

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

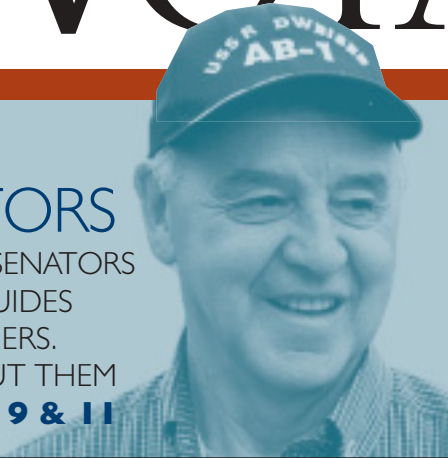


## THE END OF AN ERA

TONY BELCOURT  
ANNOUNCES HE WILL  
NOT SEEK ANOTHER  
TERM AS MNO  
PRESIDENT... **PAGE 2**

## MÉTIS SENATORS

OUR MNO SENATORS  
ARE OUR GUIDES  
AND TEACHERS.  
MORE ABOUT THEM  
ON **PAGES 9 & 11**



## TO PLAY OR NOT TO PLAY

CASINOS AND MEGA-BINGOS  
ARE EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS.  
IT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN  
EVER TO GAMBLE RESPONSIBLY.  
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## MÉTIS COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

# Our Métis Rights



**TALKING ABOUT MÉTIS RIGHTS:** (above) PCMNO Chair Gary Lipinski at the Georgian Bay Métis community consultation session on February 10th, 2008 in Midland. The MNO is undertaking community consultations across the province in order to provide information to Métis citizens on the government's duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights and interests. There is more on the Consultation process on page 14. Watch for coverage of the Consultation sessions in our next issue.

## LIKE BURIED TREASURE

DIGGING FOR OUR  
ANCESTRAL ROOTS  
LIKE UNEARTHING LONG  
BURIED TREASURE

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Grey-Owen Sound, February 9th, 2008



Thessalon mapping and information session



Sudbury, February 12th, 2008



Port Elgin (Saguingue Métis Council), February 8th, 2008



Sault Ste. Marie session, February 12th, 2008



ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO  
**PROVINCIAL ELECTION NOTICE**

Details on back page



MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New position with RCMP for Métis citizen

BY LOUISE LOGUE

Friends and Colleagues! I am writing to let you all know that yes--the rumour is TRUE!

As of November 12th, 2007, I have been seconded to the RCMP National Youth Services as the National Director - Youth Intervention and Diversion Section. I will be stationed in Ottawa at RCMP HQ on Vanier Parkway.

I will have the same contact numbers and will be accessing my ops emails regularly, so please stay in touch.

I will keep some of my work assignments at ops, including my Board of Director work with Wabano and Minwaashin, the Ottawa Community Youth Diversion Program and a few others.

CONTACT:

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Richard and his little Aussie granddaughter

Congratulations to Richard Sarrazin and his wife Monique who became proud first-time grandparents of a beautiful Métis baby girl on January 5th. Baby **Anastasia Melanie Rypstra**, was born at 12:11 P.M. in Perth, Western Australia. She weighed 9.3 pounds (4.23kg) and was 22 inches (56cm) long. Best wishes to parents Melanie Monique Sarrazin-Rypstra and Benjamin James Rypstra.

OBITUARY



Eva Delena Wynoch  
1916-2007

Eva Wyonch of Tobermory passed away peacefully with her family at her side at Grey Bruce Health Services Lion's Head on Monday, October 29th, 2007.

The former Eva Delena Granville, in her 92nd year, was the loving wife of the late Dan Wyonch ('01) and Pat Wilson (1944). She was the devoted mother of Goldie and her husband Clayton Mielhausen, of RR2 Lion's Head; Patsy and her husband Dale McArthur, of Port Elgin; Romaine Wilson and his wife Marie, of Tobermory; and Gail and her husband Barry Thorn, of Hope Bay.

Eva will be forever remembered by her 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren. She is sadly missed by her daughter-in-law Laverne Wilson, of Port Dover and her many nieces, nephews and friends. She was predeceased by son John (1955); 4 brothers; 2 sisters; and her parents Joseph and Lydia.

A private family service was held at the Thomas C. Whitcroft Funeral Home & Chapel, Sauble Beach on November 1, 2007. In living memory of Eva a maple tree will be planted by the Thomas C. Whitcroft Funeral Home & Chapel.



“Rudy” Couture  
1915-2008

Joseph Rudolph “Rudy” Couture passed away in Owen Sound on January 26, 2008, in his 93rd year.

He was the beloved husband of Jessie (Garvie) for 70 years; dear father of Leora (Keith) Wilson and Rudy JR (Jean) Couture; father-in-law of Sharon Couture; predeceased by Bob Couture ('04) and Marilyn Couture ('02).

Rudy's fiddle-playing has brightened the hearts of all who heard his music. His legacy of love and family will live on through his 16 grandchildren, 27 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

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



The Métis Nation of Ontario's Provincial Education Initiatives Co-ordinator, Bonny Cann, proudly holds her new granddaughter up for the camera.

**Jenaiyah Marie Aaliyah Cann**, born December 27/07 at 1:44 A.M. weighed in at 6 lbs 7 oz. Proud mommy is Jennifer Cann; first time big brother Jayden and happy great grandparents are Shirley and Al Steinke.

Thank you to the staff at Mount Sinai's Special Pregnancy Unit. My family thanks you all from the bottom of our hearts for the safe arrival of this new family member and equally the good health of her mommy.



BREAKING NEWS:

Tony Belcourt not seeking another term as MNO President

On February 24th, Tony Belcourt, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) announced that he will not seek another mandate in the upcoming MNO Elections on May 5, 2008. Tony has served as the MNO's President since its founding conference in 1994.

“The MNO is in its strongest position ever and I am anxious to devote my time to our cause in different ways,” Mr. Belcourt said. “Serving as MNO President has been an incredible honour and the support I have enjoyed has added to the excitement of the position. However, the MNO is at a watershed in its development with great opportunity on the horizon. It is time that the MNO had a new leader who would bring a fresh approach to the positive new circumstances before us and draw in new energies to meet the challenges of the future.”

“We have had extraordinary growth and success since our committee formed the MNO nearly 15 years ago on October 2, 1993. We have put in place



the fundamentals for Métis governance including the MNO Registry and our *MNO Harvesting Policy* that are the underpinnings of our MNO/MNR Harvesting Agreement. We have successfully fought for the recognition of our constitutional rights in the Supreme Court of Canada. Our people now, more than ever before, are coming forward to outwardly declare their pride in being Métis. Our MNO citizens are enthusiastic about their communities and about being actively involved as volunteers to assist in so many ways – from governance to long-term care of those in need.”

“We are entering a new era. We have finally crossed over from only dealing with govern-

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OBITUARY

Lillian McGuire  
1919-2008

Mrs. Lillian McGuire, aged 89 years, resident of Bethammi Nursing Home passed away on January 21, 2008, with her family at her side. Born in Superior, Wisconsin on January 12, 1919, she came to the Westfort area as a child. She was employed with Canada Car during the war years and taught dancing for many years. Lillian loved to feed the birds, chipmunks and squirrels in the yard.

Lillian will be missed by her loving husband George; daughter, Maureen (Matti) Alanen; grandson, Michael; son, Lawrence and grandson, Dennis; sister, Marion; brother, Bud (Betty) and numerous nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents and a grandson, Mark Alanen. A memorial service was held in the Chapel at St. Joseph's Heritage on January 25, 2008. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation or the Sick Kids Children Hospital in Toronto would be appreciated. Lillian McGuire was the wife of Senator George McGuire, one of the founding members of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Welcome aboard

The MNO and the *Métis Voyageur* join the new North Channel Métis Council in welcoming their Secretary/Treasurer, Blair Sterling.

CORRECTION

Please note that we have often referred to Fort William Historical Park as “Old Fort William Historical Park” which is not the name of the organisation. The correct name is Fort William Historical Park. We apologise for the error.





MNO President Tony Belcourt (right) leads Minister of Natural Resources, the Hon. Donna Cansfield (second from right) through the Registry.

# Minister Visits MNO

OTTAWA—The Hon. Donna Cansfield, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources, toured the MNO head office on December 19th, 2007. This was the first time that a Minister of Natural Resources has met with the MNO at its headquarters. In that sense it was an historic occasion.

After years of litigation over the Métis right to hunt and fish for food, this visit is viewed as the beginning of a new era in our relationship. It came at a time when the Government of Ontario had decided not to appeal our

latest court victory in *R v. Lemieux, Lemieux and Laurin* and the MNR is now honouring the 2004 MNO/MNR *Harvesting Agreement*.

One purpose of the meeting was to provide the Minister with a better understanding of who we—the Métis Nation of Ontario—are, the basis of our rights, and the obligations of governments. Minister Cansfield was briefed on MNO structure, communities and how Metis people go about their daily lives—what is important to them, from the

preservation of their livelihoods to the preservation of the environment. The Minister was given a tour of the MNO Registry and informed of our many interests including our interest in natural resources, not just those relating to enforcement issues.

The objective was to encourage Minister Cansfield and her officials to think “outside the box”. This was an important opportunity to provide the Minister a personal understanding of MNO issues and concerns from our perspective.

President Belcourt said: “I see these briefing sessions as key to our setting a positive agenda for going forward and to obtaining her commitment to follow through with us in the manner that is required of her and the ‘honour of the crown’.”

In attendance at the briefing were MNO Chair and Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt, Gary Lipinski; MNO Vice-Chair, France Picotte; MNO Executive Director, Pete Lefebvre; MNO Legal Advisor, Jason Madden; and, MNO Senior Policy Advisor, Hank Rowlinson.

## MNO helps Health Minister launch winter activity program in Huntsville

January 22/08 -- The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, with ParticipACTION celebrated the launch of *WinterActive 2008* by leading a group of local community residents and grade school students in a snowshoe relay race at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville, Ontario. The event was kicked off with a demonstration of a traditional Métis activity by Tony Belcourt, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

“The Metis Nation of Ontario takes a holistic approach to health and understands fully that that physical activity is fundamental to sustaining the emotional, spiritual aspect of our overall health,” said Mr. Belcourt.

