

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

THE PUBLICATION OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO SINCE 1997

HEALTH CAREER SUPPORT PROGRAM BURSARY PRESENTATIONS IN MACTIER, ON - APRIL 15TH, 2007 (from left to right): **Nancy Gonneau**; the Honourable **Tony Clement**, Federal Minister of Health; **France Picotte**, MNO's Métis Health Provincial Secretary; **Michele Parent**; **Carole Tessier**; **Leaa Sawyer** and MNO President **Tony Belcourt**.



PHOTO: BONNY CANN

MÉTIS HEALTH CAREERS BURSARY RECIPIENTS

President, Tony Belcourt and Federal Health Minister, the Hon. Tony Clement, made presentations to Métis Students who have been awarded bursaries through MNO's Health Careers Support Program

...more on Page 5

MÉTIS JIGGING

JIGGING GROUP TEACHES THE SOO SOME NEW STEPS

... PAGE 9



SPECIAL: MNO OFFERING HELP TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA

Nuestros amigos del sur

BY LINDA LORD

A MATTAWA LEGACY

FOLLOW THE SAGA OF THE LORION'S AND MACDONELL'S AS THEY FORGE A MATTAWA MÉTIS LEGACY ...PAGE 7

Slowly you awaken. It is still dark, and your bamboo and thatch roofed house is damp from the rains. It's about 4:00 A.M., time to go to work.

Where are you? A primitive village in Africa or New Guinea? Maybe a First Nations' settlement a couple hundred years ago?

No, you are Q'eqchi; you live in Alta Verapaz Province in Guatemala, and the year is 2007. Typically, you are 37 years old and you share your house with four or five family members, probably your wife, your youngest children and perhaps your parents, or your wife's parents, or a cousin or two.

With the coffee harvest underway you have been working longer hours, more than eight hours, and then there is the four to five hour walk each way--morning and night. Too bad you don't get paid for overtime. There is a government decree that says they have to pay you overtime, but it is written in Spanish and you cannot read it. You never had a chance to go to school, but you are hoping that things will be better for your kids because there is talk of building a

school right here in your village.

You drag yourself out of bed; eat some beans and rice and begin your 16-hour day for which you will be paid the equivalent of \$2.48, unless it is the half of the month for which you are paid nothing at all.

What can we do? Where can

we start? If each of us donated one day's pay we could probably build a school.

When we think of building schools, we think of Canadian schools that cost millions of dollars. We also think of homes that cost thousands of dollars. Think of a two room school built of con-

crete blocks. Add some books and a couple of teachers. Now consider that according to a Guatemalan Government decree, the minimum daily wage for agricultural workers is the equivalent of \$2.48 or \$74.62 per month. As if that weren't shocking enough,

CONTINUED PAGE 11



Who wouldn't buy embroidered napkins from this young child? Her eyes tell the story. She's a beauty--an innocent being simply wanting to sell something, anything, so that she and her mom and her siblings can buy some corn for supper. That's usually the bottom line for children who walk the streets of the towns in Guatemala to help their families make it through the day. Even at her young age, she is likely already learning the embroidery and the painstaking back-strap weaving that results in the beautiful fabrics that could adorn any home. -- Tony Belcourt





Married 70 Years and Still Going Strong

A PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to Rudy and Jessie Couture of Owen Sound as they celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. They were married on June 19, 1937.



Isaac!

Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Stephanie Beckett and Christien Corbin proudly announce the arrival of their first child, **Isaac Glen Beckett-Corbin**. Isaac was born on 27 March, 2007, and weighed a healthy 9 lbs. 6 oz. He is the third grandchild of MNO Registrar/citizen Karole Dumont and her husband Glen Beckett, and first grandchild of Lory Rivard and Denis Corbin. Proud great grandparents are Claire Dorion and Renald Dumont, Lucie Rivard, Georgette and Marcel Corbin.

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

editor
Linda Lord

design & production
Marc St. Germain

contributors
Scott Carpenter
Bonny Cann
Karole Dumont-Beckett
Bernard Leroux
Arlene Lehto
Ken Simard
Pauline Saulnier
Reta Gordon
Lennete Harper
Lenore Barron
Gail LeBlanc
Anne Trudel
Avery Hargreaves
Ernie Matton

contact
Linda Lord, editor
RR1 Hartington, ON
K0H 1W0
Ph/Fx: 613-374-3430
llord@kingston.net

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

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

Congrats Kelly!

Sault College student Kelly Nicole Reid scores a perfect 4.0 GPA

The Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 4 Field Office's Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator, Tammy Webb, are pleased to announce the recent achievement of Kelly Reid. Kelly, the daughter of Judy and Steven Lefler, is currently enrolled in the esthetician program at Sault College.



Even though graduation for the students in this program is not until August, Kelly has already been recognised for her high course standing. After her first semester, she has obtained a 4.0 GPA. On Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at the Best Western, Kelly was formally presented with the Sault College Academic Excellence Award. Once again, congratulations Kelly for your dedication and hard work.



New Arrival

Senator Jacques Leroux is a great grandfather! His granddaughter, Sara-Vi Leroux gave birth to 8.46 lb. **Liam Leroux** in North Bay on January 30th. Another Métis comes into the world!

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY | GREY-OWEN SOUND POTLUCK PICNIC

The Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council is celebrating Aboriginal Day with their Annual Potluck Picnic at Harrison Park Community Centre, Owen Sound, on Sunday, June 24th, 2007, from 1 - 4PM. Music, prizes, draws, activities for children and youth, visiting, good food, great company--invite lots of relatives and make it a family reunion at the same time. •••

OBITUARIES:

Port Colborne Métis Citizen passes in her 81st year



GRONDIN, ALICE MARIE
(nee Mercier)

After a long and courageous battle with her sickness, Alice Marie Grondin passed away peacefully with her family by her side at the Port Colborne General Hospital on March 1, 2007, in her 81st year. Alice Grondin was the beloved wife of the late Lorenzo Grondin--1988; loving mother of John Grondin, Gary Grondin (Nan), the late Fred Grondin (Chris), Clara Hearn (Bert), Doug Grondin (Laurie), Jackie LaCroix (Dan), Donald Grondin (Barb), Peter Grondin (Cindy) and Jeannette Grondin (James). She is lovingly remembered by her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Dear sister of Jacqueline Lafontaine, Alice was born on March 29, 1926, in Maniwaki, Quebec and has lived in Port Colborne since 1946.

She was an avid member of the Port Colborne Ladies' Shuffleboard League for over 25 years.

She will be missed by family and friends. •••



SHARON REGINA COMEAU

COMEAU, Sharon Regina (nee Schultz) passed away peacefully on Friday, February 2, 2007, at home at the age of 50. Loving wife of Marcel for 32 years; mother of Chad (Jessie) and Brad; Kokoum to Isabelle; predeceased by her parents Leo and Doreena Schultz of Timmins and brother Lloyd of Port Colborne. She is survived by her siblings Judi Trott (Ian), Richard (Laurie) and Tiena Reeb (Lanny) and sister-in-law Debbie Chornobey. Sharon will also be missed by Melissa and Seth her roomies for several years, many uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews. Cremation has taken place with a private memorial service to follow in the spring at the Timmins cemetery. Sharon is the niece of Senator Gilbert Gervais of Timmins and sister of Judi Trott, MNO Region 9 Office in Hamilton. •••

A Letter to the Deceased

Sharon, I'm so proud of you for taking the path of freedom, and coming out of your shell, to follow your dream, be and do the things you wanted to do. "You were one of a kind, playing to the beat of your drum, always trying to please everyone and in the end pleasing yourself; for this we admire you", excerpt from Deb. You ventured out on your own to see what life was like. You got to know Melissa and Seth. You came down just in time when Melissa needed you the most. She cherished the one on one time she had with you. I don't imagine that Seth, although young will forget you. He thought you were the neatest auntie who had wrestling fights and sword fights with him. How cool was that?

In the few years that you spent with us you bonded with so many people and instantly they became your friends. Sharon you will be so missed for all of the laughter you created and your sweet impish ways. When you were up you made everyone up. I'm so happy that I got to share tears of laughter with you--playing pranks on our neighbours. You were so bad. I'll never be able to sit down on the front step again without seeing you sit beside me and laugh 'til we cried, begging for each other to stop because it hurt too much. You achieved so many things that you dreamed about.

Thanks to Aunt Gail you had

your wish come true--your trip to Florida and getting to swim in the ocean--and more importantly you had your biggest dream come true. You never thought you would see, the precious granddaughter you left behind, Isabelle, the spitting image of you. Sharon, you were an earth angel to everyone that knew you and now you will be able to watch over us--the thing you do best--as our guardian angel. I'll miss you little sister and it's our loss and heaven's gain. Love you —J

.....



HELMUT BRADLEY

On March 20th, Helmut Bradley passed away at the Penetanguishene Hospital after a very lengthy battle with cancer. The funeral took place on March 22nd and was followed by a luncheon at the Royal Canadian Legion.

It was Helmut's wish that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to the Midland OSPCA. He loved animals--tame or wild--and his favourite was his dog Cricket. Some of you may not know that the Midland OSPCA burnt to the ground in September last year and many animals were burnt to death. A new building is badly needed and they expect to start building a new one this spring.

Helmut is survived by his wife of 47 years, Helen Bradley. •••



JANINE MAE MARLENE ROCHELEAU

Sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Janine Mae Marlene Rocheleau (nee Beatty) who died suddenly and unexpectedly on the 20th of January, 2007. She was the beloved wife of Bradley; daughter to Walter Beatty and wife Catherine and mother Marlene Beatty and partner Doug Rocheleau; daughter-in-law to Grace Rocheleau (Patsy); cherished sister to Leah and fiancé Mike Vigneux; beloved aunt of Jasper; dear sister-in-law to Jeff Rocheleau and wife Lisa. She is survived by grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and adored cats Tayles and Sassy.

Janine was a member of the Windsor/Essex/Kent community council, the niece of PCMNO Councillor and Captain of the Hunt for Region 9, Eric Scofield, and the granddaughter of Senator Earl Scofield. •••

IN THE REGIONS

■ MÉTIS RIGHTS:

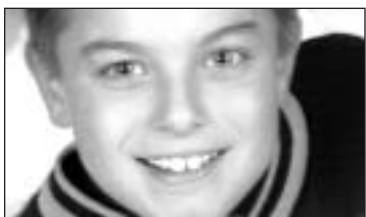
Final arguments heard in Métis harvesting case

On February 16th, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) executive and Métis Nation citizens filled the Ontario Court of Justice in North Bay to hear legal council, Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, present final arguments in the latest Métis harvesting rights case, *Government of Ontario v. Laurin, Lemieux and Lemieux*.

At issue is the obligation of the Government of Ontario to uphold the MNO/Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Interim Harvesting Agreement, entered into on July 7th, 2004, between the MNO and the Ontario MNR. This agreement was intended to respect and begin to implement the 2003 landmark decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in *R. v. Powley*. Contrary to the Government of Ontario's promise that MNO harvesters, who are harvesting for food within their traditional territories would not be subject to enforcement procedures, charges have been laid against MNO harvesters in select Métis Nation traditional harvesting territories in areas south of Sudbury.

The court is scheduled to reconvene on June 12th, 2007 in North Bay.

■ MÉTIS YOUTH:



Young Métis role model to appear on TVOntario

Dalton Mathias, son of Loma and Hank Rowlinson, has been selected as one of the ten interesting and inspiring children from Ontario to be featured on TVOs annual special called, "In a League of Their Own". The kids chosen are role models because of their healthful living and ability to provide inspiration to others, such as anti-bullying.

The program is a tribute to the International Year of the Child (2007). Other countries are also recognising their special kids and shows will be featured throughout the year globally. The program that Dalton will be featured on is scheduled to air on December 23, 2007.

