 13, August 27. All Circles take place at the MNO office in North Bay from 1-3PM.

Community Garden. Contact Amanda Desbiens or Lise Malette. (see end of article)

Wellness Program will be hosting a Heart Smart Survivor Day on August 20, 9AM - 4PM at the MNO North Bay Office.

The **Urban Portage Walking Groups** began on May 1st. Those interested in participating contact Jason at 705-474-0734.

- Police Playground, Stones St., 1PM (Baseball)
- Sport Day, August 22, 2007, The Aboriginal Health and at Lee Park, 1PM. For more infor-

mation please contact Carrie Smith at 705-474-0393.

On July 30, we will be going to the Gravenhurst Opera House to a dinner show, "Steel Magnolias". Price is \$50 per person. This includes transportation, dinner and the show. For info call Lise.

newsletter with more details. Everyone have a nice summer.

Amanda and Lise can be con-

#### Please note the Sport Initia-Community Kitchen will be In July the program will hold a tive will be hosting Sport Days starting in May at Les Comhealth career related programs. this summer. The dates for the pagnon des Francs, Loisirs Hall in North Bay on the last Thursday of events are as follows: • Sport Day, June 20, 2007, at the month. Contact Lise. Lee Park, 1PM (Basketball) For those in our community ongoing education ultimately leading to a career in health. We will also be starting a • Sport Day, August 1, 2007, at please note that you will receive a

tacted at 705-474-2593.

#### **North Shores to Fort William**

A MOTORCYCLE TREK IN FUR TRADE COUNTRY

FROM PAGE 14

Morning found us packed and ready to go earlier than expected, anxious to explore Fort William. At last we would see with our own eves where our Cameron, Mac-Donell and McLaughlin forefathers had dwelled and conducted their fur trade business for the North West Company.

After all the "wandering moose" warnings, all the "moose on the loose" signs, what did we chase back in the ditches? Deer! My partner took it a step further and played tag with one! Crazy Cannuck! We were still thanking our guardian angels when we reached our destination--and wondered where the heck the fort was! What we found was a brightly decorated lobby filled with intarsia murals and life-size statues, a gift shop and a dining room. As we purchased our admission tickets the clerk kindly explained that a walk through a small interpretative room would lead us to a pathway behind the building. Our greatest disappointment was to learn that the fort itself was a re-creation of the original one, located east of this area, and that the original buildings had long since disappeared.

As we reached a re-created Ojibwa village we stood in a real birch bark wigwam. I paused to reflect on my Ojibwa heritage,

and gained deeper appreciation for the hardships of that era. We spent some time watching the village dwellers as they re-enacted skinning, tanning and stretching hides, sifted wild rice and stitched mukuks (birch bark baskets). As we left the village and rounded a bend the fort's tall palisade came into view, and so did a bear running across the river towards its mate. They vanished into the woods just as we stepped through the fort's main entrance and straight into 1815.

Complete with actors in period costumes, the fort is huge, with more than 42 outfitted historic buildings standing on the sprawling 20-acre site. We declined the free guided tour offered by a voyageur but watched him introduce other visitors to inhabitants of the fort. The detailed and authentic rendition of just about everything we saw helped us forget that this wasn't the original fort. We chatted with Scottish fur traders, Ojibwa natives, French Canadian voyageurs, farm labourers, and artisans. The actors were informative and friendly. We enjoyed the French Canadian songs, the Celtic fiddling, and the voyageurs' colourful conversations. We even visited Dr John McLaughlin's infirmary, a special treat for my husband. The sound of bagpipes suddenly filled the air. We were just in time to witness the arrival of an Ojibwa family on the Kaministiquia River, coming to trade their furs for goods. There are many such activities throughout the season, from the Great Rendezvous in July to the Scottish Highland Festival and the Ojibwa Keeshigun in August.