“The MNO encourages a lifestyle for our people which includes physical activity, as that has been part of our very existence through voyageurs and fur trade to today. We commend Minister Clement for launching the 2008 Winter Active program and will certainly promote it amongst our people and in our communities.”

— excerpted from Public Health Agency of Canada Press Release



Moon River Métis Council's Lisa McCron (left), Tony Belcourt, MNO President (centre) and Health Minister Tony Clement (right) during a snowshoeing demonstration at Deerhurst Resort.

## CENSUS: Métis have biggest increase of Aboriginal populations in Ontario

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is very pleased with the report by Statistics Canada that pegs the number of Métis in Ontario at a level consistent with MNO estimates.

Statistics Canada recorded the highest increase in Canada's Aboriginal population among the Métis in Ontario, 73,605 of whom self-identified as Métis.

Although Métis represent 33% of the overall Aboriginal population in Canada, only a small percentage of government funding goes to Métis. As an example, the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, which is delivered by the Ontario Provincial Government, has an annual budget of \$48M but allocates only 3.35% of this funding to the Métis Nation of Ontario. Furthermore, the Métis do not receive any funds from the Federal Indian and Inuit Affairs Branch whose budget is exclusively for Status Indians and Inuit.

“**THE MÉTIS represent 33% of the overall Aboriginal population in Canada, however ... Métis do not receive funding from the federal or provincial governments that are proportionate to the statistics.**”

MNO President, Tony Belcourt, said: “The Métis Nation of Ontario is not advocating that the funds set aside for First Nations be diverted to the Métis people. We are, however, calling upon both federal and provincial governments to fulfil Canada's constitutional obligations to all of the Aboriginal peoples of this country including the Métis.

“This latest Census Canada data points to glaring discrepancies in funding and we call on both levels of government to rectify the situation. Clearly there are not enough funds set aside to address the needs of our people.”

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# MNR returns seized nets; Métis fisherman says he's still owed an apology

*This article and accompanying pictures are reprinted with the generous permission of the Owen Sound Sun Times.*

BY BILL HENRY  
OWEN SOUND SUN TIMES.

Southampton Métis fisherman Jim McLay on Friday finally got back gill nets that conservation officers seized more than two years ago.

But neither the apology the Sanguingue Métis Council president says he is owed, nor the 54 whitefish also seized Oct. 29, 2005, came with the two boxes of nets, four marker buoys and two anchor chains that were returned to him.

With Métis council members, his children and invited reporters at the loading dock at his home on the Saugeen River, just steps away from several First Nations fishing tugs, the former commercial fisherman lectured conservation officers as they delivered his gear.

He said he wanted them to tell the crowd he had done nothing wrong and later asked about an apology.

"I can't give you that apology," said Robert Gibson, Ministry of Natural Resources enforcement supervisor with the Upper Great Lakes Management Area.

McLay and Gibson debated, mostly amiably, their versions of what happened.

They agreed the law now gives McLay—and other Métis people registered with the Métis Nation of Ontario—the right to catch fish for social, ceremonial and personal use. They disagreed on when that law actually took effect.

McLay believes it began with a July 2004 agreement between the ministry and the Ontario Métis Nation.

That agreement came on the heels of a Supreme Court of



**Fisherman and MNO Citizen Jim McLay reclaims the gill nets seized by conservation officers in 2005.**

Canada ruling on a Sault Ste. Marie case which effectively extended Métis rights to sustenance and ceremonial hunting.

But Gibson said the agreement only affected Métis hunting rights in traditional territories north of the French River. Those rights did not extend to southern Ontario until after a judge ruled last June 1 that ministry officials should honour the agreement throughout the province.

McLay said the June ruling proves he was doing nothing wrong when conservation officers seized his gear. He said he was fishing for his own consumption and for ceremonial food, which was to be served to about 30 people at the Sanguingue Métis Nations annual fall banquet.

"I feel that I deserve an apology," he said. "Those fish weren't

just for myself, they were for our citizens, children and elders."

McLay was never charged with any offence, but said he has not fished in over two years because ministry staff threatened to also seize his boat.

"The main point of today is that I did nothing wrong and I want my children to know that," McLay said before his nets were returned. "I'm not getting off on a technicality. I didn't find a loophole, I did nothing wrong. I was acting completely within the agreement that the Métis Nation of Ontario had with the Ministry of National Resources."

Earlier Friday, Gibson said in a telephone interview the officers

were responding to complaints from local First Nation commercial fishermen about illegal gill netting within their quota area. The officers seized from McLay a half-mile of gill net, enough to catch 2,000 pounds of whitefish in a day under favourable conditions.

At the time the Métis' agreement with MNR did not extend to southern Ontario and the enforcement officers also doubted McLay was fishing for his own purposes. At the time, under terms of the Fish and Wildlife Act, only licensed commercial fishermen could legally possess gill nets, Gibson said.

"The ministry acted correctly

in this situation. We were acting on the laws that were in place . . . If you've got a net set that is a quarter of a mile long, usually a guy is setting for commercial purposes. Are you going to be using 1,000 pounds of fish for personal use?"

"These were some of the questions that were going through some of our heads. That's why the nets were seized at that point in time."

McLay said ministry staff "renege" on the July 2004 agreement between the Métis Nation and the MNR "almost immediately."

Believing the agreement should cover all of Ontario, he said the Métis nation challenged three charges against Métis people for harvesting under terms of the agreement.

That led to the June decision and the change in enforcement policies, Gibson said.

"Our legal advice here is basically as long as they're harvesting under the authority of a harvester's card that is issued by the Métis Nation of Ontario, we're supposed to take that into account when we're doing an investigation."

Dockside Friday, McLay also wanted to know what happened to his 54 whitefish. Gibson said they were processed locally and given to a charity.

McLay said he has thought about his fishing gear every day for the almost 800 days since it was seized. He also said he expects different treatment now that the law is clarified. He said he has nothing to hide and offered to let conservation officers know ahead of time if he plans to fish.

"This is not an end, it's a beginning," he said. "And what I hope it does is convince the ministry to stop what I essentially refer to a bullying tactics."

∞

*"The main point of today is that I did nothing wrong and I want my children to know that," McLay said before his nets were returned.*

## CENSUS: Métis have biggest increase of Aboriginal populations in Ontario

from page 3

The president pointed out that, "the recent analysis is consistent with the trend of the past 10 years, whereby the Census reports of the Métis population within Ontario and Canada continue to rise. We are pleased that the numbers finally fall in line with what we know to be true in Ontario. This is obviously an indication that the Métis people in Ontario have shed the yolk of fear of identity in this province, and are now proud to come forward and identify as Métis, not only to the MNO Registrar but publicly as well."

### Métis Population Highlights

Of the 1,172,790 people who identified themselves as an Abo-

original person in the 2006 Census, **389,785 reported that they were Métis.** This population has almost doubled (increasing by 91%) since 1996.

The Métis accounted for 34% of the overall Aboriginal population in 2006, up from 26% in 1996.

Between 1996 and 2006, there were important political and legal milestones that may have encouraged individuals to identify themselves as Métis. The Métis received significant recognition in the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996) and in recent years, the Métis have won important court cases having an impact on their hunting rights.

**An estimated 9% of people living in Midland, Ontario and 8%, in Kenora, Ontario were Métis.**

The Métis were about twice as likely as non-Aboriginal people to live in a crowded home or to live in a home in need of major repairs. (The need for major

repairs was in the judgement of respondents.)

**An estimated 4% of Métis spoke an Aboriginal language in 2006,** compared with 5% in 2001. The ability to converse in an Aboriginal language was more common among rural Métis than urban Métis (6% versus 2%). Though few Métis speak an Aboriginal language, according to the



### THE CENSUS ENUMERATED

**85,500 Métis in Alberta**  
22% of the tot., Aboriginal pop.

**73,605 Métis in Ontario**  
19% of the tot., Aboriginal pop.

**71,805 Métis in Manitoba**  
18% of the tot., Aboriginal pop.

**59,445 Métis in British Columbia**  
16% of the tot., Aboriginal pop.

**48,115 Métis in Saskatchewan**  
12% of the tot., Aboriginal pop.

2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey, about half reported that keeping, learning or relearning their Aboriginal language was very or somewhat important to them.

Older Métis were more likely to speak an Aboriginal language. An estimated 12% of Métis aged 75 years and over were able to converse in an Aboriginal language, compared with 9% of those aged 65 to 74, and 6% of people aged 45 to 64. Less than 3% of Métis aged 44 and under spoke an Aboriginal language.

The most commonly spoken Aboriginal language among Métis is Cree. In 2006, 9,360 Métis could carry on a conversation in Cree, an Algonquian language. This compares with 1,620 who spoke Dene, an Athapaskan language, 1,345 who spoke Ojibway, another Algonquian language and fewer than 1,000 who spoke other Algonquian languages, including Michif. Michif is the traditional language of the Métis which evolved from the intermingling of Cree and French languages. ∞

## We need Métis history & culture books

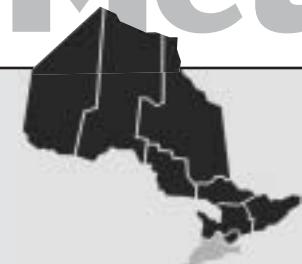
The Niagara Region Métis Council has formed a committee to create a small library and reading area in the lounge of their council office. The lounge has an area that would be perfect for this purpose.

This council is hoping that individuals or other established councils will be able to help by donating books on Métis history and culture. If the library project is successful, the council hopes to create a literacy program for citizens in the future. Any donations may be sent to:

Niagara Region Métis Council  
20 Division Street  
Welland, ON L3B 3Z6  
Attn: Richard Paquette, Chair



# Métis Councils



## Grand River Community Métis Council

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON  
Ph: 519-648-3548  
e: ruthrobbins@rogers.com

## Windsor/Essex/Kent MC

21 Hellems Avenue  
Welland, ON L3B 3A8  
Ph: 905-735-1112

NEW AND REVITALIZED MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY COUNCILS OFF AND RUNNING

## Niagara Métis honour Riel

BY SENATOR STEPHEN QUESNELLE  
NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL

On November 16, 2007, the Niagara Region Métis Council raised the Métis flag at Welland City Hall in honour of Louis Riel. Welland Mayor, Damian Goulbourne and Councillors, Rick Alakas and Sandy O'Dell were in attendance on an exciting day for the Métis of the Niagara Region.