On March 11, 2006, Dalton was awarded the 2006 Métis Youth Role Model Award in the Mamakwasesuk Category (ages 10-14) in Saskatoon SK. (See *Métis Voyageur* May/June, 2006). Watch future issues of *Métis Voyageur* for more on Dalton and the upcoming TVO special.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY SAULNIER

Georgian Bay Métis Council members enter float in Penetang's "Winter-rama"

The Métis in winter

BY PAULINE SAULNIER

"Penetanguishene" is an Ojibway word for the "land of the white rolling sand" but on February 17th, 2007, the only white you could see was that of the white blustering snow.

It was on this day that once again, Senator Dora MacInnis entered a float as she has in past years in the Penetanguishene Winterama Parade on behalf of the Georgian Bay Métis Council. The theme of this year's float was "Young at Heart."

As she said: "to a Métis person what can be closer to the heart than a nice walk down memory lane?" Therefore with the help of family and friends, Senator Dora managed to put a teepee, voyageurs, dog sleds, snow shoes, a canoe with a

native princess, a voyageur with furs, a log house and good Métis music on her float. There is nothing like good fiddling music to make a Métis heart really get beating!

Métis Youth helped by volunteering to hand out heart-shaped suckers to the young children along the main street.

Special thanks go out to Leon Saulnier for the use of his flat bed truck and to all those who contributed toward the creation of this float, especially Senator Dora MacInnis. We won second place!

How better could we celebrate being young at heart than with this annual event that brings together youth, elders and everyone in between?

Pauline Saulnier represents Region 7 on the PCMNO.



PHOTOS: LEONARD DUSOME



Georgian Bay Métis Council's Winter-rama float.

Retiree finds new vocation in small scale building

BY LINDA LORD

Over the years the *Voyageur* has printed a variety of stories about the creativity of our people. The diversity seems endless, ranging from traditional crafts, such as beading and birch bark canoe building to handmade walking sticks, photography, painting, carving, music, and tattoo artistry. We are a creative people!

Recently, I received an email and a bunch of pictures from Victor Boulard whose cousin, Emile Boulard, had recently retired. Emile found an interesting way to fill his spare time; he built a model of a paddle wheel



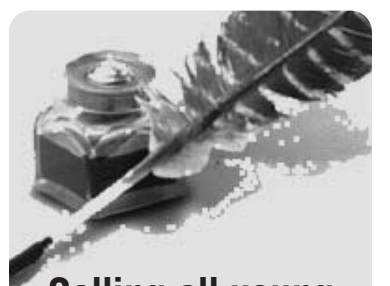
Emile Boulard with his handmade paddle wheel boat model.

boat that he had seen on TV.

The model is built entirely from scratch and from memory—no kit, no blue prints. Everything is handmade, even the wooden hinges, draw bolts, and planks. Forty-eight inches in length, the model can be taken

apart to reveal the interior detail. The first 'floor' comes off of the deck; the second floor comes off of the first floor.

A retired carpenter or woodworker? No, a retired body man who had never worked with wood in his life!



Calling all young Aboriginal writers!

The 2007 Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge, a national storytelling initiative to educate Canadians about the defining moments in history, is underway. Win cash prizes; see your story published in The Beaver Magazine, and meet the governor-general in Ottawa. If you are between the ages of 14 and 18 or 19 and 29, you can showcase your creativity and explore your heritage. Deadline is June 29, 2007.

www.our-story.ca

PH: **1-866-701-1867**

The Canadian Aboriginal Writing Challenge is an initiative of the Dominion Institute and is made possible by a dedicated group of individuals and organizations.

Mother of 9, grandmother of 21 celebrates 90 years

BY ALVINA CIMON

Albertine was born in Ste. Amelie Manitoba, one of fourteen children born to Joseph Marion and Marie Callewaert. In 1933 she met her future husband Willie Roussin at a dance and two years later, 6 November, 1935, they were married.

In June of 1938, Albertine, Willie and their young daughter, Alvina, (now Alvina Cimon, President of the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Council, in Dryden) set out in a caravan of three horse-drawn covered wagons. With them was Willie's sis-



Albertine Roussin

ter, Adele, her husband and family, and Adele's married daughter Marie, with her husband and family.

"We travelled until the men found work and then would

move on when the jobs were completed. Three months later we arrived in Quibell, Ontario, where Willie found work on the CNR," Albertine recalls. "When he got laid off, he got the job of custodian at the Quibell school, where we lived in the basement. Willie also drove the 'school bus', which was a horse and caboose, for the next year." (Quibell is located due north of Fort Frances and Vermilion Bay, not far from Red Lake.)

In 1940, the Roussin family moved to their homestead in Quibell and Willie worked at cutting wood for the railroad. "The following spring, I returned to Ste. Amelie to await the arrival of our son Rosaire. Willie worked

on for a while and then came to visit us, at which time he decided to move back to Manitoba."

The family continued to grow. Alphonse was born in 1944; Eugene in 1946, and Joseph in 1949.

However, in 1950 the family returned to Ontario where they took up residence in Dryden. This time, instead of a horse-drawn caravan, the move was accomplished with a pick-up truck and a gravel truck. "Our beds were set up for us to rest in the gravel truck," Albertine remembers.

In 1953, daughter Esther came along, followed by Wilfred Jr. in 1955 and Paul in 1958.

In Dryden, Willie worked for

the Dryden Paper Co., cutting wood, and on construction, and during lay-offs he worked for Ontario Hydro. In 1959, the family bought a farm and moved to Eagle River (located between Vermillion Bay and Dryden). In 1960, Lorraine, the youngest of Albertine's children was born. Eventually, Willie was employed full-time as a watchman at the paper mill where he worked until his retirement in 1969. Willie died in 1984.

Albertine is the mother of nine children; the grandmother of 21; the great grandmother of 21, and the great great grandmother of three. To quote daughter Alvina, "And she's been knitting socks for all of them."

PLANNING HAS STARTED FOR SECOND ANNUAL SENATORS' FORUM AT 2007 AGA

Can you believe that it's already spring? The long cold winter is a thing of the past and we can see the beautiful summer that Mother Earth has in store for us. Before we know it we will be on our way to the wonderful city of Thunder Bay for our Annual General Assembly (AGA). How great it is to meet and greet after a long year away from one other! We will be able to gather together and share the news of what has been happening in our community councils and in our personal lives, not to mention, we get to renew our friendships during the time we spend together throughout the week.

Again this year I have obtained funding that will enable the Senators to hold their second "Senators Forum". It will begin on the evening of Friday, July 6th, with day meetings on Saturday and Sunday (July 7th and 8th). On Sunday evening, each Senator and a guest will be invited to attend a beautiful banquet, the perfect way to end our forum as the AGA meetings start on Monday July 9th. So it's not too early to start making notes of the ideas and suggestions you want to bring to the table during the



open discussions.

Your thoughts and topics should be put in writing as soon as possible and sent to me or to my assistant Laurie Fonjong at senatorsforum@rogers.com. Please note that Laurie is working on this project from home, so your emails will only be answered in the evening. If you prefer to send your suggestions by mail, send them to the MNO head office:

Métis Nation of Ontario
Attention: Reta Gordon
500 Old St. Patrick St., Unit D
Ottawa, ON
K1N 9G4

It is very important that your voices are heard; remember, this is YOUR FORUM. At last year's AGA the Timmins UMAC Youth Worker, Kelly Omenye, invited the Senators and Elders to gather with the Youth at the Youth Village by a camp fire and have the Senators share with our Métis Youth, our stories of long ago.

The Youth opened up and also told stories of their own. This year, although Kelly Omenye is no longer with the MNO, I would like to continue her dream of having the Senators, Elders and Youth gather and learn from each other. I encourage the UMAC staff to contact me to help organise this important evening. I agree with Kelly, "the Youth are the future of the Métis Nation; we need to learn from our Senators and Elders before it's too late and our wonderful culture is lost".

We were planning to put together a video to be shot at the AGA of our Elders telling stories, but I do not foresee that happening as I have only received videos of three Elders' interviews. Perhaps next year we will have enough stories to complete a video. Please don't let this discourage you from sending me your videos. The more we collect, the better it will be for the Nation. We need to be heard and our stories need to be told. ∞



MÉTIS HERITAGE CELEBRATION

June 23rd, 2007 · Oshawa, Ont.

The Oshawa Métis Council invites you, your family and friends to attend our *Métis Heritage Celebration 2007*. There will be Métis games, displays and demonstrations of traditional beadwork, cuisine, and leather work, music, dance and a potluck dinner. This is going to be a fun event through which we will be able to showcase our Métis culture and history for our families, friends and the general public. This event is being held at Brooklin Community Centre, 45 Cassels St. East, Brooklin, Ontario, from 2pm - 9pm.

DIRECTIONS FROM HWY 12 & HWY 401 IN WHITBY:

- 1) Travel north through Whitby on Hwy 12 (Brock St.)
 - 2) Brock St. becomes Baldwin St at Taunton Rd.
 - 3) Continue on Baldwin St past Winchester Dr. (Hwy 7)
 - 4) Turn at first right onto Cassels St. E
 - 5) Cross over a small creek
 - 6) Brooklin Community Center on right (45 Cassels St. E - an old church)
- PARKING: turn right onto Church Street, parking is available behind Centre

CONTACT:

Cecile Wagar at 905-668-1612 by email cecilewagar@gmail.com
Rob Pilon at 905-725-1635 by email at wpilon5188@rogers.com
Olive Tiedema at 905-579-5401 for Pot Luck information

Anishnabe Education and Training Circle

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

For additional information on Aboriginal Programming and Student Services contact:

GEORGIAN
YOUR COLLEGE - YOUR FUTURE

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

Canadian Museum of Civilisation in Hull, QC

IT'S FREE!

Stephen Augustine, Aboriginal Curator at the Museum of Civilisation in Hull, has announced that ALL Aboriginal people are able to access the museum FREE of charge on a daily basis.

Obviously, anyone wanting to visit the museum will have to prove their Aboriginal identity, so don't forget your cards. If you experience problems accessing the museum ask for Stephen Augustine.

Canada's Metis
Owned & Operated
In business for 20 years!

Northern Ontario's #1 renewable energy source.

ENERGEN III
SOLAR POWER

- Solar Panels
- Wind Generators
- Hydro Generators
- D.C. Lighting
- Inverters

Kurt Johnson
4110 Lorne Street
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario (P.E.I. 040)

TEL: 705.673.5775
FAX: 705.673.9140

MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING • APRIL 15TH, 2007 • MÉTIS HISTORY REPORT LAUNCH • HEALTH CAREER BURSARIES



Origins and Evolution of Penetang Métis Community

On April 15th, 2007, at the Moon River Métis Council's General Meeting and fish fry a report commissioned by the council went on sale. This report about the origins and evolution of the Penetanguishene area Métis community titled, "From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay: 300 years of Métis history", is available from Louise Goulding for \$25.00. You can reach Louise by e-mail at moonisland@hughes.net or by phone at 705-746-4974.

Moon River meeting inspires Métis Pride

An amazing day of "Métis history in the making"

BY PAULINE SAULNIER

I am beginning to realise that the Metis Nation of Ontario Region 7 councils, are made up of some truly creative citizens and outstanding leaders. My wildest dreams could not compare to the accomplishments of our Métis leaders. April 15, 2007, is a day to remember and a highlight in my memory book!

Be it through the creation of a Metis paddling song, "Louise Waltz", that Senator Ruth Wagner proudly shared with the Metis citizens at the Moon River Metis Council General Assembly, or the MNO proudly announcing our new Métis Health Careers Bursary and Scholarship Program jointly with the Hon. Tony Clement, these are proud moments. The crowd of 200 Métis people excitedly cheered the announcement of \$210,000 in bursaries and scholarships to 30 Métis students in health professions--an amazing moment for me, both as the Region 7 representative and as a Metis. That we had the time to introduce five of the 30 award recipients was exhilarating, but to have them be presented their cheques by the Federal Minister of Health, Tony Clement, the President of the MNO, Tony Belcourt, and the Co-chair of the PCMNO, France Picotte leaves me speechless for the proper way to express my pride and excitement.