Fort William turned out to be just like the literature states: an impressive melting pot, frozen in time, a unique cultural community where everyone is working in anticipation of the Great Rendezvous, the annual gathering of North West Company employees.

We left the fort tired but happy. Our wheels turned towards Grand Portage and Duluth, Minnesota where we rested for the night. The ride through Wisconsin and Michigan reminded us of our Michiganbased fur trading ancestors and their many descendants (our cousins) who settled along the south shores. We arrived home in total darkness on the sixth day of our Lake Superior Tour. A longtime dream was fulfilled at last; we had shadowed our adventurous ancestors' fur trade route from beginning to end. The ride was lengthy at times, and our behinds sometimes felt numb, but it was heaven compared to the 12 to 14 hours our voyageurs paddled daily for two whole months every summer!

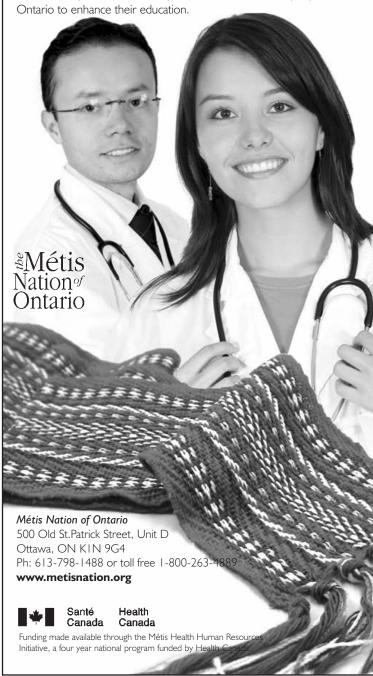
## MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SUPPORT PROGRAM

Do you want to be a health professional? Have you wanted to go back to school but not had the opportunity? Are you currently pursuing a health career and having difficulty making ends meet? If so, the Métis Nation of Ontario may be able to help you through a new funding program designed to assist Métis students from Ontario who are interested in becoming health professionals or who are currently involved in

TRAINING & SUPPORT: This program assists and encourages Métis students to gain the necessary prerequisites to position themselves for

SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES: The Bursary program helps Métis students who have demonstrated need for assistance to complete their program of study. Bursary amounts are based on financial need of the student and the availability of program funds.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: The Continuing Education award helps Métis health professionals who provide services to Métis people in







Celebrate the dynamic heritage and culture of the Métis People, and learn the compelling story of the relocation of Métis and British Forces from Drummond Island on Lake Huron to today's Discovery Harbour. Music, demonstrations of traditional Métis crafts and trades, and more!

Info: (705) 549-8064 www.discoveryharbour.on.ca



## ÉTIS ARTS FESTIV BLACK CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

TORONTO, JULY 20th - 22nd

A Special Invitation to Métis Nation of Ontario Citizens to attend the Métis Arts Festival

by Bernard Leroux

s the promise of summer is upon us, the Métis Artists' Collective is once again in full swing as we mount our fourth annual Métis Arts Festival!

The Métis Arts Festival (MAF) celebrates contemporary and traditional Métis arts and culture in a three-day summer festival at the famous historical theme park in Toronto. MAF features Aboriginal arts and artists through various Aboriginal presentations, performances, workshops, demonstrations and

The Métis Arts Festival is among the most entertaining Aboriginal festivals in the Toronto area, with tons of activities ranging from traditional Métis fiddling and jigging to First Nation drumming to Inuit throat singing; we will have it all.

This unique festival showcases talented performers from the MNO community and draws in acts from across the country. We present traditional and contemporary Aboriginal artists, including exciting examples of music, dance, visual arts, new digital media, multi-media, film and television and performance arts. Once again, we will have a resource centre and genealogy exhibit, guest exhibitors, as well as our own members contributing to the festivities.