We were able to accomplish this within six weeks thanks to the help of Patricia Lejour and Jane Brennan at the MNO Head Office. We wish to express our thanks and great appreciation to these two ladies, without whose help we would not have received the flag in time.

The Niagara Region Métis interim council was formed on

October 27, 2007, out of the former Welland Métis Council, so that we can all be seen as one community. We would like to thank Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair; France Picotte, MNO Co-Chair and Hank Rowlinson, MNO Senior Policy Analyst for coming to Welland to help with the organising and installation of the new council. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to Senator Reta Gordon for all her wise counsel and encouragement. What would we do without her?

We are settling into our new offices, thanks to Glen Lipinski, who is graciously sharing some of his space with our council and we are now looking forward to an exciting year of new purpose and endeavour to draw the Niagara Region Métis people together.



from left to right: **Gregory Bloom, Karen Gellman, Anthony Templer and Senator Andre Bosse.**

## Flying Colours

BY SENATOR ANDRE BOSSE

Again this year I had the great privilege of carrying the Métis flag during Grand Entry at the Toronto Aboriginal Festival at the Roger's Centre in Toronto.

The Toronto Pow Wow is the largest Aboriginal gathering in the province and I feel it is imperative that the MNO be represented there. How are we to prove to the Government of Ontario that there are Metis in Ontario, specifically in the south, if there are none at this most public venue.

The MNO has been in court for years now trying to prove that there are Métis in southern Ontario and I feel that when there are no Métis at gatherings like this it makes the case harder to prove. And, there are government representatives at the gathering. I coincidentally shared a lunch table with a woman from the new Ontario Ministry for Aboriginal

Affairs. She was there in an unofficial capacity; she had brought her son to see the festivities.

In 2006, Karen Gellman, Toronto Co-ordinator of Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children, and I were the only Metis in the Grand Entry. In 2007 Karen and I were joined by Anthony Templer, Gregory Bloom, and Devin Eby. This is a very poor showing for a nation of thousands of people. I realise that the MNO is under severe monetary restrictions. Therefore, I am hoping that individuals would find it possible to finance their own trip, especially people who live a few hours drive from Toronto. Admission to the stadium is \$10.00, and is worth the expense even if for the thrill of seeing the "Dome" from the playing field. The Pow Wow is held the last weekend in November, and details can be gotten at their web site. I hope to see you there in 2008.

The blue infinity of the Métis flag flies over Welland City Hall.



The Voyageur encourages respectful sharing of experiences and opinions. Letters to the Editor should be sent to [llord@kingston.net](mailto:llord@kingston.net)

## Windsor's renewed Council

by Jim Turner  
WINDSOR/ESSEX/KENT MC

A tip of the Métis cha-  
peau to all the new  
councils in Ontario  
and my hope is that we can  
all work together to make the Métis  
Nation stronger. Without volun-  
teers, organisations such as ours  
would not be able to run effi-  
ciently, so kudos to all.

This new council has a vision  
to be the best one that Windsor  
can put together. We have imagi-  
nation and take inspiration from  
one another as if we were family.  
We invite our community to call  
any of us with problems or  
maybe just to attend a meeting to  
see what's going on. As with any  
new council there are some  
bumps in the road, but slow and  
easy wins the race and we take  
one thing at a time so as not to be  
overwhelmed.

We are also working in con-



junction with First Nations people  
in the area to make this com-  
ing year's Aboriginal celebration a  
great success. As far as I know  
now, we are planning on having  
2000 people attend the festivi-  
ties, and we are going to make it  
an international event as well. If  
everything goes as planned it will

be the biggest one in the area,  
and of course anyone that reads  
this newspaper is invited. The  
details are now being ironed out  
and we will put our efforts into  
making this weekend a memo-  
rable occasion. Camping facilities  
will be available for this two-day,  
powwow style event. It will be

left to right (back row): **Carol Reaume, councillor; Jason Haney, technical adviser to council; Sharlene Lance, secretary-treasurer; Marie Carew, councillor; Cherise O'Neil, councillor; Donna O'Neil, vice-president; Gary Lovell, senators' assistant; Charlene Rhody, councillor; (front) Jim Turner, President and Earl Scofield, Senator.**

held at a gorgeous park down on  
the Detroit River in the west end  
of Windsor in the historic area of  
OLDE SANDWICH TOWNE. We  
know it will be worth the drive  
and there are plenty of places to  
stay if you wish to take in both  
days.

For all the details please call  
our office at 519-948-9908.

*Jim Turner is President of the Windsor/Essex/Kent Community Métis Council. He can be reached at [cturner@gushueone.com](mailto:cturner@gushueone.com).*

GEORGIAN BAY  
MÉTIS COUNCIL

## 2008 GBMC meeting dates

The Georgian Bay Métis Council General Assembly Meeting dates and times are as follows:

**May 11/08, 1-4PM**  
**September 14/08, 1-4PM**  
**November 2/08, 1-4PM**

All meetings take place at the North Simcoe Sports & Recreation Centre, 527 Len Self Boulevard, Midland ON. In the Bill Thompson Room.

Bart Caughey  
GBMC Office Coordinator  
Ph: 705-526-6335  
[gbmccouncil@rogers.com](mailto:gbmccouncil@rogers.com)

NORTHUMBERLAND  
MÉTIS COUNCIL

## Fall Election

This is to notify everyone of our upcoming elections for the Northumberland Métis Council planned for September 28th, 2008.

Council has requested that Hank Rowlinson be the returning officer for the Northumberland Métis Council.

*Wayne Trudeau is the Interim President of the Northumberland Métis Council. He can be contacted by email at: [northumberland@metisnation.org](mailto:northumberland@metisnation.org)*

GEORGIAN BAY  
MÉTIS COUNCIL

## Busy times for the Ottawa Métis Council

A new Ottawa Regional Métis Council has been elected. The new council members are:

Lois McCallum - *Senator*  
Ray Girard - *President*  
Robert Pellerin - *Vice President*  
Lynn Pantuso - *Women's Rep*  
Louise Vien - *Councillor*  
Peter Wellington - *Councillor*  
JoAnne Wass - *Sec/Treasurer*, celebrating her 10th year on the Ottawa Métis Council

We hope to inform all citizens in Region 6, the National Capital Region, of all community events; so please get on the email list.

We are looking for Métis artists, craftspeople and musicians who are interested in arts funding and performing or displaying their work.

For information on Métis citizenship, grant opportunities, harvesting rights and local cultural events, the council encourages all Métis to contact Ray Girard the Ottawa Métis Council President.

Ph: 613-755-0693  
e: [president@ottawametis.ca](mailto:president@ottawametis.ca)




**Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council**

26 Queen Street East  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3  
Ph: 705-254-1768  
Fx: 705-254-3515

**Grand River Metis Council**

32 Menno St.  
Breslau, ON N0B 1M0  
Ph: 519-648-3548  
e: ruthrobbins@metisnation.org

**MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS:**


Front row: MNO Vice-Chair, **France Picotte**; **PCMNO Chair, Gary Lipinski**; **Ruth Robbins**; **MNO President Tony Belcourt and Eric Scofield**. Back row: **Carol Lévis, Linda Giesler, Sean Paquette, Don Crawford, Barbara White, Sandy O'Brien and Mark Courtepatte**.

BY **BARBARA WHITE**

GRAND RIVER COMMUNITY MC

2007 was a great year for the Métis citizens of the Grand River community area. We held our first meeting, with over 30 Métis citizens in attendance, on March 31, 2007, at the Doon campus of Conestoga College in Kitchener. An interim council was formed at this successful meeting.

The interim council held several meetings in 2007. It was at these meetings that we had the opportunity to learn how council meetings were to be conducted. We also had an opportunity to meet and learn from fellow Métis citizens. Eric (Captain of the Hunt for Region 9) and Anne Scofield attended our first meeting, and presented us with an official Métis flag, and a talking feather. At another meeting, Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator, Kathleen Lannigan, from Hamilton showed us how to smudge. We were graciously invited to attend a Hamilton Council meeting, where we were afforded the opportunity to meet members of the Hamilton Council. They have taught us so much that we can share with our fellow citizens.

# A Very Good Year

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2007 INCLUDE CHARTER SIGNING FOR NEW GRAND RIVER COMMUNITY MÉTIS COUNCIL

To cap off a year of firsts, we signed our official Charter Agreement on October 29, 2007. It was a tremendously proud day for all of us in the area. MNO President, Tony Belcourt; PCMNO Chair, Gary Lipinski; and MNO Co-Chair, France Picotte were in attendance for this momentous event. The dignitaries shared interesting Métis and MNO history, traditions, accomplishments, and details of what the MNO is currently working on. We were also fortunate to have the attendance and support of local dignitaries: Waterloo Mayor, Brenda Halloran, and Federal MP, Andrew Telegdi. Although

### COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING VOLUNTEERS (ALL INTERIM POSITIONS):

**Ruth Robbins**, President  
**Mark Courtepatte**, Chair  
**Sandy O'Brien**, Sec/Treasurer  
**Don Crawford**, Senator  
**Barbara White**, Women's Rep  
**Sean Paquette**, Councillor  
**Linda Giesler**, Councillor  
**Carol Lévis**, Councillor

Kitchener Mayor, Carl Zehr, was unable to attend, he sent a letter of support.

While we enjoy learning the history of our forefathers, the



Métis citizens of this area have embarked on making history of their own. Part of that history will be that the Grand River Community Métis Council (GRCMC) will be holding its first election in 2008. We are aiming for April. We will be electing Métis citizens for the above mentioned interim positions. We look forward to as many of our Métis citizens as possible participating in this event.

In closing, the Grand River Community Métis Council would like to thank the many Grand River citizens who made contact with us before we had a chance

to make contact with them, and we invite all Métis interested in becoming members of our local community to contact us. If we have not contacted you and you are part of Grand River area please email interim President Ruth at: ruthrobbins@rogers.com and she will be sure to respond.

We thank the Métis Nation of Ontario, and all of its citizens who have supported us in our quest for a council.