In addition--also on April 15, 2007—I witnessed the launching of the book, "From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay - 300 years of Metis History." It is a concise documentation of the history of our Metis ancestors in the Georgian Bay region. It is the second research book written and helps send home the point, yet again, that we do have Metis people south of Sudbury. It also demonstrates that we Metis people, are very motivated to prove that we have a history and we are beginning to document the several untold stories that definitely need to be told.

Patsy McArthur began the process in 2005 by publishing



(top) Daniel Marchand and Micheline Marchildon are the authors of "From the Straits of Mackinac to Georgian Bay" (bottom left) Moon River Métis Council Secretary/Treasurer Lisa McCron (bottom right) Moon River Métis Council President Louise Goulding.

her book, "The Historic Saugeen and its Métis People".

To quote the President of the Moon River Metis Council, Louise Goulding, "This is Métis research being done by Métis People!"

I remember reading that in 1796, Thomas Jefferson sent a letter to Thomas Paine in which he, wrote: "Go on doing with your pen what in other times was done with the sword." I feel that ignorance and bigotry are illnesses that can be cured with information and education. These Metis books precisely convey to future generations the history of our Nation. They will help to educate others about our individual needs and wants as Metis citizens and are a sure way to identify the existence of

our unique culture.

Because the books cannot always be readily available to all Metis citizens, I feel it is vital that all citizens and friends have access to this amazing research. This is precisely why this reader has donated a copy of each book, to every Métis Nation of Ontario Council in Region 7 for their libraries.

During my tenure as PCMNO Region 7 Councillor, I will always look back on this amazing day with undiluted pride and pleasure. I witnessed Metis history in the making. I wish to thank all those who made this day such an amazing success!

Way to go Region SEVEN!

Pauline Saulnier is the PCMNO Councillor for Region 7.



Moon River Métis Council Senator, Ruth Wagner-Millington and Laurie Miller perform the Métis Paddling Song.

LOUISE'S WALTZ

BY SENATOR RUTH WAGNER-MILLINGTON

A quick explanation: Canoeists have to change sides paddling to prevent sore shoulders and backs. Thus the rhythm of the poem/song.

The first line has 10 syllables, the second line has 8 syllables, and paddles switch over to the other side, the third line has 10, the fourth line 8 and switch, and on and on for each stanza.

The melody I also wrote and called it "Louise's Waltz", in honour of the Moon River Métis Council President, Louise Goulding. Her vision and drive were what got the book started. She is the Moon River Presi-

dent, the Captain of the Hunt for Region 7, president and operator of her own fishing business, and also a dancer at the AGA! For that reason, the piece was a dance and a speedy waltz rather than a slow one! It is a standard waltz with four bars per line. The second line and fourth line have only music, and no words for the last bar as the canoeists would be switching sides then.

I hope this explanation is a help. When reading it with this "switch-over" in mind, one can get the paddling rhythm.

...

Métis Paddling Song

(Sung to Louise's Waltz)

Words and music by Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington
April 15, 2007

We are the Métis, proud, strong and free,
Wearing our sashes to show it.
And of our forebears we are very proud,
They make us all one big family.

Métis folk all we're brothers and sisters,
Bonded through blood and conditions.
Light hair and blue eyes, and dark hair and brown,
Nous sommes "Les Vrai Canadiens!"

Hundreds of years our ancestors lived here,
Fishing, and hunting, and trapping.
Thousands of miles our forefathers travelled,
Paddling, and riding, and walking.

Three hundred years to this General Meeting,
Mackinac, Drummond, and St. Joe.,
Georgian Bay Islands their maze Métis knew,
All the way down to Moon River.

More settlers came and Métis were frowned on,
This was a dark time in history.
Métis were punished for speaking their language,
Rights stripped, and schooled with oppression.

Louis Riel our own prophet has said,
"We shall rise up in a century".
Lost legends surface, traditions come back,
We're on the path to the future.

Old Métis ways are new Métis culture...
Sharing at rendezvous outings,
Laughing, and crying, and singing, and jigging,
Keeping alive our traditions.

There are more Métis than we can imagine,
Spreading o'er all of our nation.
Hopefully someday we'll all stand together,
Nous sommes "Les Vrai Canadiens".

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO'S
14TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
BACK TO THE BAY
CHIPPEWA PARK • THUNDER BAY • JULY 9-13th, 2007




For news on the AGA watch upcoming issues of the Voyageur and the MNO website: www.metisnation.org

MÉTIS LEARNING & LITERACY

MNO partners with Frontier College for new program

The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased to announce an important new learning program. With the goal of bringing Métis families and communities together and in recognition of the importance of literacy and in an effort to raise literacy levels, “**The Métis Families Learning Together Program**” will be launched in the coming months in two pilot areas, North Bay & Sudbury and Toronto & Hamilton.

The MNO in partnership with Frontier College (a national literacy organisation) submitted a proposal to the Ontario Trillium Foundation and recently received approval for a two year



funding commitment. The MNO will be seeking interested families, community volunteers and youth interns to participate in the literacy program and to contribute to its overall success. Métis-specific resource materials will be developed and a training program established to engage community volunteers, peer tutors and families in literacy focussed initiatives. The intent is

to eventually bring these services and resources to every community across Ontario.

For more information please contact Bonny Cann, Provincial Education Initiatives Co-ordinator, at bonnyc@metisnation.org or call 1-888-466-6684 (in the GTA call 416-977-9881).

As well, please continue to check the MNO’s web site (www.metisnation.org) for more details on the program, job postings for two Community Literacy Project Co-ordinators and to access the community volunteer application form.



SIERRA'S UNFORGETTABLE PERFORMANCE AT VIMY

On April 9th fiddler **Sierra Noble** stood alone atop the Vimy memorial in France and played a haunting lament for the soldiers who died at the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Sierra was invited to be a part of the re-dedication of the Vimy monument on the 90th anniversary of the devastating battle. You can see video of Sierra’s moving performance at her website: www.sierranoble.ca.



PHOTO COURTESY VETERANS' AFFAIRS CANADA

News you may have missed

News and events in and about the Aboriginal community courtesy of the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (www.ccab.ca).

FIRST NATION MOVES TOWARD CREATING A RESERVE IN REGINA

■ REGINA, SK - A Regina-area First Nation has signed an agreement with the city that could be the first step toward establishing an urban reserve in the heart of a city neighbourhood. Piapot First Nation has bought property in the city's north-central area that it hopes could become home to a grocery, pharmacy, gas bar and offices. Some members of the First Nation, located about 50 kilometres north of the city, live in Regina.

INUIT LEADER NOMINATED FOR NOBEL


■ TORONTO, ON - An environmental activist in Nunavut has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize along with former US Vice-president Al Gore. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, who was chosen by *The Globe and Mail* as a nation builder last year, said that she was told about her Nobel candidacy by a reporter. Ms. Watt-Cloutier is formerly from Kuujuaq, a com-

munity in Nunavik, which is what the Inuit call the northern portion of Quebec. The 53-year-old activist has worked on a range of social and environmental issues affecting the Inuit, and has most recently focussed on global climate change.


.....

DEHCHO CALL FOR TAR SANDS MORATORIUM

■ FORT MCMURRAY, AB - After completing a tour of the Suncor oil sands facilities, Grand Chief Herb Norwegian of the Dehcho First Nations, called on Canada and Alberta to support a moratorium on further development of the massive oil producing Athabasca Tar Sands “until some sanity can be brought into this situation.” Norwegian led a delegation of chiefs and elders from the Dehcho to view Suncor operations, and to discuss what he called “the serious decline of the quantity and quality of water in the Mackenzie River watershed.” The Mackenzie River watershed flows through some 212,000 sq. km of Decho land.



www.metisradio.fm
Hear these great artists and many more.
Traditional and contemporary Métis music
on-line 24/7 on Métis Radio.



ANCESTORS

ONTARIO'S RICH MÉTIS HISTORY IS NOW WELL KNOWN BUT DOCUMENTATION CAN BE HARD TO FIND



PHOTO COURTESY: KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT

Narcisse Dorion Junior (second from left) at a family gathering/evening of music.

THE TRAGIC LIFE OF LOUIS LORION

Of the twenty-nine children Louis Lorian fathered between 1773 and 1818 from two marriages, fourteen reached adulthood and parenthood. Fifteen times, this man deposited a tiny casket into the arms of Mother Earth at Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC.

Louis' first wife, Marie-Madeleine Forand, gave birth to 19 children, including three sets of twins in a mere 20 years. The first six children, including their first set of twin boys all died within sixth months of birth. The first child to survive and marry was Jacques-Louis, who had eight children, who all reached adulthood. The eighth child, Madeleine, died in her fourth month, but the next Madeleine survived and married. Only one of the twin girls who arrived next survived. This poor couple's sorrows would reach unbearable proportions with the death of the next three children, once again all taken away within months of birth. Then a fifteenth child, Marguerite-Catherine survived and married. The sixteenth child reached three years of age before departing this world. He was soon followed by the last three children born to this couple, two of which were twin boys.

One can only imagine how this brave couple carried on with their lives. What hopes--and fears--each new pregnancy brought along. One can only imagine the pain this woman suffered as her babies were torn from the warmth of her bosom, the tears that accompanied the infants into their tiny graves. How difficult it must have been at meal times, gathered around a table that should have been surrounded by nineteen laughing children. How cherished the four who lived long enough to leave the nest and start their own families.

Little did Louis know that shortly after his twentieth wedding anniversary, his footsteps would once again bring him to his children's graves but this time, bringing their mother to them. Marie-Madeleine was 46 years old in 1794 when her last babies, twin boys, were born. It is likely that she died with them or shortly thereafter. How heartbroken this man must have been as he looked upon the seventeen graves he had probably dug himself.

Louis was entering his 54th year in 1797 when he married Marguerite Chalifoux. We know very little about Marguerite, except that she may be a descendant of Paul-Charles Chalifoux and Jacquette Archambault. Marguerite was likely closely related to Marie-Catherine Chalifoux who married Bernard Lorian on January 1782, Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC. Fate finally smiled upon Louis as the ten children, all single births, born from this union appear to have lived long enough to walk down the proverbial aisle.

Of Louis' fourteen surviving children, some married twice and had many large families of their own, perpetuating the Lorian name in Pointe-aux-Trembles and across the country. Thankfully, none of Louis' descendants experienced the tragic losses he suffered in his life. ...

A Mattawa Legacy

Eight years of lengthy and sometimes discouraging research, and the kindness of a perfect stranger led to the discovery of a rare document. Many genealogists and researchers know that mid-1800s documents confirming Métis ancestry are somewhat of a rarity in Ontario. How wonderful it was to be among those who found such a pearl! I am of course talking about an 1837 marriage record in Ontario that actually contains the word “Métis”—in fact, it is the French word “Métisse”. **BY KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT**

Father Charles de Bellefeuille, a French Sulpician missionary kept a detailed account of the ceremonies he performed in the burgeoning mission of Mattawan in 1836. The priest travelled relentlessly between Fort Témiscamingue and Fort Coulonge for a number of years, “salvaging the souls of his poor Indians and isolated bush people”. In 1837, the Hudson's Bay Company established the Mattawa House post at the confluence of the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers.