It is very encouraging to see so many different Aboriginal groups and performers from Toronto and across the country come together at this festival to celebrate our culture. Last year we were honoured to have Tony Belcourt, President of the MNO, as well as the Ontario Minister of Culture, Caroline Di Cocco, participate in our opening ceremonies. Several notable politicians were in attendance including David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, as well as Jane Pittfield, Toronto City Councillor and long time supporter of



the Métis Artists' Collective.

Performances take place on a newly built, state-ofthe-art main stage pavilion where you can watch continuous shows in shaded comfort. As you move around the park you will be surprised by workshops and demonstrations happening at two other side stages throughout the weekend. There is a large town square in the heart of the village area, where people meet and stroll through the vendors booths or sit at tables under a tree and enjoy a cold drink or some traditional food while taking in

the shows.

At our indoor art gallery and new media screening room, we will have Métis Artists' Collective members exhibiting their works this year. We will be presenting a collective exhibition on the subject of Métis history and reflections on identity.

Friday July 20th is Kids Day. We welcome youth, day camps and school groups to this fun filled learning opportunity. Call the number below to find out how to book a group at special rates. Check our web site for our full program line-up this year; we will be updating it as we draw nearer to the festival dates.

As a young, growing organisation, we are very proud of the response we have felt from the entire Aboriginal community with regard to our festival and we are especially appreciative of the response we've received from MNO leaders and members alike. We encourage everyone from the MNO communities to come out for a great time (one week after the AGA in Thunder Bay) you wont' be disappointed!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS: If anyone in the MNO communities wishes to become involved with the Métis Arts Festival as a volunteer, please give us a call. You can find all the information you need at our web site: www.metisartsfestival.com or by calling Black Creek Pioneer Village at 416-667-6295, or email: bcpvinfo@trca.on.ca and ask for Special Events Co-ordinator Geri Smith.

#### **ABORIGINAL VETERANS:**

#### In the Footsteps of the Father

FRPM PAGE 12

The late George Hees, a former Conservative cabinet minister and wwii veteran had speculated on whether Byce's DCM could be reviewed with an eye to upgrading it to a VC-an unlikely gesture without precedence.

Another veteran who served with Byce is 86-year-old Hap Oldale in Thunder Bay: "The Victoria Cross for Charlie? Of course he won it that day. I can't understand why he didn't get it. A hell of a soldier in a regiment of won-

derful soldiers. Charlie couldn't have weighed 125 pounds, and was the wildest SOB going. As a fighting soldier, he was something else again. Good fun, honest and tough as they come. In a class by himself. Charlie gave new meaning to the word "hero."

Byce's DCM citation is so detailed and precise that it seems he was clearly recommended for a Victoria Cross. The citation itself is an historic document, initialled by the commanding officer of the Lake Superior Regiment, Lt.Col. Bob Keane;

then approved by the acting brigade commander, Lt.Col. G.D. (Swatty) Wotherspoon; endorsed by acting 4th Division Commander Brig. R.E. Moncel; approved by Corps Commander Lt.Gen. Guy Simonds; okayed by First Canadian Army Commander Gen. Harry Crerar; and finally approved by Field Marshall Bernard Montgomery.

It's an amazing and unusual set of autographs, marking the progress of the citation up the chain of command to the very top. Both the MM and DCM were bestowed on Byce by King George VI at a Buckingham Palace investiture on July 13,

Charlie Byce's actions that day are mindful of a combination of



two Canadian VC winners: Sgt. Aubrey Cosens of the Queen's Own Rifles, and Maj. Fred Tilston of the Essex Scottish. In an attack, Cosen like Byce, personally cleared several houses of enemy, and took charge of the attack before being killed by a sniper. Tilston, like Byce, was all over his company area during an attack and inspired his men with his cool courage. He was repeatedly wounded and lost both legs.

Of course, the Byce father and son medals, and their respective stories, deserve a permanent display in the National War Museum, both as Canadians with Aboriginal blood, and as peaceful men who were formidable in war, like many who follow today in their footsteps.