*Barbara White is the interim Women's Rep for the Niagara Region Métis Council.*

# Strengthening Families for the Future in the Soo

BY **KAREN POSSAMAI**

"Strengthening Families for the Future in Sault Ste Marie" is a newly established program. A proposal submitted by the Historic Sault Ste Marie Métis Council obtained a one-time grant from the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. The co-ordinator's position is funded through the Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives with a Job Creation Partnership.

Intended for families who are dealing with addictions and/or other issues, the program is intended to reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors. It started in October, 2007 and will run until May, 2008.

To begin with, parents, chil-

dren and facilitators meet and share a meal or snack. The families and facilitators also make a component of the meal together to create a relaxed and open atmosphere. The sessions are broken into two one-hour sessions with facilitators to lead separate sessions for children and adults during the first hour. Next, the parents and children come back together for the family session during the second hour. In the family session, by sharing information, they discuss what they learned. The facilitators are available to open up discussion and answer any questions or concerns. At the time of writing, we have completed session one and have had exceptional attendance of between 35 and 47 individuals



**INTENDED FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS AND/OR OTHER ISSUES, THE PROGRAM INTENDS TO REDUCE RISK FACTORS..."**

the night of the workshops. These numbers include parents, children, volunteer facilitators and student volunteers.

Both the parents and children participants of the *Strengthening Families* workshop are ecstatic at the positive results accomplished within the family dynamic by the completion of session one.

Those who attend are always looking forward to the next session and to learning new techniques for positive reinforcement in parenting, anger management skills and communication.

Thank you to the following agencies and local business establishments for their support and dedication in making *Strengthening Families* a success: the Historic Sault Ste Marie Metis Council; Metis Nation of Ontario; Sault Ste. Marie Police Services; Anishinabek Police Services; Focus Coalition Sault Ste Marie; Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Soup Kitchen Community Centre; Children's Aid Society; Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation; Sault Youth Council; Batchewana Health Services; Mis-

sanabie Cree; Garden River First Nation; Indian Friendship Centre; Teen Challenge North; Access Aids Network; 7500 Taxi Service and the many volunteers.

I would also like to thank Ontario Works for their support and dedication to making it possible for *Strengthening Families* to have continual success!

If you would like more information on this program or know a family that you think might be interested in registering, please contact:

**Karen Possamai/Co-ordinator**  
c/o Historic Sault Ste. Marie MC  
26 Queen Street East  
Sault Ste Marie, ON, P6A 1Y3  
Ph: 705-254-1768  
mno-sfc@shaw.ca



# THE OSHAWA MÉTIS COUNCIL: 2007, THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Top left, l to r: **Oshawa Mayor John Gray, Senator Olive Tiedema and Oshawa Métis Council President, Rob Pilon at Riel Day ceremonies at Oshawa City Hall.** Top right, l to r: **Senator, Andre Bosse; Anthony Woodruff, Brock Ward #3 Councillor; John Grant, Durham Regional Councillor; Senator Olive Tiedema; Larry O'Connor, Mayor of Brock, at Dog Sled Races in Cannington.** Bottom left, l to r: **MNO Chair, Gary Lipinski; Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington; MNO President, Tony Belcourt; Mayor of Whitby, Pat Perkins; Mayor of Oshawa, John Gray, at Métis Heritage Celebration in Brooklin.** Bottom right: **Revellers at the Oshawa Métis Councils Holiday Gathering and Potluck.**

## Métis-style Celebrations in 'Shwa

BY ART HENRY

OSHAWA MÉTIS COUNCIL

**T**he Oshawa Métis Council was honoured that we were once again part of the Cannington Dogsled Races for the third time. Thanks to Chris and Larry O'Connor who generously sponsored the Oshawa Métis Council.

This event was held on February 24, 2007, at McLeod Park in Cannington. The Oshawa Métis Council did the annual smudging at the start of this event that attracted mushers from all over Ontario as well as from the US. Over 4,000 people attended this non-stop action event.

### MÉTIS HERITAGE CELEBRATION

The Council also hosted a Métis Heritage Celebration in Brooklin, on June 23,

“  
**ALTHOUGH WE  
HAD A BIGGER  
HALL THAN  
LAST YEAR ...  
WE HAVE AGAIN  
OUTGROWN  
THE HALL.”**

2007. Thanks to “Celebrate Canada” for their sponsorship of this event.

There were Métis games; displays and demonstrations of traditional leather work, beadwork, bannock making, fiddling and a fiddle display by Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington of the Métis Nation of Ontario; a dramatisation of Louis Riel's wife's life by Amy White; Trapper Bob; a jigging workshop and performance by

Lawrence “Teddy Boy” Houle; jigging contest; silent auction and a 50/50 draw. There were also Native and Métis tales and legends, the Shwa Drummers of Oshawa, a potluck dinner, and much more. This was a fun event through which the Oshawa Métis Council was able to expose over 500 family, friends and the general public to the Métis culture and history.

Special thanks to all our volunteers, especially the women who organised the potluck dinner; Cecile Wagar who organised this event and to the MNO, for making this event possible.

### MÉTIS FLAG--OSHAWA CITY HALL

The Oshawa Métis Council also raised the Métis flag on November 16, 2007, at Oshawa City Hall in honour of Louis Riel, to remember his contribution to the people of Canada. About 30 people attended

the flag raising ceremony where Mayor John Gray proclaimed this day to be “Louis Riel Day in Oshawa”. Our flag flew proudly that day and for the next two weeks. Louis Riel Day is now an annual event here in Oshawa.

### MÉTIS HOLIDAY POTLUCK

The Oshawa Métis Council held its 3rd Annual Métis Holiday Gathering and Potluck Get-Together over the Christmas holidays on December 29, 2007. We had an evening of good food, conversation, and some Métis dancing and music. Although we had a bigger hall than last year, with over 100 people in attendance, we have again outgrown the hall.

Thanks to all those who attended our get together and all the volunteers who made this event, enjoyable. Bigger hall next year! ∞

## APTN Sound Sessions

Saturdays 6:30 to 8 pm et 1 pt  
See who's jamming on *Rez Bluez*  
and *When the Music Speaks* at [aptn.ca](http://aptn.ca)

Can't miss music on





### Want to learn Michif?

Animikii, in partnership with the Métis Nation of British Columbia and the Government of Canada are working on enhancing the [www.LearnMichif.com](http://www.LearnMichif.com) web site. There is even a commercial posted on youtube.

[www.learnmichif.com](http://www.learnmichif.com)

### HEALTH THROUGH TOUCH



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### Métis Cookhouse

by Gail Leblanc

While touring Newfoundland we found the people extremely friendly and ready to share their favourite recipes. Here are two more which we have been making this winter.

#### Moose Stew

- 3 pounds moose
- 1/4 pound butter or margarine
- 6 cups water
- Salt and pepper to taste

Brown moose meat in hot butter or margarine, add water, salt & pepper. Simmer 30 minutes then add chopped onions and cook on low for a hour.

Cut up and add: 2 carrots, 2 parsnips, 1 small turnip and 10 medium potatoes and cook for 30 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

#### Creamed Codfish

- 2 cups of cooked codfish - fresh or frozen
- 3 cups of milk
- 4 tbsp of butter or margarine
- 4 tbsp of flour
- salt and pepper to taste

Melt butter or margarine in top of a double broiler, blend in flour, add milk gradually and cook, stirring constantly until sauce thickens. Add flaked fish. Add salt and pepper. Serve on toast, or with hot baking powder biscuits or over broiled potatoes. Enjoy.

## GENEALOGY



# A Journey to the Old World

BY SENATOR JOSEPH POITRAS  
OSHAWA MÉTIS COUNCIL

Over the last few years I've developed an interest in my family genealogy. Thinking back, I believe my interest was sparked by the Métis Nation of Ontario tracing my Métis bloodline. Before that I did not have a great deal of interest in my family history. The only paternal ancestors I could easily name at the time of my application for MNO citizenship, without doing some tracing myself, were my father and my grandfather.

My brother, who lives in Winnipeg, provided me with some family background information that he got from the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). The information obtained through MMF really fuelled my curiosity. The MMF records showed that my original European ancestor, Jean Baptiste Poitras, was born in the Clisson/Cugand France area circa 1634. He was also the only Poitras to migrate to New France.

With information found on my computer I discovered that every Poitras in North America has a common ancestor and that is Jean Baptist Poitras. The more information I gathered the more it seemed that Jean Baptiste was a relative of more recent vintage than someone who was born in the 1600s. I don't know why I felt especially connected to him, knowing he migrated to New France in the mid 1600s, a very long time ago.

I discovered that Jean Baptiste managed quite well in New France. He is referred to as "bourgeoisie". He was married twice and had 27 children. Given that kind of start, small wonder that there are so many people who share my surname in North America. Regardless of the many Poitras' there are in North America, I've only known my immediate family.

My wife, Elsa, reluctantly decided to sell her business which she loved so much and retire in early November, 2007. We occasionally talked about going to the Clisson/Cugand area of France to see if we could find any trace of my European ancestors. Elsa's retirement was the springboard we needed to help us decide that this would be a good time in our lives to go to France to see what we could find

there of the Poitras family.

Neither of us was optimistic we would find much Poitras information in Clisson/Cugand. We had little expectation of finding cemetery records, which we knew could be helpful. We were told that in France a burial plot only belongs to the family of the deceased for 50 years. That kind of information made it easy for us to believe that our search would lead us nowhere. We decided to go there regardless of the expected outcome, enjoy our trip, and not be overly concerned about the probable lack of a positive result to our search.

In order to gain some insight into what Jean Baptiste went through to get to the new world, and believing that some insight would be all that we would come away with from our trip, we decided to try to retrace his steps to New France. We included visiting La Rochelle in our plans. We wanted to see the seaport from which this young teenager sailed to the new world. We would then go on to Italy for the rest of our trip.

The most accessible mode of transportation in France is the railway. We went from Paris to Nante, via train then took a commuter train from Nante to Clisson.

Just as an aside Nante is a very beautiful city in the Loire Valley of approximately 500,000 citizens. Although it's larger it reminded me of Quebec City.

Cugand and Clisson are about three miles apart. A very helpful young lady in the tourist bureau in Clisson suggested we start our search in Cugand, which is the smaller of these two neighbouring small cities. In addition, because of developments in the history of that part of France Cugand would more likely have the records we were looking for, if in fact some records existed. She suggested we start our search at Cugand City Hall and that we did.