It was in June, 1837, that the priest performed a marriage ceremony for Pierre Narcisse Lorian (aka Dorion) and Marie Cecile Mawishk MacDonell. The marriage was the sixth at that mission. The record states that Narcisse was an engagé of the Hudson's Bay Company at the Post of Mattawan, and that Marie Cecile MacDonell, dite Mawishk, was a Métisse also residing at the said Post. Witnesses to their marriage

“

The record states that Narcisse was an engagé of the Hudson's Bay Company at the Post of Mattawan, and that Marie Cecile MacDonell, dite Mawishk, was a Métisse also residing at the said Post.”

were Timothé Réaume, Jean-Baptiste Sabourin, Alexis Benoit and many others. Another interesting part of this document is where the good priest addressed the urgency to legitimise the couple's children. (translated) “The said spouses having had, prior to the present marriage, two children after having been

married to each other by ---- (unclear) contract, we have, as much as by need, legitimised these two children, Marie, born January 16, 1834 and Narcis, aged 15 months, and this in presence of the aforementioned witnesses.”

I always get a chuckle when I read such passages in old documents!

Cecile was the daughter of Chief Factor Allan MacDonell and either a country wife or his Métis wife Margaret Ann Cameron (daughter of Chief Factor Aeneas Cameron). Cecile Mawishk was born about 1809 in Rupert's Lands (or Red River, Manitoba) and died in 1875 in Mattawa. The baptism record for her son states that Cecile was from “la Nation des Saulteux” (an Ojibwa) and a census record states that she was born in Manitoba.

Narcisse was a voyageur, born in 1807 at Pointe-aux-Trembles, QC, the son of voyageur Bernard

Lorian and of M-Catherine Chalifoux, who is believed to have been a Métis herself. Narcisse had at least two brothers, Bernard and Louis, who were also voyageurs. The Lorian ancestors arrived at Pointes-aux-Trembles in the mid 1600s. A quick 411 Internet search showed at least 57 Lorian families still living in that area 350 years later! Some of the senior Lorian voyageurs were among the fur traders at Michilimackinac who returned to Quebec after the war of 1812 rather than settle on Drummond Island and ultimately at Penatanguishene. Narcisse went to Assiniboine in 1827, where he married Cecile “à la façon du pays”. They made their epic canoe journey eastward with their two small children. Narcisse was posted at Fort Coulonge before being sent to the Mattawan Post where his contract finished in 1839.

The couple had at least six more children, all born in Mattawa. Thus began their large Métis legacy in that very old settlement as many of their children and grandchildren took Métis spouses and settled there.

1) **Mary** (b.1834) married three times (Alexander Wilson, Jean-Baptiste Sauvé and John McCracken). In all she had eight children.

2) **Narciss Jr.** (b.1836) mar-

CONTINUED PAGE 8

NOTES FROM THE REGISTRY:

Applying for Métis Citizenship

Updates to MNO Citizenship Application checklist streamline process

BY **KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT**
MNO REGISTRAR/DIRECTOR OF REGISTRY

The number of new applications received by the registry increases daily! In order to process the escalating mail intake registry personnel have revised the checklist

normally attached to the application for citizenship with MNO. The new checklist is designed to help our applicants ensure that they are including all the required documentation to confirm Métis ancestry. Please help us avoid delays by encouraging friends and family members to use this new checklist.



500 Old St. Patrick St. Unit D
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 5G4
Tel: 613-798-1488
Toll Free: 800-263-4889
Fax: 613-723-4225
Email: registry@metisnation.org
Web: www.metsnation.org

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST

"Métis means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation."

The Historic Métis Nation arose in the 1700s from the union of European men and Indian women. By this time there were recognizable Métis communities across the Métis Nation Homeland and the Métis People had developed a culture, history, and lifestyle which were distinct from First Nations or Inuit peoples.

Dear Applicant,
Thank you for applying for citizenship with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). Please help us process your application in a timely manner by checking each box as a guideline to ensure that you are providing **ALL** required documents to the Registry Branch. Note that applicants must currently reside in Ontario.

Please include:

- ☐ MNO application form, fully completed (including the genealogical section)
- ☐ Your Genealogical Chart, beginning with you and ending with your Métis ancestor (photocopy as needed)
- ☐ A photocopy of your long form birth **OR** baptismal certificate (the document must name your parents)
- ☐ A photocopy of one photo identification document now in your possession (e.g. student card, bus pass, etc)
- ☐ A clear photo (max. size: 4" x 6") write your name on the back - No Polaroid or Computer prints please.
- ☐ Your signature on the Citizenship Card below.
- ☐ Documents confirming **Métis Ancestry**¹
- ☐ **Supporting Documents**² linking every generation from you to your Métis ancestor
- ☐ A one time, **non-refundable** administration processing fee in the amount of \$30.00 (Cheque or money order made payable to the Métis Nation of Ontario. - No cash please)

1. Confirming Métis Ancestry

In order to approve your application for citizenship with MNO, you must provide documents confirming that at least one of your ancestors is the descendant of **an Indian woman and a European man** who had ties to the Métis Community; typically an explorer, or a guide/interpreter, or an early military man, or someone involved in the Fur Trade. Your ancestor, or a parent, would be described as, but not limited to, *Sauvage, Half-Breed, Métis, Bois-brûlé, French or Scot Indian, Explorer, Surveyor, Voyageur, Coureur des Bois* (Wood Runner), Interpreter, Chief Factor, Guide, etc.

2. Supporting Documents

These may be copies of birth, baptism, marriage, or death records, obituaries, census records, fur trade industry records, early military service records or land scrip (Manitoba). Acceptable secondary documents are historical accounts and genealogical references published by reputable researchers such as Drouin, Fonguy, Jetté, etc., but must include the title page, information source and references. Supporting documents must accompany family trees, genealogical charts and reports provided by professional and non-professional genealogists, historians or historical researchers. Please note that although useful to understand a family's history, documents obtained from the internet are rarely considered valid, unless they are copies of actual church or civic records. They should also include the source of the information and/or the references clearly indicated and verifiable from original sources.

THIS SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED WITH YOUR APPLICATION

Name(s) of your relatives who are MNO Citizens: _____

Please provide your email address if you would like to receive periodic emails about upcoming events and other news from The Métis Nation of Ontario.

Email: _____

Sign in this space (within lines)
PLEASE DO NOT DATE

This is to certify that the Bearer of this Card is recognized as a Métis within the meaning of the Registry Process of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Citizen's Signature

Registrar

Date of issue

PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME BELOW: _____

How to get an Application package:

The complete application package, including a revised genealogical chart can be downloaded from our web site at **www.metsnation.org**, or by calling our head office in Ottawa: **1-800-263-4889** or by emailing us: **registry@metisnation.org**. While on the web site check our brand new model genealogical chart to see how registry personnel assess every application crossing their desk.

MATTAWA LEGACY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

ried Elisabeth-Loysa Gleason and had four children.

3) **Sophie** (b.1838) married Antoine Colton and had three children.

4) **Caroline Marianne** (b.1845) married Joseph Lapensée-Luponsier and had seven children (m2. to Louis Sirois).

5) **Daniel** (b.1847) never married. He was a soldier and died in 1871.

6) **Alexandre** (b.1849) married Emilie (Nellie) Martel and had seven children.

7) **Julie** (b. about 1853) married Moise Robert and had one daughter.

8) **Louise** (b.1855) married William Wright-Right, died within a year, possibly in child birth.

Narcisse was 80 yrs old and living on today's Dorion Street when he passed away in 1887. He had been living alone since 1875, the year tragedy struck many Métis families as a smallpox epidemic swept through the Mattawa area. Narcisse buried his wife Cecile, their daughter Julie (age 22), and her own daughter Louise (age 2) within a few months. Their daughter Louise died a few years later at the age of 22. The Lorions were no strangers to tragedy as Narcisse's uncle Louis buried 15 of his 29 children almost a century earlier.

LE PORTAGE MATTAWA | HBC and the History of the Fur Trade at Mattawa



PHOTOS COURTESY: VINTAGE POSTCARDS, WWW.VINTAGEPOSTCARDS.ORG

(left) In 1926, the Mattawa voyageur route was designated as a site of national historic significance. In 1930, a bronze plaque was presented to Mattawa by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. The tablet reads: “Le Portage Mattawa, Main route to the Great Lakes, Plains, Rockies and beyond, used by the Indians, Explorers, Traders and Missionaries, French and English. Upon its traffic was founded the early commercial prosperity of Montreal.” The stone cairn now stands in front of the Mattawa post office, at the intersection of Main and Mattawan Streets. (right) Rare image shows HBC supply depot in 1950, photographed by an unknown engineer. The supply depot was quite large, with a brick addition to the right added c. 1880 to 1908. Altogether, there were seven buildings at the outpost: a large store, two homes, two warehouses and two stables. The Hudson's Bay location was so central to the Mattawa lifestyle, which still revolved primarily around fur trapping, that the first post office was in the HBC building known as Mattawa House, from 1856 until 1858. George Hunter, who managed Mattawa House beginning in 1853, was the first postmaster. After the HBC closed its Mattawa location in 1908, the building was used as the St. Anne's parish hall until it burned in the late 1970s to early 1980s. — Karole Dumont-Beckett

(See page 7)

Little documented information is available about Narcisse and Cecile's life from 1850 to 1887, except for a few birth and marriage records for some of their children. Ste-Anne RC church lost most of its pre-1870 records due to a canoe accident. The priest was travelling on the Ottawa River with the records when he tipped over. He lost his life and all the church records of that time. Research through the

few documents available for that period shows that the name Lorion became Dorion around 1860, likely due to the flourish penmanship of a priest whose “L” resembled “D” enough to cause confusion--and a name change!

We do know from oral history that they, along with some of their children, lived and farmed in a fairly large Métis community across the Ottawa River in Mattawa. There is an unmarked cemetery in that ghost village and

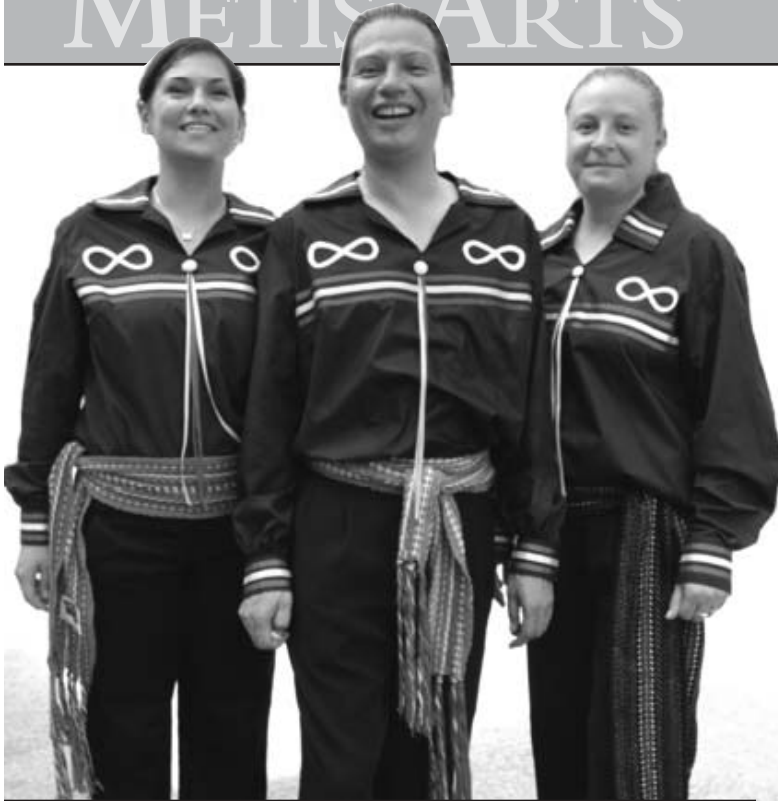
some believe that it is the resting place of Narcisse and his wife Cecile. A possible fact since there are no records of their graves in the town's cemetery. It is also the resting place of some of the ancestors of the Lapensee, Dupuis, Gendron, Tremblay, Guilbeault and so many other Métis families who still reside in the Mattawa area, families who have recorded their fifth and even sixth Mattawa-born Métis generation from Narcisse and Cecile. A

quick calculation of their descendants reaches into the hundreds in Mattawa alone. Some day, perhaps someone will pick up the calculator and start counting!

Meanwhile, their descendants are preparing a journey to the ancient Métis settlement across the Ottawa River, a journey to reconnect the past to the present, to seal their legacy in history.

NEXT ISSUE: *The ghost Métis village across the Ottawa River.*

MÉTIS ARTS



'Jig on the Fly' is an Ottawa-based jigging group.

Jigging group teaches the Soo a few new steps

BY ANNE TRUDEL

Recently, Métis dance was re-initiated into our community. Due to lack of professional instruction, the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation grant enabled our community to employ "Jig on the Fly". On the weekend of January 19, 2007, the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis community enjoyed learning jigs, quadrilles and squares. The reasoning behind the Métis Dance Workshop was clearly supported by a poignant comment on one of the participants' evaluation sheets. "Very helpful in touching on my children's heritage. I feel it is important for them to know their culture and being around people of the same likeness is important."



Eric Chamberlin is instructed by Jaime Koebel on the Métis sash/belt dance.

Jig on the Fly is an Ottawa based dance group made up of Pauline Huppé, Daryle Gardiply and Jaime Koebel who provided heart warming participatory learning. This weekend dancing was not a spectator sport. Everyone was encouraged to polish the floor. Dances included the Belt Dance, the Broomstick Dance, the Heel Toe Polka, the Butterfly Dance, the Duck Dance, and the Drops of Brandy. Pauline Huppé being seven months pregnant explained the Orange Blossom

Special, while Daryle Gardiply and Jaime Koebel demonstrated their jigging performance technique.

Organization, nourishment, and advertisement of the event were made possible by generous funding from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Métis Nation of Ontario, Aboriginal Homelessness Initiative, who let us use their space in the Métis Sault Centre, and the help of many local volunteers, especially Carla and Christina Labbe, Brenda Powley and Nancy Walsh.

Five sessions of two hour classes were offered to the age spectrum, with Saturday afternoon specifically designated for children, and Saturday evening for an adult social. Much laughter and artery pumping fun was enjoyed by all. Our ancestors definitely knew the definition of merriment. Jigging is Métis aerobics. Obviously, these same ancestors were very fit to be able to dance the evening away.

Donna St.Jules, MNO Community Wellness Worker's media work was much appreciated. Featured in the *Sault This Week* newspaper leading up to the event, was Jeri Powley, granddaughter of Steve and Brenda Powley, performing the broomstick dance. Even though we had typical snowy weather, over 62 individuals participated in the dance sessions.

All participants were given the opportunity to complete a survey/evaluation of the workshop. The surveys' results confirmed a desire for a weekly Métis dance club and an interest in developing a local dance troupe. My completed report on the workshop including the written proposal to the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, and the survey/evaluation with results can be forwarded to interested communities. You can contact me via email at mno-culture@shaw.ca or through the Sault Métis Centre at 705-254-1768.

Aboriginal radio hits the airwaves at Carleton University's CKCU 93.1

Tune in to Carleton University's 93.1 FM on Sunday mornings at 9AM for a new Aboriginal program called, "Aboriginal CKCU".

Airing weekly beginning March 11, the program will provide listeners with a medley of music, issues, and information about current and coming events from an Aboriginal perspective.

"Aboriginal students don't really see anything of themselves on campus," said Irvin Hill, Aboriginal Cultural Liaison Officer with Carleton's Centre for Aboriginal Culture and Education, Equity Services. "A radio show written for the community, by the community might just help

"Each week, volunteer hosts will feature at least one Aboriginal musician, also listen for lively discussion on issues important to Aboriginal people"

to make Carleton a little bit more Aboriginal-friendly."

Raising the profile of Aboriginal music and musicians, and putting a spotlight on issues to increase the listeners learning, appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal people is part of the show's mission statement. Each week, volunteer hosts will feature at least one Aboriginal musician, also listen for lively

discussion on issues important to Aboriginal people. Regular features will include a community bulletin board, horoscope, and helpful information. For those unable to pick up CKCU at 93.1 FM, the show is also available world-wide on the web at www.ckcufm.com or on Rogers Cable 944. A show that is produced by and for Aboriginal people—First Nations, Inuit and Métis—with a focus on Aboriginal Canadian talent and issues.

CONTACT:

MICHELE BOURQUE

613-521-9100

AboriginalCKCU@yahoo.ca

<http://geocities.com/aboriginalckcu>

MÉTIS ARTS FESTIVAL '07

Popular Festival back at Black Creek Pioneer Village this summer • TORONTO, JULY 20 - 22, 2007



BY BERNARD LEROUX

The Métis Artists' Collective is gearing up for another fantastic year as plans for our 4th Annual Métis Arts Festival get underway. This year's festival will be more exciting than ever as we present some of the best Métis, First Nation and Inuit talent from across the country to the stages of Black Creek Pioneer Village this summer. This historic setting in the north part of Toronto is a wonderful place to bring your family. Come, enjoy, learn and participate in a wide range of contemporary and traditional Métis arts and cultural events.

Last year we were pleased to have dignitaries such as the Honourable Caroline Di Cocco, Ontario Minister of Heritage, Jane Pitfield and Mayor David Miller of the City of Toronto and MNO President, Tony Belcourt, in attendance to help kick off the festivities and to share in our rich cultural heritage. The festival attracts thousands of visitors locally and from around the globe. We hope to welcome even more visitors this year, especially those from throughout our various MNO communities! Get a bus! Bring your friends and family! We'd love to see you there!



Kids Day, Friday, July 20, is specially dedicated to children of all ages as our team conducts workshops, performances and hands-on activities relating to all sorts of traditional Métis crafts, teachings and practices like fiddling, jigging and storytelling. This is an excellent activity for day camp participants. If you are interested in booking a group, please see our web site for more details or contact Geri Smith at Black Creek Pioneer Village, 1000 Murray Ross Parkway, Toronto, ON M3J 2P3. Phone: 416-736-1733.

Main Event days, Saturday and Sunday, July 21 and 22, are chock full of performances, workshops and activities for all ages. We feature three stages of entertainment throughout the day, including, dance and music workshops, crafts, demonstrations, visual arts gallery, and film presentations. "Finding your

Métis Roots" was a very popular addition to our festival last year and this year we hope to have MNO Registrar, Karole Dumont-Beckett on hand to help you with your genealogy inquiries.

Vendors and volunteers who wish to be involved in this growing event are invited to contact us.

If you are interested in performing or exhibiting at the Métis Arts Festival for 2007 or 2008 you can reach us through our web site.

For further information and to see this year's line-up of talent, visit our web site and watch for updates as we get closer to the festival:

www.metisartsfestival.com
www.blackcreek.ca

Bernard Leroux is the Vice-president of the Métis Artists' Collective.

MÉTIS YOUTH IS ONE IN A LONG LINE OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Inheriting a Métis Legacy

BY **LYNETTE HARPER & LENORE BARRON**

Congratulations Lana! We are all very proud of you and you are a wonderful example for our Métis youth. Your parents Mervyn and Lynette Harper, sister Leah of Ottawa, your godmother Aunt Lenore Barron of Victoria, BC and all your numerous relatives across Canada and abroad wish you all the very best in your life and career.

Determination, tenacity and focus are just a few of the many qualities Lana possesses that enabled her to graduate with honours from Canterbury High School in 1998. Although she received a diploma in Fine Arts in Dance from Canterbury, Lana decided to pursue a career in accounting. She attended York University, graduating with a BA in administrative studies with honours in accounting. During that time Lana also held a full-time job and volunteered with the Toronto Métis outreach program. Shortly after completing her studies, the interview process began and Lana accepted a position as a Certified Accountant (CA) student at the firm of Collins Barrow in Ottawa. This brought her home with her family where she began the lengthy process of achieving the neces-

sary requirements to obtain her CA designation. The first of these was the Entrance Certification Exam (ECE) for the School of Accounting, the School of Accounting Exam (SAE), and finally, the Unified Final Exam (UFE), which is considered one of the world's toughest professional exams. Lana's dream became reality when the UFE results were posted on their web site November 26th, 2006. Recovering from her success, Lana was further rewarded with the John Cutler "Award of Excellence" by her firm, Collins Barrow, at their annual Christmas dinner. Recently, Lana accepted her designation and took her oath as a chartered accountant on February 24th, 2007, at a prestigious ceremony and gala ball at the Harbour Castle Hotel in Toronto.

Lana is a fifth generation Métisse from the original Red River Settlement at St. François Xavier (sfx), Manitoba. Her great great great grandfather, Charles Ademar Barron, lived in sfx in 1870 on lot 140, area 133 (Baie St. Paul Parish) along the Assiniboine River. He received Scrip on September 17, 1875. Lana's great great great great grandfather, Jean Baptiste Branconnier, was born in 1791. He signed on with the North West Company as a voyageur in 1804 at the age of 14. On March 17, 1816, at Fort Gibraltar, located at the forks of the Red



Lana Harper

and Assiniboine Rivers, he was wounded with others. He later gave testimony in Toronto in 1818 at the Semple trial, which dealt with the events that led up to the Battle of Seven Oaks.

Lana's great great grandfather, Charles Barron, fought in the Riel Rebellion and as a result had to flee the Red River Settlement to Louis Riel's place of exile in Montana. Due to his involvement in the rebellion he was unable to return to Canada and died in Montana in 1923. Family members have not been able to locate his grave site. Such is the legacy of many Métis families whose children suffered abandonment and future breakup of the family continuity.

Lana's grandfather, Alexander Arthur Barron, was in the Royal Canadian Engineers stationed in

“It’s easy to see where she derives her perseverance and strength--from maternal and paternal ancestors and family members.”

England during WWII rebuilding bombed out bridges. Great grandfather, Olivier Barron, fought at the Battle of Vimy Ridge in WWI. Great uncles--David, Philip and Percy Barron--were also in the Armed Forces in WWII, but great uncle Percy, a fighter pilot, was shot down somewhere over Holland and did not survive. Great uncle Jack Hay was a prisoner in the Korean War. Great uncle Dave helped start many Métis locals in BC in the 1980s and was Vice-president of the Pacific Métis Federation (now known as the Métis Nation-British Columbia); aunt Lenore Barron, founded the first Métis Women's organization in BC (BC Women's Commission of the Pacific Métis Federation) which later became the Pacific Métis Federation of Women and co-

founded the first national Métis women's organization (the Métis National Council of Women).

Great uncle Myllie (Emile) Barron, who will be 97 in June, 2007, has won numerous fiddling championships and was the first Canadian to win the National Fiddler's Competition in Weiser, Idaho, USA, in the senior's division in 1981 at the age of 71. He still builds violins and still plays. Lana's mother, Lynette Harper (nee Barron), is carrying on the tradition of playing, on a 160 year old violin made by her maternal great great grandfather, James Miller Adams (born in Madras, India in 1822) who was a stringed instrument builder in the mid 1800s in Toronto.

Lana has inherited a strong cultural legacy from her parents. Her forebears have fought many battles for the rights of human respect and dignity. It's easy to see where she derives her perseverance and strength--from her maternal and paternal ancestors and family members who honour her success. I hope that anyone who reads this article is inspired to pursue their dreams because Lana has proven that with strong family support, commitment and downright hard work, anyone can fulfill their dreams and create their future.

Written by Lenore Barron & Lynette Harper using the research of Lenore Barron (Victoria, BC).



Guardian angels always descend from above.

When your life hangs in the balance, every second is critical. If the nearest hospital is fifty kilometres away, even an infection can leave you battling for your life. 18,077 people last year won't forget our name. For them, we were more than just an air ambulance. We were their hospital in the sky. Today, we connect 12.5 million people across Ontario to advanced medical care. So no matter where you are in this province, a guardian angel will always be watching over you. Find out more at ornge.ca



ornge
Transport Medicine



SOUTH AMERICA: Better lives through literacy for Guatemala

FROM FRONT PAGE

studies found that almost half of the workers report not receiving the minimum wage. How could they ever build even a two-room school?