On arriving at Cugand City Hall we asked the clerk if we could check the archives to try to find some information about my one ancestor who emigrated to Canada. She asked us our name and when we told her, much to our surprise she said Mr. Poitras lives in La Grande Maison. He gets lots of visitors from Canada and I'm sure he would be glad to welcome you. Would you like me to call him? It's difficult to express

continued page 10

### IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE MNO REGISTRY:



## Registry Overhaul

### Métis Nation of Ontario Registry undergoing automation which will greatly reduce time to process applications

BY KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT  
MNO REGISTRAR

Please note, regular Registry activities are being reduced considerably in order to complete the digitisation of citizenship files. As a result, for the next two months, telephone inquiries will be directed to our voice mail and only urgent calls will be returned within 48 hours.

This project is the first phase—and a very important component—of the *Registration Automation Initiative* and the creation of a genealogical documents archive. Although it will take two years to complete these initiatives, the result will be well worth it; the time required to process applications will be reduced by 75%.

Our goal is to have the resources to assist our applicants with research for supporting documentation.

We apologise for the delay and inconvenience this will cause to citizens and applicants. The Registry team expresses its sincere thanks to the Métis community for your patience and understanding in this time of intense activity.



Walking sticks carved from a birch branch by Keith Leroux.

## Walking sticks

BY GAETAN LEROUX

It all started with a family reunion that was held in Cornwall last year for the Leroux family (See the fall 2007 edition of the *Voyageur*). My oldest son, Kevin, was able to take part in the three day weekend ceremony and made it a special day for me. My youngest son however, was in South Korea on a teaching contract and not able to attend. Keith returned home about two weeks after the great reunion.

During our meeting our cousin, Senator Jacques Leroux, provided us with many articles pertaining to the Métis people, among them was a walking stick. I believe that my oldest son Kevin must have mentioned it to his younger brother Keith. No sooner said than Keith went to work on carving me my very own walking stick (with over 100 hours of craftsmanship) and presented it to me at Christmas (2007).

I was amazed at the details and research he put into it and would like to share it with others. I hope these pictures will do it justice. In the meantime I have applied to the MNO and am waiting to get my two sons and myself approved for citizenship.



# Métis Senators



## The duties, beliefs and experiences of a Métis Elder

BY SENATOR GORDON CALDER  
SUNSET COUNTRY MÉTIS COUNCIL

I first joined the Métis cause in the fall of 1994 and have been involved as a Senator and a volunteer for the Sunset Country Métis out of Fort Frances ever since.

I wish to tell everyone that we not only listen to our members, but help out our different government programs and work with other health programs and committees, such as the United Native Friendship Centre, Seven Generations (Education Institute, designed to provide for the education and training needs of Aboriginal people in the Rainy Lake area), and the healthy food box program which is a project to help everyone eat green veggies and fruit.

We started with 46 boxes but that has grown to 530. At the Metis Hall at 714 Armit Avenue about 30 volunteers pack the boxes. For \$20 dollars a month you get approximately \$50 worth of bananas, oranges, apples, cantaloupe, celery, etc. (See below for more info.)

We help out with the Fun in the Sun activities (an annual festival including Mall Days,

Teddy Bear Picnic, Canada Day Parade, Queen & Mini-Queen Pageants, Fireworks, Horseshoe Tournaments, Pie Sales, Fish n' Chips, Food Booths, Children's Activities, Bathtub Races, and much more) and the Sunset Country's Métis Fishfry at the world famous bass tournament; and we run the July 1st and Labour Day horse shoe tournaments. We also help out with Relay for Life. ("Relay for Life" is a 12-hour event running from 7 p.m. on a Friday until 7 a.m. on Saturday, in which teams of pledged participants take turns walking a course. All proceeds go to the Canadian Cancer Society.)

Life is what you yourself make of it and it can be very satisfying. I myself have coached minor hockey for 33 years and helped send four boys to the NHL and six to college hockey in the States where some have stayed to coach their college teams.

Life's been good to me. The Lord blessed me with five girls and three boys who produced 14 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

We elders do our share to help the world.

*Gordon Calder is the Senator for the Sunset Country Métis Council.*

*“Life's been good to me. The Lord blessed me with five girls and three boys who produced 14 grandchildren and several great grandchildren. We elders do our share to help the world.”*



## What it means to be a Senator

BY SENATOR RUTH WAGNER  
MOON RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL

Citizens of the MNO may wonder what the role of a Senator is. As they all know, we meet separately for our own meetings at the AGA. We are available for our individual councils to give Elder presence, advice, and Métis cultural stories. Beyond that, we all have individual lives. My life is surrounded with music.

I play music--fiddle and piano and organ--and also make and repair violins and other stringed instruments.

When I was a child I was fortunate enough to have parents who paid for many years of musical instruction. My maternal grandmother used to say that music was a gift from the Creator. Many people might want to play but do not have the talent, and because it was a gift, we were to share it, not to keep it to ourselves, thereby bringing pleasure to others as well as ourselves.

For ten months of the year I go three times a month, once to each of the nursing homes in my community, and play fiddle for a group of seniors who dance for the residents. It is pleasurable to see people in wheelchairs, often not really with it, perk up and smile and tap to the dancing and fiddling to the tunes and dances they knew and did.

This December, I played the piano at nursing homes twice for the Boy Scouts as they sang and entertained the residents. I played my usual three afternoons; I played on Sunday, December 23rd, for two sittings of a Christmas meal given for people who were going to be without if they didn't have the community rally round; on Christmas Eve I played the church organ, and Christmas Day I played for another dinner, this time for those who would have been alone.

At each of these occasions, I wore my bright red Métis dress, making a public statement that it wasn't just Ruth playing, but Senator Ruth doing so with great pride in my ancestry. ∞

## PARTNERSHIP ENCOURAGES HEALTHIER EATING HABITS IN FORT FRANCES AREA

# Good health comes in a box



BY LINDA LORD

This program began over a year ago as a partnership between the Northwestern Health Unit and Sunset Country Métis in an effort to create healthier eating patterns among local residents.

"We saw the need for such a program in the area and decided this was the way to go about it. [It] promotes healthy food consumption," said Ann-Marie Armstrong, health educator for the Sunset Country Métis.

On the first Wednesday of the month, anyone who wants to purchase a "healthy living food box" must drop off \$20 at the Sunset Country Métis office at 426 Victoria Avenue. Then, on the third Wednesday of the month the box is ready for pick-up at the Métis Hall.

Each box contains in-season fruits and vegetables, as well as whole grain products, canned foods, and basic healthy items. The types of foods change each month to offer variety. Basic items, such as potatoes, carrots, onions, apples, bananas, and oranges, are usually included each month. Participants may even request recipe ideas and

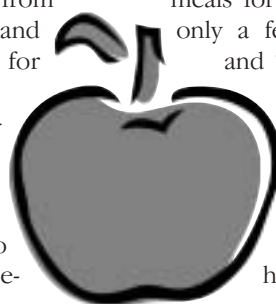
shopping guides (just ask when placing your order).

The entire \$20 goes directly toward the food purchases which actually cost more than that. The extra cost is covered by corporate sponsorships. "We've had a lot of support from some really great people and groups in our community, and we work extremely hard to put the boxes together," Armstrong noted.

Volunteers hand fill the boxes with fresh produce, from a local distributor, and get them ready for pick-up.

Anyone can participate in the program which is open to the public and designed to benefit every house-

hold. It is ideal for people who find it difficult to get enough fruit and vegetables in their diet, or to get out to shop for groceries. The program helps ensure that families have healthy food items in their kitchen cupboards every month. The items in the box can provide meals for a family of four with only a few added ingredients and "people don't have to order a box every month if they don't want to," said Armstrong. "The idea is to get people to plan ahead and think about healthy diets."



# THANK YOU GORDON!

January always brings a time for reflection on the year just gone by. We take a look at our successes, our failures, and the people who have an impact on us. Here in Fort Frances we are very fortunate to have one person who is a very kind, hard working individual. Senator Gordon Calder goes above and beyond and provides us with not only guidance and support, but is always available no matter what task lays ahead.

The girls at the office can always count on Senator Gord to fill our office with laughter at his jokes and antics. We are very careful about letting him know what our needs or wishes are, because if Gord can make it happen, he will. He shovels the

*“Senator Calder goes above and beyond and provides us with not only guidance and support, but is always available no matter what task lays ahead.”*

walk, changes light bulbs, helps with the Healthy Living Food Program, gets the broken coffee pot fixed, puts up our Christmas tree and turns the heat up so that we can run our programs. Of course, we always enjoy Char-

lotte's homemade baking that Senator Gord brings to us.

He does all things with a great sense of humour and manages to keep a watchful eye on us. Senator Gord is very active with our Council, and also

devotes a lot of time to organizing and being part of community activities.

We were very pleased when, at our "Proud to be Canadian" Community Feast held on November 9th 2007, he was recognized by MP (Thunder Bay, Rainy River) Ken Boshcoff for working diligently and unconditionally behind the scenes.

We, the staff would like to thank Senator Gord for all his help, tireless efforts and just for being there for us. We love you Gord!

*This article was submitted by the MNOI and Health Branch staff at the Sunset Country Métis Council office: Dana, Sabrina, Charmaine and Anne-Marie.*



Senator Gordon Calder and MP Ken Boshcoff.



# Métis Council's busy year

Community Council re-learning Métis history and traditions while building for the future

BY LEORA WILSON

GREY-OWEN SOUND MÉTIS COUNCIL



The Grey-Owen Sound Métis community had a busy year, with lots of occasions to confirm their presence in the area.

Our annual Aboriginal Day picnic at Harrison Park was a resounding success, attended by representatives of Region 7, of MNO, and by local dignitaries, including the acting mayor and councillors of Owen Sound, as well as provincial and federal government candidates. We had music by our talented Métis musicians, lots of great food, and a wonderful crowd of over 100 people attending this year. We involved the youth whenever possible and discovered new talents for future gatherings.

As Senator I, was honoured to represent our community at the AGA in Thunder Bay. The Senators' Forum filled the weekend with a wonderful blend of business and fun. There were 31 of 33 Senators of the MNO attending. The rest of the week was full of events, with interesting MNO business reports keeping the various representatives informed and current. There was also ample opportunity for entertainment, fun and socialising. Heavy rain-falls dampened some of the AGA enthusiasm, but all in all, the week was very interesting, enjoyable and educational.