People who are not fluent in the language of the governing society are at a great disadvantage. Imagine trying to complete your income tax forms if they were in another language. Most of us think they *are* in another language, but suppose they really were. What if every contract were in another language? What if the company you work for printed its "policies and procedures" in Russian? How would you know your rights?

This lack of understanding is exactly what happened to our own ancestors. This is how First Nations and Métis lost their land and so many of their rights. The Q'eqchi are another Indigenous group who are suffering at the hands of the predominant culture.

These Indigenous people lost their

(left) Wilber often comes into town with his aunt to help her try to sell her goods in the market. He wanted to sell me "kick balls" made of left over material and filled with beans. Who could resist?
— Tony Belcourt

"EVEN NOW, these people are little better than slaves on their ancestral land with small hope of improving their lives or the lives of their children."

land when the current "landowners" of the region expropriated it and then registered themselves in the Nation General Registry of Property as the owners.

In 1999, the Q'eqchi of one isolated community, Secanal II, negotiated with the owners in an effort to avoid being put off of their ancestral lands entirely. Finally, they reached an agreement to buy the land in exchange for agricultural labour. The natives would work without pay for 15 days a month. The money that they should have been paid was supposed to go toward purchasing the land. During the other 15 days of the month the labourers tried to earn enough money to feed their families and take care of their homes.

Unfortunately, this agreement was too hard on the workers and it could not possibly be fulfilled. They could not earn 350 Quetzales (\$46.66), the minimum needed to survive, in 15 days and the situation in the communities was so dire that children, women and elders suffered major health problems. Agriculture also suffered; children had intestinal parasites; breastfeeding mothers were weak and sick.

Even now, these people are little better than slaves on their ancestral land with small hope of improving their lives or the lives of their children. When every waking hour is a struggle for survival how can they possibly build the schools that could bring education and a better life?

Let's help them to maintain their own culture and to become fluent and capable in Spanish. Schools can bring literacy and literacy can bring a better life.

LIFE IN GUATEMALA

Poverty and inequality mark lives of Guatemala's indigenous

More than half of the population of Guatemala is Maya or Mestizo and the vast majority of coffee workers are Maya or Mestizo. However, the distribution of income and wealth is highly skewed. The wealthiest 10% of the population receives almost one-half of all income; the top 20% receives two-thirds of all income. As a result, about 80% of the population lives in poverty, and two-thirds of that number--or 7.6 million people--live in extreme poverty. Guatemala's social development indicators, such as infant mortality and illiteracy, are among the worst in the hemisphere with chronic malnutrition among the rural poor.

117 out of 174 on UN's Human Development index

The United Nations' Index for Human Development is a coefficient that combines indicators of income, life expectancy and education as a measure of human progress. In the 1999 UN report, Guatemala ranked 117th out of 174 countries with an index of 0.624. For comparison Canada occupied 1st place with an index of .932 and Sierra Leone was last with an index of .254.

High infant mortality

In Canada the life expectancy is 80.2 years; in Guatemala it is 69.06 years. In Canada, infant mortality is 4.7 (that means that there are 4.7 deaths in every 1,000 births). In Guatemala infant mortality is 35.93. Shorter life spans and more dead babies are the result of illiteracy, poverty, and poor health care.

Low literacy rates

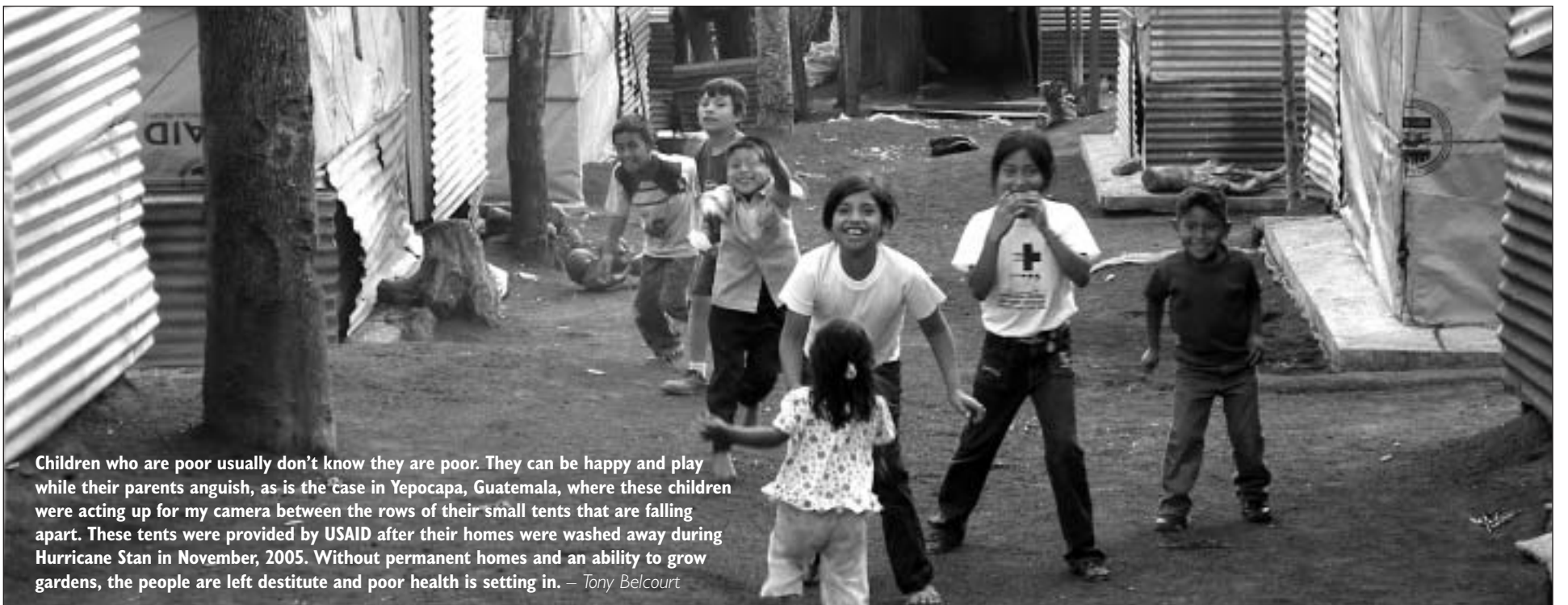
If you begin to look at statistics you will discover that Guatemala claims to have a literacy rate of 70.6% and Canada claims 99%. We all know that Canada does not have a literacy rate of 99%, so take a guess at the true literacy rate in Guatemala. An independent study revealed that 82% of the sampled population (coffee workers) reported no formal study or incomplete primary studies. Only 13% reported having completed their primary education. Article 61, Section J, of the Guatemalan Labour Code requires farm owners to provide literacy training for workers, but the sampled population reported that they knew of few farms that provided this service. Whatever the actual literacy may be, it is obviously too low.

INTERNATIONAL | MNO President Tony Belcourt and MNC President Clément Chartier pay a visit to our South American friends

PHOTOS COURTESY: TONY BELCOURT



Métis National Council President, Clement Chartier (left) and MNO President, Tony Belcourt (right), with the delegation of leaders from the community of Secanal II who walked for hours down a mountainside to a road where they caught a bus into the central town of Coban where a meeting took place to discuss their situation. Next to Tony Belcourt is Roderico Teni, Culture Bearer of the Q'eqchi Maya. Secanal II is one of hundreds of small isolated communities of the Q'eqchi who are largely without any lands of their own and who are "squatters" tolerated by the landowners if they give 15 consecutive days a month of labour to the landowner and they agree not to build permanent homes or schools. Secanal II broke out of this mould a few years ago, only to find it now has problems of a different kind because their crops are not growing and they cannot produce enough food to provide for themselves. The MNO is undertaking a plan to raise funds to help the community complete its school and continue to hire a teacher, as well as provide some basic food for the children. — Tony Belcourt



Children who are poor usually don't know they are poor. They can be happy and play while their parents anguish, as is the case in Yepocapa, Guatemala, where these children were acting up for my camera between the rows of their small tents that are falling apart. These tents were provided by USAID after their homes were washed away during Hurricane Stan in November, 2005. Without permanent homes and an ability to grow gardens, the people are left destitute and poor health is setting in. — Tony Belcourt

Campaña de Escuelas para Aldeas Aisladas:

Schools for Isolated Villages

A generous gift from the MNO Registrar, Karole Dumont-Beckett, has spurred the idea of a fund-raising campaign to assist in building and staffing schools in isolated Mayan communities in Guatemala. Karole and her husband Glen have been contributing to international funds for children for years. Hearing of MNO President Tony Belcourt's trip to Guatemala at the end of February, and knowing of the plight of children and the need for schools, she and her husband decided to pledge an annual donation of \$300 per year for the next five years. When MNO Senator Reta Gordon learned about this, she immediately offered to match the gift. Thus, this fund-raising campaign began.

Tony and his partner, Danielle, have been making private visits annually to Guatemala for years. They've struck up a friendship with many people there and have been helping to fund a better education and family life for a young girl and her mother. They have also learned a great deal about the struggles of the people in the Alta Verapaz Region where people are living in conditions identical to the feudal system of centuries ago. Many citizens of the Métis Nation have heard about these struggles over the years from them and also from Roderico Teni, Culture Bearer of the Q'eqchi Maya, who has visited MNO AGA's on a couple of occasions. Métis people have responded in the past to calls for assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch and the mud slides following Hurricane Stan.

At the beginning of 2000, the year of the millennium, leaders from the community of Secanal, at great risk to themselves, walked for hours from their village in the dead of night to spend a day with Roderico, others from his organization, Association for Educational, Economic and Cultural Development (ADEEC) and Tony to tell their story. Theirs is a tragic account of poor health, extreme poverty and a desolate future in conditions akin to slavery.

In 2003, after being swindled of hundreds of hours and years of labour that they believed were being credited to the purchase of their land, their fortunes changed and they were able to obtain a loan from a US benefactor. They are now in the



Roderico Teni is the Director of the Association for Educational, Economic and Cultural Development in Guatemala.

process of repaying that loan. Now that the community has found a way to buy their land and they no longer need to live in fear, their story can finally be told publicly. The meeting in 2000 was video and audio taped. The text of the interview is now available on the web site; so too is a progress report made some time ago by Roderico Teni.

Even though the people of Secanal II are now in the process of buying their land, building permanent dwellings

and have even begun to build a school, their financial resources are marginal to say the least. Their needs are great, but so too, and perhaps even greater, are those of the other isolated communities that have not yet been able to take the huge step taken by Secanal II. Thousands of Q'eqchi remain as "squatters" on mountainsides at the tolerance of landowners who allow them to remain if they work for free. (See page 11 "Q'eqchi village struggles to teach children")

Métis Citizens lend support to Guatemala



"The very least we could do"

BY KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT

“Our sponsoring experiences taught us that everything one does is returned tenfold. Glen and I are blessed with beautiful grandchildren who have everything they could possibly need. The photos Tony and Danielle brought back from Guatemala last spring really hit a raw nerve with me. One photo in particular, of a young boy carrying a toddler on his back offering a handful of knitted dolls for sale, really broke my heart. There was such haunting sadness in his eyes; I kept thinking that this child should be running, laughing and playing with his friends after classes ... that this was much too much responsibility for such a young boy.

I cannot stand the thought that children are going to bed hungry at night, that children are going to work instead of going to school. In Canada we have food banks, shelters, and breakfast programs for the destitute. In Guatemala many of these children have nothing. As far as Glen and I are concerned, there's always enough money to sponsor a child, but this time we wanted to do something different. The need is so great there that we want to help many children and so I asked Tony and Danielle to bring the children of Guatemala something from us. The rest, as the popular saying goes, is history. Within days we had four more sponsors and I just learned

today that Danielle is matching our pledge. I couldn't be happier! I really, really hope that we will reach 100 matched pledges by the end of the year. The Métis people are among the most generous people I know and I know that we can reach that goal.

Canada is a land of riches and privileges, but we are nothing as a people if we don't share our knowledge and good fortune with those who need us the most. The Indigenous people we are trying to help are in the same situation our own ancestors were centuries ago. The lessons we've learned while fighting for our rights mustn't go to waste. We must bring our knowledge and support to other Indigenous people to help them reach an acceptable quality of life. In our eyes, it's the very least we can do.

More support for Guatemala schools

Senator Reta Gordon was quick to add her support to the schools project. Like Registrar Karole Dumont-Beckett, photos taken by President Belcourt moved her to take action.

“Tony showed me pictures of the people of Guatemala,” she said, “their terrible inadequate living conditions and the mud slides that took away the scant earth where they had grown their vegetables....Their government provides them with little or nothing and foreign aid consists of little more than plastic sheets that they hang up as shelter—even though they have temperatures of extreme cold and extreme heat. When Tony told me of the plans to help build a school I thought, ‘they are our Aboriginal brothers and sisters even though they live in a far off land.’ It is a known fact that knowledge is power; they must be educated so they can one day advance their nation.”



LA NACIÓN MÉTIS DE ONTARIO ESTÁ A LA VANGUARDIA EN GUATEMALA



Everyone, including the children, took part in packing cement blocks for hours up steep paths to their community of Secanal II in order to build their school. Secanal II is in the “cloud forest” area of Guatemala. The communities are isolated on lands high in the mountains. There are no roads, only narrow and dangerous paths, but these children are excited about the prospects of having a school, the first one ever in the area. — Tony Belcourt



Q’EQCHI VILLAGE STRUGGLES TO TEACH CHILDREN

BY LINDA LORD

After several years of working for a landlord who supposedly was crediting fifteen days of their labour each month toward buying back their traditional land, the Q’eqchi of Secanal discovered that they had in fact been cheated and still did not own any land. However, during the last four years the Q’eqchi, with the support of an American benefactor, have been able to buy some land. It is not the best land, which is found in the valleys, but is rather on the side of a mountain. Nevertheless, it is an improvement. So long as they were considered squatters they could not even build a permanent structure to live in, never mind a school. In addition, during the time that the Q’eqchi worked for “the land owner”, they lost the traditional farming knowledge that had been possessed by their ancestors. They are now being helped to regain this knowledge by ADEEC (Association for Educational, Economic and Cultural Development).

Three years ago the community was able to build a school. This was accomplished by the entire community—men, women and children—lugging concrete blocks up the mountain on their backs. They have been able to hire a teacher who teaches grades one, two and three, and soon grade four will be added. The children wish to



Children assemble outside of their new school in Secanal II for a special presentation. The school now has three grades. However there are barely enough funds to provide for the one teacher who teaches all three levels. — Tony Belcourt

learn, but often come to school hungry. The teacher would like to be able to provide milk for them. Meanwhile, the community struggles to pay the teacher, but is very aware that the children need to go to school and to learn Spanish in order to better their lives.

By our standards the situation in Secanal is beyond imagining, but to neighbouring communities it is a model of success. Consider then the situation in those other communities.

The fund started by Registrar Karole Dumont-Beckett and her husband Glen—a pledge of \$300 a year for the next five years—has been matched by Senator Reta Gordon and Senator Lois McCallum. Others who have heard about the fund have also contributed however they can.

To find out more or make a donation:

www.metisnation.org/international/Guatemala

Send cheques made out to “Schools in Guatemala Fund” to:

Métis Nation of Ontario - Finance Department

500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D, Ottawa, ON, K1N 9G4

Share your thoughts and ideas by contacting Communications Assistant,

Avery Hargreaves by email: averyh@metisnation.org

Acceso a Tecnologías Informáticas y de Comunicación

Access to information and communication technologies

The Métis Nation of Ontario has long seen the value of accessing and using the most advanced of information and communications technologies. The MNO makes maximum use of Internet technology through its web sites and recently has begun to establish video-conferencing facilities at its head office and its community councils. This has led to the use of this technology for training and tele-health. The MNO is well advanced in a joint venture with the Anishinabek Nation in developing a virtual call centre that will see employment opportunities brought to Métis and First Nations people no matter where they live.

This focus on the future has also led MNO President Tony Belcourt to promote the development of ICT’s nationally through



his position as a member of the Crossing Boundaries National Council and internationally in his role as Métis National Council Minister for International Issues. The MNO and the MNC have been active advocates for access to technology for indigenous peoples through the process leading up to and including the *World Summit on Information Societies* hosted by the International

Telecommunications Union.

Recently, an “Indigenous Interim Commission for the Development of ICT’s in the Americas” was formed. Tony Belcourt is the representative from Canada and is on the three member planning committee. The Interim Commission held its first planning meeting in Antigua, Guatemala on March 6-8, 2007. MNC President Clem Chartier and National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President, Joe Garcia, attended to pursue talks begun by Tony Belcourt towards establishing a “Nation to Nation” relationship between the MNC and the NCAI.

The potential for the Interim Commission is tremendous. Included on the MNO web site is a report on the 1st Indigenous Workshop on ICT’s held in Mexico City a year ago. •••



Mayan women of the Guatemalan Province of Solola gathered to show their wares to visitors. The distinctive historic styles of this region can be seen in the predominance of the blue colours in their juipilies (blouses) and in the fashion of their hair design. — Tony Belcourt

Compra de Textiles para Ayudar a las Mujeres Maya y sus Hijos

Buying textiles to help Mayan women and children

Far too many children in Guatemala are completely dependent on the sale of textiles and curios that their mothers sell on the sidewalks and in the parks of Guatemala. Mayan women work untold

hours to weave beautiful materials that are sadly sold at bargain basement prices.

The products are striking and plentiful. Many Métis people would like to have them in their homes, and these purchases

would help Mayan families. On the web site you will find photos which show a variety of products including tablecloths, place-mats, napkins, blankets, wall hangings and other goods such as wood carvings and curios. •••



In memory of a very dear aunt who passed away last November: the following are two of her favourite recipes. She would be happy to know that I have shared them with all the *Métis Voyageur* readers.

Aunt Gert’s
Hamburg Soup

1 tbsp butter
3 small onions chopped
3 large carrots, sliced
3 celery stalks, diced
1 lb ground beef
1 – 16oz can diced tomatoes
3 medium potatoes diced
1/3 cup macaroni
6 cups of water
Salt & pepper to taste

Melt butter, add ground beef and cook slightly. Add onions, tomatoes, salt, pepper and water. Bring to a boil, cover and simmer 1 hour. Add vegetables and simmer 1 hour longer. Stir in macaroni during the last 15 minutes.



Yummy Brownies

1-1/2 cups all purpose flour
1 tsp salt
2 cups white sugar
1/2 cup cocoa
2 tsp vanilla
1 cup oil
4 eggs
cup cold water
cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Put all ingredients in large bowl and with hand mixer mix on low speed until smooth.
Butter a 13” x 9” x 2” pan. Pour batter into pan making sure the batter is even in the pan.
Bake at 350° F for 30 minutes – no longer.

TORONTO
POLICE
OPEN HOUSE

Be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming Toronto Police D22 Open House this Spring:

Saturday, May 12th, 2007, from
11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
3699 Bloor St. West, Toronto

There will be plenty of mascots like Pat Troll roaming around to entertain everyone, face painting, police cars and lots of activities. Come and enjoy the great food, fun music, the many kiosks and an opportunity to visit the station. Bring family and friends. See you then! –Gail LeBlanc

Our Stories:
What Métis
means to me

I was born and raised in Thunder Bay in the 1970’s and am the youngest of seven children. My dad was a Finn who died tragically when I was nine months old, the victim of a drunk driver. My mom is Métis and grew up just off the reserve. She never went to residential school but she experienced just as much abuse and racism from the Catholic nuns in her school. She was considered a ‘half breed’ and all the half breeds were segregated and not allowed to mix with the whites. **BY ARLENE LEHTO**

Her Métis grandfather was a trapper and hunter who enjoyed playing the fiddle. I still see the excitement in her eyes when she reminisces about the jigging parties and fun times she had at her grandparents’ home.
Her grandfather also participated in various traditional ceremonies. Mom was just a girl then and her job was to watch out for the RCMP with her cousin. If she saw them coming, she had to run and let the Elders know so they could hide their spiritual items and end the ceremony. Back then traditional ceremonies were illegal and anyone breaking that law could get thrown in jail.

“Métis meant we did not fit in anywhere”

Mom did get her status card in the early 1990’s (Bill C 31); however, growing up she was rarely accepted by her “status” cousins. Instead, she was teased for being a half breed and at school she was tormented for being an ‘Indian’.
When I was growing up, Native peoples’ voices were becoming stronger and our rights were very slowly coming back to us. For me it was a time when racism and hatred were still at the forefront. I am sure I am not alone when I say being Métis meant we did not fit in anywhere. I grew up in a “white” neighbourhood and going to school each day was a living nightmare. With the exception of a few good teachers, the majority was racist.
Almost daily, I and my siblings were put in situations where we were belittled, intimidated, humiliated and left out. Most parents did not allow their children to play with us and even encouraged them to bully, tease and torment us. Sometimes there would be a whole gang of kids wanting to beat me up. If my brothers were around they would run to my rescue; tell me to go home and then beat up the kids who tried beating me up. I hated that because I never wanted anyone to get hurt, not even the kids who hurt me. I would yell at my brothers: “Please don’t hurt them. Let them go.”
Mom always comforted me and made me feel better. She always let me know how special and important I was. She always let me know that just

because people talk and act in negative ways, doesn’t mean they are bad people. They have stories as well and there are reasons for everything.
Mom was very active in the Indian movement back then and did a lot of grassroots work. Often times I would accompany her to different social events and powwows. As a child I was always excited to go somewhere new and to meet new people. I always thought there was a chance that I might be accepted and make some friends; that rarely happened. The Native kids and even many of the Anishinabe adults did not like me. I was white trash.

When I was five years old, I went on the powwow trail with mom. I went for a walk by myself to go to the outhouse and on my way back to my campsite some kids called to me. “Hey, Little girl! Do you want some candy?” Of course I wanted candy. Candy was like my best friend. So I happily walked over to them and as I got closer the kids started throwing banana peels and apple cores at me yelling, “white trash! What are you doing here? You don’t belong here!”
I ran back to my camp site, trying hard not to cry and be upset around mom. I didn’t want her to worry about me or feel sad so I stayed by mom’s side for the rest of the trip. As long as I was with mom I felt safe and loved.

“Dad’s side believed being Native meant being less”

I even had difficulty within my own family. My dad’s side always believed being Native meant being less. It was definitely not something we felt we should be proud of. For the longest time, I was ashamed of being Indian and I felt ashamed for feeling ashamed of being Indian. After all, mom is Indian and she was the most awesome and caring person in the world.

Called a ‘wannabe Indian’

As I got older and started my healing journey, I started learning more about ceremonies and traditional ways of healing. I was very intrigued by this and had such a thirst to learn more. Many Anishnawbek Elders did not accept me

“
I always thought there was a chance that I might be accepted and make some friends; that rarely happened. The Native kids and even many of the Anishinabe adults did not like me. I was white trash.”

at first and I was often called a “wannabe Indian.” I started feeling ashamed for being white. I hated feeling ashamed for being white because I was extremely close to my grandma on my dad’s side. She was white but she was the sweetest lady I had ever met.
So I pushed the feelings of shame aside and I persevered. I continued to learn various healing ways and I paid attention to the teachings of our Elders. I don’t agree with all the Elders, nor with all teachings. I do agree to disagree and I will respect someone else’s beliefs even if they go against everything I believe in.
There were times when I was rejected or humiliated just for being me, but I realise those rejections and humiliations did not come from the “Anishinabek” or from the “white.” They came from individuals who have their own stories and carry their own pain. No matter what race we are or how we look, we are all special people. We all have unique gifts and we can all make a positive difference in the life of another person.
I do not feel proud of being Métis. To me, pride and ego are too closely intertwined. I know I didn’t have a choice of what I was born into, so instead, I feel very fortunate to be Métis. I have received so many teachings because of who I am and I have gained such a deep respect for all our relations.