This was Owen Sound's Homecoming year and 150th birthday celebration. Held in late July, these events brought lots of invitations for the Métis community to participate in the festivities.

At the "Hottest Yard Sale" I

represented the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council with an exhibit offering information to the many visitors who stopped at the display.

I volunteered for a short time at the children's tent at the Marine and Rail Museum which featured Métis leather crafts, a scavenger hunt, spoon-playing, story time, etc.

I was invited to take my auto-harp to a stopover for the Amazing Race at M'Wikwedong Friendship Cultural Centre and accompanied Ralph Cadotte, Metis fiddler.

A float entered in the Homecoming Parade completed the busy week. One of our citizens constructed a Red River cart with Métis-specific trappings, and several Métis citizens, including me, were carried proudly through the city streets.

I enjoyed the Métis Day celebration in August at Discovery Harbour in Penetang. It featured displays, activities, music, etc. Representing GOSMC, the St. Germaines presented their tobacco display, and Rudy and Jean Couture were featured musicians.

The 2nd Weaving our Communities Conference held in September at the Outdoors Education Centre near Wiarton was a huge success, again including a Métis presence. I was honoured to represent our council as a Métis Elder. A large display by Scott Carpenter, a Michif language workshop by Rene Laurin, and Metis fiddling by Ralph Cadotte were a few highlights of the two-day event.

Many of the GOSMC community attended the *Rendezvous* at Lafontaine in late September, with so many displays and events to attract and entertain our citizens. There, you are assured of

## COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT THEM

BY SUSAN SCHANK

Hello, my name is Susan Schank and I volunteer for the Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council. We were fortunate to be able put on a *Volunteers and Friends of the Métis Nation* Christmas appreciation event for the Grey-Owen Sound Métis on December 12th, 2007. We had great food, give-aways, games, songs and lots of fun. We honoured 36 people with thanks for all the help they gave us over the year. We could not have accomplished so much without their efforts.



Jessie Brown (top) and Adam Brown (below) receive sashes for their volunteer efforts.



meeting friends from all MNO communities. I was honoured to be able to once again make music with the talented Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington. We entertained ourselves and a small crowd who gathered to hear several songs composed by the two senators. We both hope that we are able to make this a tradition in the future.

In late September, our council hosted a meeting sponsored by the MNO featuring Gary Lipinski, Hank Rowlinson and Doug Wil-

son as guest speakers. We learned of some of the ways that the MNO is working for the Métis communities in Ontario.

In October, Scott Carpenter came to our gathering place and offered a film on the Métis Canoe Expedition, as well as a movie on Fort William at Thunder Bay, surprising us with his acting talent. We were honoured at this time to be presented with an autographed book written by author Kathleen Coleclough of KAKWA, a Métis business in Saskatchewan.

The children's book of legends was nominated for "Book of the Year" in Saskatchewan in 2007, and was brought to us by the author's parents.

In October nominations were received for a new council, replacing the interim council. The following people were acclaimed by the process:

*President:* Malcolm Dixon;  
*Vice-President:* Jeff Wilson;  
*Sec-Treasurer:* Ernie Coates;  
*Youth Rep:* Shannon Coates;  
*Councillors:* Tony Couture, Peter Couture & Peter Gendron;  
*Senator:* Leora Wilson.

“

**WE HAD MUSIC BY OUR TALENTED MÉTIS MUSICIANS, LOTS OF GREAT FOOD, AND A WONDERFUL CROWD OF OVER 100 PEOPLE...”**

The new council hopes to represent our community well over the next few years.

Here in Owen Sound we are blessed with a roomy, comfortable gathering place. We have a library of Aboriginal reading material. There is a full kitchen where we can share potluck gatherings or just enjoy a cup of tea. The large room is perfect for a small gathering or a large crowd. We plan to hold various workshops in the coming year.

We look forward to another busy year and council members are proud to represent and reach out to our community. We thank the MNO for its continued support in all our endeavours. Our goal as a community is to relearn our colourful history and the traditions of our forefathers in this area. We are indeed blessed.

Wishing you all many achieved ambitions in 2008.

*Leora Wilson is Senator for the Grey-Owen Sound Metis Council*

## A Journey to the Old World

from page 8

the way we re-acted to news we never imagined to be possible. We went from not even expecting to find helpful records to actually hearing that a very distant relative lived there. They called Marcel Poitras and he asked them to tell us to come to La Grand Maison.

When the helpful people at Cugand City Hall discovered that we had arrived there via taxi and had no means of transportation to La Grande Maison one of the ladies offered to drive us there. On our arrival Marcel Poitras welcomed us. After a brief tour of the property, (It's wine country, therefore, vineyards) we entered La Grand Maison and Marcel began to tell us what he knew about Jean Baptiste, his family and the property as it was when Jean Baptiste left for the new world.

The property had protective walls around La Grand Maison. La Grande Maison had what I think

are called turrets (They look like farm silos.) in the four corners so that when they were attacked they could climb the turrets from the inside and pour hot water over their attackers. The house was built in 1410, more than 80 years before North America was discovered. Only one of the turrets still stands and it's beginning to show its age. Marcel has saved the rocks that have fallen off the last standing turret. He has had the Mayor of Cugand authenticate the fallen rocks with his signature and then gives them to North American Poitras's who come looking for their roots in Cugand.

There were surprises, the first of which was that, at birth Jean Baptiste was thought to be still-born. His, what was then believed lifeless, body was placed on a shelf, given the last rights according to the Catholic faith and plans made to bury him later that day. After a short while this baby let

out a cry. Thank God they decided to hold off burying him, otherwise no North American Poitras would exist today. I do not know how Marcel knew of the story of this birth. I was so interested in what Marcel was saying that I forgot to ask him how and where he got this birth information. Moreover Marcel was such a good host and we were enjoying our good luck in finding him that I don't think I would have bothered asking. I can only guess that the events surrounding this birth were considered a miracle and passed on from generation to generation.

Jean Baptiste had siblings, but so far no one has been able to find any trace of them. Perhaps that's because the name is spelled at least four different ways. Jean Baptiste's father, Laurent, spelled his name Poidras. Laurent Poidras is buried inside the church in Cugand.

We got caught in a railroad strike in France and decided it would be too risky to go to La

Rochelle. We didn't want to run the risk of being stuck there for the duration of the strike. In addition connecting with Marcel far exceeded our expectations and visiting La Rochelle didn't seem to be as critical to our visit as originally considered.

Marcel, after showing us around the Clisson/Cugand area, drove us to Nante where we were lucky enough to get a train to Paris. We did have a bit of a struggle getting a train out of Paris but eventually we got on a train to Italy where we stayed for the duration of the railroad strike in France. We had never been to Italy. It's a beautiful country, nice people, we are glad we included it in our plans.

I feel very fortunate to have made a family connection in France. Certainly that was much more than we expected. Marcel has also put us in contact with a distant relative in Quebec. We are planning to meet next time we are in Montreal. Having lived in western Canada for a good portion of

my life without knowing any relatives except my immediate family, this is a welcome, new and great experience for me.

Next I hope to find more of my First Nations roots. I don't expect that to be an easy task. I don't know if it's do-able. My First Nations ancestors have not been afforded the courtesy of being given names in any of my accessible family records. The information from the Manitoba Metis Federation lists my male ancestors then lists their spouses as "female and a member of a particular tribe" e.g. he was married to a Blackfoot woman.

I need any suggestions anyone is willing to share about gathering information about First Nations ancestors. I am hoping for and would very much appreciate hearing from anyone who could provide any help.

*Joseph Poitras is the Senator for the Oshawa Métis Council. He can be reached via email at: joseph.poitras@sympatico.ca*



# Every canoe voyage begins with a single paddle stroke

## 2007 was indeed a milestone for our nation;

collectively we can be very proud of our many accomplishments. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Senators, and indeed everyone who has helped out over the last year. Without question, the hard work done by our Senators in their respective councils has set the stage for bigger and better things. Our Senators are not only leaders at home, but ambassadors of their communities to the MNO and sources of knowledge and inspiration to us all. Never before have the Senators worked in such a cohesive manner; for this I thank them.

The staff of the MNO is to be congratulated on another successful year. Without their generosity and assistance the roll of Executive Senator would be much more difficult.

The voices of our Senators cry



## SENATORS' SPOTLIGHT

BY **RETA GORDON**  
PCMNO SENATOR

out loudly and their actions shine brightly for all to see. Our numbers grow, as our community councils grow, and our new Senators have jumped right in, rolled up their sleeves and got down to work. Our nation's government has steadfastly listened to our advice and directions and how thankful I am for the quality of leadership that we enjoy in the Métis Nation of Ontario. The nation is vibrant and we can all be proud of the MNO's many stories of successes.

2007 was not a good year when it came to the affairs of the

Métis National Council. Over the last few years I have had the honour and privilege of representing our Senators and our nation at the various meetings of the MNC. The failure to elect a national president was not just disappointing but irresponsible on the part of those wishing to advance their own agenda while disregarding the common good of all Métis. How proud I am of our president and executives as they work tirelessly to successfully resolve this unfortunate impasse.

This May, the MNO will hold an election for the PCMNO. The PCMNO

is comprised of the nine regional councillors, four Senators, women's rep, youth rep, post-secondary rep, and the executive.

The four Senators are selected by their peers in July, at the Métis Nation of Ontario's Annual General Assembly and one of those Senators is selected to represent them on the Executive. It is my intention to seek the support of my fellow Senators for my reelection. The nation has come a long way since that founding meeting in 1993. I remember the handful of people gathered in Toronto as we set into motion the mechanism to establish our proper place in Canadian society.

Much has been done and much more is yet to be accomplished. Every path begins with a first step; every canoe voyage with the first stroke of the paddle. Our first steps and our first strokes of the paddle have been

“

OUR NATION IS INSPIRED BY THE VALUES AND TRADITIONS OF OUR ANCESTORS; WE ARE PROUD OF OUR RICH HERITAGE AND I AM PROUD TO CALL MYSELF A MÉTIS.”

taken; we are now well on our way. At times our voyage gets rough and at time we must deviate slightly or make a portage, but our resolve remains and the Métis people, as a Nation, will one day have their inherent right of self-determination and self-government recognised and respected. Our nation is inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors; we are proud of our rich heritage and I am proud to call myself a Métis.

*Reta Gordon sits on the PCMNO as the Executive Senator.*

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS:



Taipei is the capital city of Taiwan.

# Indigenous peoples of the Pacific gather at forum

Recently, Métis Nation of Onatrio President Tony Belcourt attended the Austronesian Forum, a gathering to promote democracy, human rights and sustainable development

BY **LINDA LORD**

This past December, 2007, MNO President, Tony Belcourt, attended the Austronesian Forum in Taiwan as the guest of the Council of the Indigenous Peoples of Taiwan. From December 11th to 14th the days were packed with speeches and presentations.

Chang Chun-hsiung, the Premier of the Republic of China (Taiwan), opened the conference. The moderator for the morning session was Icyang Parod, the Minister of the Council of Indigenous Peoples, who introduced Dr. Tumu te Heuheu, Paramount Chief of Tuwharetoa, in New Zealand,

whose topic was Indigenous World Heritage Protection.

During the afternoon sessions the topics were: Indigenous Peoples and Co-management of Natural Resources; Indigenous Peoples Customary Land Tenure and Governance Structure; The Status Quo of the Protection and Legislation of the Biodiversity-related Traditional Knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples in Taiwan.

The next morning, the topic was “Canadian Experiences in Relationship Building with Aboriginal Peoples: Examples of Self-governing arrangements, development of legislation and co-management” with Ms. Sandra Ginnish, Director-General, Research, International and Gender Equality Department, Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada.

Ms. Ginnish was followed by President, Tony Belcourt whose topic was “Fundamentals for Implementing the Métis Inherent Right of Self-government and the Critical Importance of Building Relationships based on Traditional Ways and through Modern Treaties.”

In his presentation Tony explained the historic context of the Métis Nation in terms of its relationships with other Aborigi-

nal peoples and governments. He related the importance and outcomes of the “Nation to Nation” relationship the MNO has with the Anishenabek Nation which is forged in a traditional way.

Tony also provided an overview of the Supreme Court of Canada decision in *R v. Powley*—its impact in support of our aspirations to develop appropriate relationships with the federal and provincial governments through agreements (modern treaties) and through future required legislation.

Our president discussed the positive impacts of Powley and other jurisprudence such as the “Duty to Consult” in our aspirations to preserve our way of life, our regard for Mother Earth and our goals to develop our economies in conjunction with other communities.

Over the next couple of days the conference dealt with such topics as, “Intellectual Property Rights and Traditional Medicine” and “Sustainable Economic Development and Social and Family System”.

Guests were from such diverse locales as the Republic of Palau, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, India, Belize, New Zealand, and of course, Canada.

In the fall 07 edition of the Métis Voyageur we featured an article and picture of a model tug boat, built by Jim Turner. Towards the end of this article Jim said: “... Right now I am making a Hudson's Bay tomahawk/pipe that was issued to the factors and people of the Hudson's Bay Company. I will send a picture of that

when it is done. The original was cast iron, but I am making this one from steel on the lathe. This is to go with a complete Metis outfit that I propose to make and wear someday.”

Well, Jim is a man of his word so here is that tomahawk of which he spoke.

— LL

# Métis hobbyist makes replica Hudson's hawk

BY **JIM TURNER**

I promised you that I would send you a picture of my rendition of the Hudson's Bay decorative Hawk. There was a pipe bowl on one end and the blade on the other. Depending on who owned them and how functional they were supposed to be they would be adorned differently. Some were decorative, some were plain.

The handles from all accounts were made from round stock hardwood. I have always been intrigued with this type of Hawk, because it had the weeping heart cut out of the blade. On this one it is oversized because that's the way I wanted it, but to be totally authentic the heart would be smaller. It is only a copy, from some scratchy old photos, but I made it to the exact same size.

It was made totally from scratch. Being retired has its perks you know. The pipe bowl was made on my lathe and the rest was fabricated out of iron. These were originally made from cast iron and the plain ones were used for everyday use in the bush. Note the little hook on the underside of the blade. That was for reaching into the water and pulling up traps by their chains. It took a bit of detective work to find that out. I guess it just goes



to show that some people have a lot of time on their hands.

Next I will send you a picture of a grinding stone that I found the other day. Our ancestors used to put grain in the bowl part of the stone and have a stone or hardwood handle (pestle) to grind with. I also found a wild boar's tusk the same day, at least it sure looks like one.

*Jim can be reached by email at cturner@gushueone.com.*

*Want to show off your skill? Send your story and pictures to llord@kingston.net.*



MÉTIS RIGHTS IN THE COURTS:

# Court dismisses Manitoba Métis Land Claim

MNO gives full support to Call for Appeal

In December, 2007, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) expressed shocked at the decision of Justice Alan D. MacInnes of the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench, in the matter of the *Manitoba Métis Federation et al v. Manitoba and Canada*. Justice MacInnes dismissed this case which concerns the massive swindle of Métis lands that were set-aside for Métis in the *Manitoba Act of 1870*.

“This decision is unbelievable and needs to be challenged,” said MNO President, Tony Belcourt. “It is an intolerable dismissal of the facts of history and we are behind our people in Manitoba in appealing this decision. We sympathize with the sorrow they must feel after their long struggle to even get to court in the first place. We are mindful that our constitutional

rights have been recognized by the Supreme Court of Canada in *R v. Powley*. We are certain that on appeal this decision will not stand.”

“**THE COURTS HAVE IT WRONG, AND THIS DECISION NEEDS TO BE APPEALED.**”

– Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair

“It is astonishing that the courts could rule that one of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada does not have a land base in their own country,” said MNO Chair, Gary Lipinski. “The courts have it wrong, and this decision needs to be appealed. We offer our full support to the Manitoba Métis Federation.”

## Aboriginal News Bits:

### ■ TORONTO Ontario turns over Ipperwash Park to First Nation

Ontario has returned Ipperwash Provincial Park to the Chippewas thereby settling a long-standing aboriginal grievance in the province. “We are returning Ipperwash Provincial Park lands to the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation”, Aboriginal Affairs Minister Michael Bryant said. “In doing so, we are sending a clear signal that the McGuinty government is acting on the premier’s ambitious agenda on aboriginal affairs.”

### ■ SAUGEEN F.N. Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Enbridge Ontario Wind Power Sign landmark heritage and environmental agreement

The Saugeen Ojibway Nation and Enbridge Ontario Wind Power recently signed an agreement on heritage and environmental issues regarding Enbridge’s wind farm now under construction in Kincardine, Ontario.

### ■ WINNIPEG Former PM poised to fund new native business school

Former Prime Minister Paul Martin wants to personally finance a business program for aboriginal students at a Winnipeg high school. “It’s teaching aboriginal students about business, as a way of staying in school and not dropping out,” Mr. Martin said.

### ■ TORONTO Norval Morrisseau: Famed native painter dies at 75

Copper Thunderbird has taken flight. Norval Morrisseau’s death recently at Toronto General Hospital, at age 75 after a long and feisty battle with Parkinson’s disease, won’t end the gritty story of the great Anishinabe painter

once called “the Picasso of the north” who signed his canvases “Miskwaabik Animiki” or Copper Thunderbird. “I’ve always wanted to be a role model,” he told *the Star* several years back, his words slurred and barely audible even then. “I’ve always wanted to stay an Indian. I wanted the little kids to know that.”

### ■ TORONTO CAW Local Donates Toys at the Native Canadian Centre

Just in time for the holidays, the Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW) Local 112 donated thousands of dollars worth of toys for use at the newly renovated children’s play area at the Native Canadian Centre in Toronto. In addition, dozens of CAW members in the Greater Toronto Area volunteered their labour to renovate the centre, with donations of cabinets, computer desks and terminals from several local unions.

### ■ SUDBURY 1886 act could result in millions in resource rights

A lucrative act of patronage by Sir John A. Macdonald in 1886 could ultimately result in several million dollars of compensation for a native band in northern Ontario. A decision issued by the Ontario Court of Appeal recently may also affect the way historical damages are calculated in dozens of negotiations across the country between native bands and the federal government. The appeal court found that the federal government breached its duty to the Whitefish Lake Band in 1886 when its timber rights on the 120-square-kilometre reserve, just west of Sudbury, were sold for \$316 to a Conservative politician. A few months earlier the federal government told the Whitefish Band that it was in its best interests to sell its timber rights.

NOTICE TO MÉTIS CITIZENS IN ONTARIO

# CONSULTING THE ONTARIO MÉTIS COMMUNITY ON THE IPPERWASH INQUIRY REPORT

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is currently undertaking consultations with the Ontario Métis community on the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and its recommendations. Based on these consultations with Métis citizens, the MNO will be developing a response to the Ipperwash Inquiry Report, outlining the Métis Nation’s perspective, priorities and suggestions on future collaboration with the Ontario Government on the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report.

### What is the Ipperwash Inquiry?

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario under Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate was to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot by an Ontario Provincial Police officer in 1995 during a protest by First Nations representatives at Ipperwash Provincial Park and later died. The Inquiry was also mandated to make recommendations that would avoid violence in similar circum-

stances in the future, relating to improving relationships between the Ontario Government and Aboriginal peoples.

The Ipperwash hearings began in July 2004 and ended in August 2006. The *Ipperwash Inquiry Report* and its recommendations were released on May 31st, 2007. A complete copy of the report, along with all related documents from the Inquiry is available at: [www.ipperwashinquiry.com](http://www.ipperwashinquiry.com)

### What is being done about the Ipperwash Inquiry Report?

The Ontario Government has established an Ipperwash Response Team (IRT) to review the report and its recommendations and work with relevant ministries and its Aboriginal partners in order to implement the report’s recommendations. The MNO has met several times with members of the IRT and the Ontario Government has committed that the Métis Nation will be fully engaged and a part of the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report.

In addition, the Ontario Government has already acted on some of the key recommendations in the Ipperwash Inquiry Report. For example, in the summer of 2007, Premier McGuinty created a stand-alone Ministry for Aboriginal Affairs (MAA), and, in the fall of 2007, the Premier appointed the Honourable Michael Bryant the first Minister for MAA dedicated to act as a full-time advocate of Abo-

original peoples in the Ontario Government. The MNO, which had long called for a minister solely dedicated to Aboriginal issues, is fully supportive of these preliminary developments.