PAMELA TREMBLAY
Métis Holistic Health Facilitator (RRPr,CIMI)
Sudbury, Ontario
Ph: **705-675-2103**

MASSAGE \$49/hr
Full Body Aromatic • Stress Relief • Relaxation Prenatal • Hot Stone Massage (\$55)


REFLEXOLOGY \$49/hr
Feet Only \$39/hr
Alzner-Ingham & Traditional Methods
Foot/Hand/Ear with Stress Relief VedicCare Acupressure

ENERGY BASE THERAPIES
Aromatherapy for relaxation • Reiki • Soft Touch Therapy • Therapeutic Touch • Sound Frequency • Healing with Tuning Forks • Meditation for Stress & Pain Relief (Creative Visualization, Breath and Transcendent)
The above techniques are excellent for Chronic Pain i.e.: Fibromialgia and Tactile Sensitive Disorders

INFANT & PRENATAL MASSAGE \$85
Certified to teach proper techniques in baby relaxation massage (90 min.)
Certified to teach proper techniques in prenatal relaxation massage (90 min.)

True Métis Stories

This little story was sent to us by Ken Simard. It seems that MNO President, Tony Belcourt, was a special guest at an elementary school. He talked to the children about the Métis and Métis traditions, telling them that "there are no swear words in the Métis language."
A boy raised his hand and asked, "But what if you're hammering a nail and you smash your thumb?"
"That," Tony answered," is a time when we use your language."
It's good to be multi-lingual. ...



Captain's Corner
by **KEN SIMARD**
CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT, REG. 2

SOME TIPS BEFORE YOU GO BOATING

- Describe your boat: length, name, licence number, engine type, make and model;
- Provide your telephone number and how many persons are on board;
- Inform someone of your point of departure, intended destination, proposed route and estimated time of arrival, as well as a contact number for your destination;
- Leave a copy of a float plan at the marina office, or with a trusted neighbour or relative, or contact the Canadian Coast Guard Service Centre by phone before you leave;
- If you change your plan make sure plan holders are notified.



BREAKING THE CYCLE

Ontario launches program to reduce Aboriginal smoking

Minister of Health Promotion, Jim Watson, recently announced that the Government of Ontario is launching, "What You Do Matters", a public awareness campaign aimed at encouraging members of the Aboriginal community to quit smoking.

"Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and we're determined to work with Aboriginal communities to make a difference," said Watson. "The *What You Do Matters* campaign is a call to action for each individual, family and community to help improve their health environment and the quality of life for all Aboriginal peoples."

The campaign consists of 30-second radio announcements; print ads in targeted publications; and posters distributed in band offices, friendship centres, health centres and other gathering places. Pamphlets and fact sheets are available to Aboriginal communities and the media. Additional information is available at www.ontario.ca/Smoke-freeMatters.

The rate of smoking among Aboriginal peoples can be three times the provincial average. Tobacco-related diseases cost the

Ontario health care system at least \$1.7 billion annually; result in more than \$2.6 billion in productivity losses, and account for at least 500,000 hospital days each year.

Anishinabek Nation's Grand
Council Chief, John Beaucage,

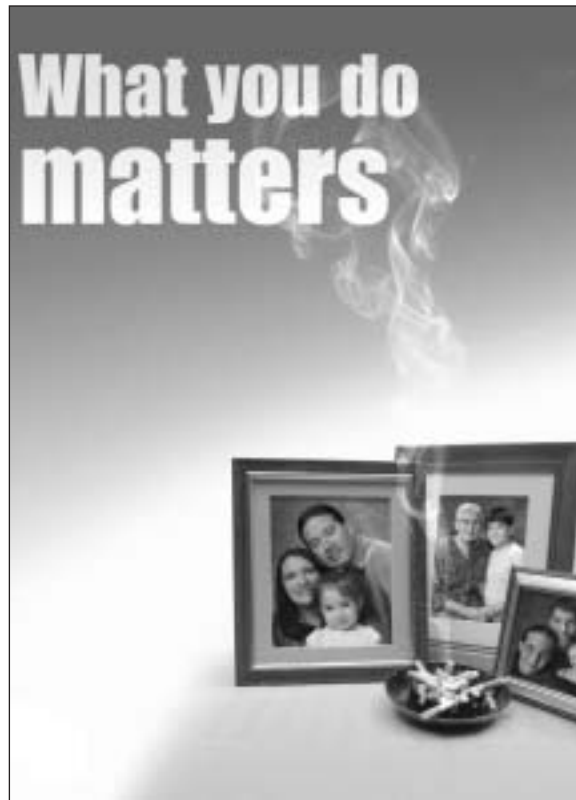
this shared commitment by providing us with a mandate to develop an Anishinabek Nation Smoke-Free Strategy to encourage and promote the use of Anishinabek First Nation initiatives aimed at reducing non-traditional tobacco use and creating smoke free environments within Anishinabek territory.”

"We will continue to work with the province where our Strategy and Anishinabek First Nation initiatives share common goals and objectives. This is an issue that affects the health of children, and healthy children are our future."

Minister Watson also announced that the Ontario Government had provided \$230,000 to Cancer Care Ontario for organising an Aboriginal Tobacco Strategy Youth Summit which was held in March 2007. The Summit was the first ever Aboriginal youth-specific smoke-free event sponsored by Ontario.

This funding is part of an annual investment of \$2 million under the Smoke-Free Ontario Strategy to help Aboriginal communities break the cycle of smoking addiction. The Ontario Government also invests \$8.8 million in programs to prevent youth from using tobacco products.

supports the public awareness objective of the campaign. "The Anishinabek Nation is committed to reducing the non-traditional use of tobacco and the health burdens from the misuse of tobacco amongst its citizens," says Chief Beaucage. "Our member communities have signalled



National Métis Youth Role Model, Doris Jones, wins gold at the 2007 Canada Games

The Manitoba Métis Federation Board of Directors and its president, David Chartrand, congratulated World Champion Archer, Doris Jones, for winning Manitoba's first gold medal of the 2007 Canada Games in Whitehorse, YK on February 28, 2007.

"Doris Jones, a young Métis woman, has set a fine example of what our Métis Youth can accomplish through hard work, commitment and determination while working to achieve their goals," read the press release.

–Manitoba Métis Federation

PART ONE of a two part series on the dangers of crystal methamphetamine

CRYSTAL METH: A speedy way to die

BY **ERNEST MATTON**

Well here we are once again, and I am reminded how truly precious life is. Recently, I was watching the news and bammm! they were featuring a meth dump out west, its dangers and the toxins associated with a meth lab. Let me start by saying that sometimes what you don't know can hurt you. And that doubles when the drug that you don't know about is speed and doubles again, when the speed you don't know about is "crystal meth".

Speed is a complex group of chemicals with one thing in common--they can cause all sorts of problems for people who take them--and all kinds of people are taking them these days. Not only are more people using speed, they're also using crystal meth which is almost like a supercharged form of speed. Most interesting is the fact that individuals say they are running into problems they never expected.

Before we say anything about crystal and other forms of "real" speed, I think we should take a little detour. It may seem a little

unusual to lump together all stimulants--controlled substances and everyday chemicals like caffeine--under the general classification of "real" speed.

However, let's look at it this way: one basic property shared by all stimulants--prescription diet pills, over-the-counter stay-awake tablets, caffeinated colas or overpriced triple mocha lattes at the local espresso bar--is their ability to rev up the action of neurons in the central nervous system. In fact, all do it in similar ways. Stimulants differ only to the degree that they act in the brain and to which they affect behaviour--increasing alertness and confidence (or anxiety), decreasing appetite and fatigue.

While it's hard to find fault with wanting to eat less and stay awake more, wanting to do either behind a hit or two of prescription speed or crystal meth can be a bigger problem than being overweight or tired. Way bigger!

The long-term physical toll can be massive, including any or all of the following:

- Vitamin/mineral deficiencies;
- Lower resistance to disease;
- Organ damage (particularly to the lungs, liver, and kidneys)

after long-term use.

As if the physical hazards aren't bad enough, there are a ton of mind and mood problems that speed can bring on, or worsen. Examples:

- Anxiety, depression, and chronic fatigue;
- Delusions (Thinking you're being watched by enemies or police, for example--unless you are being watched by the

police, which is even worse);

- Toxic psychosis after prolonged, heavy use.

And that's still only part of the story, because amphetamines also cause a serious form of dependency, which means that giving up speed can be a difficult process. One reason is that ex-users get depressed. Life without Mr. Crystal/Crank/Tweak/Go-Fast goosing up the juice in the brain

can seem dull, indeed, to a suddenly-straight ex-speed freak.

For more information or to book an appointment please call 705-533-1579 P.A.C.S. (Private Affordable Counseling Service) Up-coming articles will include, *How to Build and Maintain Healthy Relationships; Anger Release; Signs of Addictions.*

Ernest Matton (ICADC, EFAP)., is an addiction behavioural specialist and E.F.T. Practitioner.

THE UGLY EFFECTS OF CRYSTAL METH USE

BY **LINDA LORD** • Crystal methamphetamine is a colourless, odourless form of d-methamphetamine, a powerful and highly addictive synthetic (man-made) stimulant. Crystal meth typically resembles small fragments of glass or shiny blue-white "rocks" of various sizes. Like powdered methamphetamine (another form of d-methamphetamine), crystal methamphetamine is abused because of the long-lasting euphoric effects it produces.

Crystal methamphetamine use is associated with numerous serious

physical problems. The drug can cause rapid heart rate, increased blood pressure, and damage to the small blood vessels in the brain--which can lead to stroke. Chronic use of the drug can result in inflammation of the heart lining. Overdoses can cause hyperthermia (elevated body temperature), convulsions, and death.

Individuals who use crystal methamphetamine also may have episodes of violent behaviour, paranoia, anxiety, confusion, and insomnia. The drug can produce psychotic

symptoms that persist for months or years after an individual has stopped using the drug.

Crystal methamphetamine users who inject the drug expose themselves to additional risks, including contracting HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), hepatitis B and C, and other blood-borne viruses. Chronic users who inject methamphetamine also risk scarred or collapsed veins, infections of the heart lining and valves, abscesses, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and liver or kidney disease.

• •

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HEALTH CAREERS 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 health career related programs.

This funding is available through the Métis Health Human Resources Initiative, a four year national program funded by Health Canada. The MNO strives to create a representative workforce with appropriate numbers of Métis physicians, nurses, dentists and other healthcare providers to be responsive to the unique needs of Métis people.

TRAINING & SUPPORT

The Training & Support program assists and encourages Métis students to gain the necessary prerequisites to position themselves for ongoing education ultimately leading to a career in health.

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 Ontario to enhance their education.

CONTACT

For further information or guidance in completing your application, please contact your local MNO Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator as listed on our web site: **www.metisnation.org**

Other inquiries can be directed to the *Métis Health Human Resources Coordinator*
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Unit D
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
Ph: 613-798-1488 or 1-800-263-4889



**the Métis
Nation of
Ontario**



**Santé
Canada**

**Health
Canada**

Funding made available through the
Métis Health Human Resources Initiative,
a four year national program funded
by Health Canada.

BUILDING A MÉTIS HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE IN ONTARIO