Currently, the MNO is consulting with the Ontario Métis community in order to develop the Métis Nation’s analysis, perspectives, priorities and suggestions with respect to the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and its recommendations. As well, other Aboriginal groups across Ontario are consulting with their respective constituencies in order to identify priorities for the collaborative implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and its recommendations with the Ontario Government. It is expected the reports from these consultations will be finalized in the next few month.

### How can I participate in the MNO’s consultations?

There are several ways Métis citizens can participate in the MNO’s consultations:

1. You can complete a questionnaire. The MNO has developed a short questionnaire that can be completed by Métis citizens and submitted to the MNO. These questionnaires are available through your local Community Council or the MNO Head Office. The MNO has also established a webpage dedicated to the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report at [www.metisnation.org/ipperwash](http://www.metisnation.org/ipperwash). The questionnaire is available at this webpage and can be completed online or by faxing your written response back to the MNO.
  2. You can participate in a phone interview. The MNO will be conducting interviews with Métis
- citizens and leaders at the local, regional and provincial levels. If you are interested in participating in an interview, please contact Paul Heighington at the MNO Head Office.

  3. You can contact your MNO Regional Councillor or a member of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO). If you have specific priorities or issues you would like to see addressed in the implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report you should contact your Regional Councillor or a member of the PCMNO. The PCMNO will be meeting on the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and your suggestions can be brought forward at that time.

### What happens next?

The MNO anticipates it will finalize its response to the Ipperwash Inquiry Report and its recommendations sometime in March 2008. At that time, the MNO’s response will be circulated to the PCMNO, MNO Community Councils and posted on the web-

site. The MNO will also be providing a copy to the Ontario Government and will begin meeting with IRT in order to move forward on the collaborative implementation of the Ipperwash Inquiry Report with the Ontario Government.

### How can I stay updated?

The MNO will continue to provide updates to Métis citizens through the *Métis Voyageur*. As well, the MNO will continue to update our Ipperwash Inquiry Report webpage at: [www.metisnation.org/ipperwash](http://www.metisnation.org/ipperwash)





# THE ROCKY ROAD TO THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

BY LINDA LORD

**T**he Métis National Council (MNC) elections are finally over, and Clem Chartier has been re-elected president. The election had been delayed for well over a year. In fact, it was originally scheduled for April 2, 2006, at which time Mr. Chartier was seeking re-election. However, as a result of the extraordinary circumstances arising from the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) election controversy, the MNC Board of Governors (BOG) postponed the April 2, 2006, election.

On October 11, 2006, as those circumstances still existed and the election could not be held, the MNC BOG extended Mr. Chartier's term as president for a further year, until October 11, 2007. That extension was contested by the BOG at its meeting on July 31, 2007. Mr. Chartier's term was deemed to have ended. Bruce Dumont, President of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), was then named "Interim President" until elections for MNC President could be held. The date for these elections was to be October 13th and 14th.

Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) President, David Chartrand and former MNC President Chartier objected and started a legal action. They sought to have Mr. Chartier reinstated and to hold elections in September. They also claimed unspecified damages at the time.

In September, following much negotiation, both sides agreed to ask the court to make an order as follows "On Consent":

- No one will act as president of the MNC until elections are held;
- There shall be no meetings of the board of governors or business conducted by the board of governors until further order by the court;
- The Chief Administrative Officer, Dale LeClair, shall run the day-to-day operations of the MNC "only as the need arises".

A general assembly was to be held on October 13-14, 2007, to

elect a president of the MNC:

- Dale LeClair was to be the Chair of the Assembly
- Each side was to name a "Co-Chair".

The assembly went ahead as scheduled on October 13th. MMF President, David Chartrand, objected to the status of the Métis Nation of Alberta's (MNA) delegation and proposed a motion to replace them. The motion dominated the day's debate. The validity of the motion was challenged. The Chair ruled that the motion was valid and that it would go ahead. However, after a further challenge he adjourned the meeting for the day stating that he would consider written submissions on his ruling and would announce his decision in the morning.

The next day, Assembly Chair, Dale LeClair, reversed his ruling. MMF President Chartrand objected strongly to the new ruling and challenged the Chair. After the Chair was threatened with legal action he stated he was adjourning the meeting and left. The MMF delegation immediately left the Assembly Hall. Without a Chair, the assembly ended without having elected a president.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the four remaining governing members of the MNC (MNO President, Tony Belcourt; MNBC President, Bruce Dumont; MNA President, Audrey Poitras and MN-S President, Robert Doucette) condemned the actions of Chartier and Chartrand for having the courts intervene in the affairs of the MNC and for de-railing the elections.

It was the contention of these members of the BOG that both Mr. Chartier and Mr. Chartrand had abandoned the Métis value of self-determination and made a mockery of our claims to the right of self-government by asking the courts to interpret the MNC's bylaws rather than having this decision made by the Métis leaders themselves at an MNC Assembly. Further, asking the court system to intervene in the affairs of the MNC resulted in postponing the MNC presidential elections indefinitely.

As a result of these delays--the MNC was in a position where it could not make decisions because of the court order and the BOG could not meet--the federal government announced it would not flow any new funds to the MNC until elections for president were held and this situation was rectified.

On October 31, 2007, the four governing members met with officials and with Rod Bruinoo, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Federal Interlocutor for Métis. They also invited the President of the Manitoba Métis Federation, David Chartrand, to attend the meetings. Their purpose was to seek funding in order to hold elections as soon as possible. However, Mr. Chartier

reached by all five members of the MNC BOG and past-president Chartier to hold elections on February 23-24, 2008, in Ottawa. Agreement was also reached on the final list of voting delegates and alternates and on who would be the co-chairs of the assembly. Senator Nick Sibbeston, former Métis Premier of the NWT and a member of the Senate of Canada as well as Richard Mirasty, a Métis lawyer from Alberta, were named the "Assembly Co-Chairs". The settlement agreement also contained a provision that the five provincial presidents could hold a meeting of the Board of Governors to review the MNC 2006-2007 audited financial statements. The issue of court costs and the claim for damages by Mr. Chartier were

courts of mainstream Canada. To go to the courts undermines all of our positions that we are a self-governing people. Keeping the decision on the issues of election of our national president in our hands and out of the courts is considered by us to be of monumental significance to the Métis Nation. I am very pleased that we worked this out amongst ourselves and that we can now move forward on behalf of the nation," said MNA President, Audrey Poitras.

MN-S President, Robert Doucette, said: "I am concerned about what all of this has been costing the Métis Nation at a time when we should be focussing or directing every available dollar to fighting for our harvesting and land rights, instead of attempting



**Métis National Council Delegates vote on a motion during the February 23-24, 2008 General Meeting in Ottawa.**

and Mr. Chartrand launched another court action; this time, Mr. Chartier also claimed damages of \$300,000 and both he and Mr. Chartrand asked the court to award them costs. The four BOG members presented a proposal to the court to hold a "settlement conference" to try to reach an out-of-court settlement and get on with elections. Since Mr. Chartier and Mr. Chartrand refused to agree, the four BOG members asked the court to order a settlement conference and this request was granted in December.

On January 3rd at the settlement conference before Justice Todd Ducharme, a Métis Judge of the Superior Court of Ontario, an agreement-in-principle was

not dealt with in the settlement conference and remain outstanding legal issues.

Speaking on behalf of the four BOG members who were the defendants in the case brought against them by Chartier and Chartrand, MNO President, Tony Belcourt, said: "The decision about when and how to hold elections for our national president was made by Métis people and not the mainstream courts and I am very grateful that our position in this matter has prevailed."

"To us the issue has always been about self-government and that means that we, ourselves, decide on our issues and not the

to get the courts to intervene in our decision making process. It is important that we work together to restore a positive working relationship amongst ourselves to put all of our efforts into collectively addressing our issues with the federal government. To me, this agreement means we can finally get things back on the right track."

MNBC President, Bruce Dumont, said that he was thankful that they had a Métis judge to facilitate the settlement conference. All members stressed the importance of holding elections as quickly as possible. ∞

## Tony Belcourt not seeking re-election

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ments in the courts to now dealing with them through framework agreements and new tables of negotiations. The MNO has been well served by its lead-

ers on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and at the community level. We have a strong and dedicated staff who give tirelessly to their positions and to the service of the Métis Nation. We are fortunate that there are many among us with the experience,

knowledge, vision and commitment to take us forward at the political level. I commend and thank the PCMNO, and in particular my colleagues on the Executive, for their fortitude and support because without it, we could not have achieved the measure of success that we now

enjoy. I am indebted to them and to all MNO citizens for the confidence they have given to me. I have enjoyed a rare privilege to have served as the President of the MNO and will continue my support of the Nation and our leadership in every way possible in the future."

At the time of printing the following people had announced their candidacy: Gary Lipinski running for president; France Picotte running for chair; Rob Pilon running for co-chair and Tim Pile running for secretary/treasurer.



## Developing A Métis Consultation Framework:

**C**onsultation. What does it mean? We use the word all the time in the Métis Nation, but in light of several decisions from the Supreme Court of Canada on the Crown's duty to consult and accommodate Aboriginal rights and interests this word has taken on a new meaning and increased importance.

# OUR ONGOING MÉTIS RIGHTS AGENDA

by Gary Lipinski

Gary is the Chair of the MNO and portfolio holder for Natural Resources and Consultation



The Métis Nation has always said that governments must consult with us when they make decisions that will affect Métis rights, interests and way of life. Unfortunately, until the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in the landmark *Powley* Case, the Ontario Government did not even recognize that Métis people and communities existed in this province, let alone recognizing that we had constitutional rights. Moreover, the facts show that the federal and provincial governments have always acted unilaterally when it comes to use and control of natural resources in what they considered to be their jurisdictions. When Aboriginal peoples raised concerns about Crown actions, the response of government was usually 'go to court and prove you have a right and then we may listen to you'. Of course, then the government would move ahead and do what they wanted anyways. The recent findings of Justice Linden in the *Ipperwash Inquiry Report* confirm this shameful history.

However, in 2004, in two cases known as *Haida Nation* and *Taku River*, the Supreme Court of Canada rejected the government position that Aboriginal people had to go to court first before the Crown had to do anything to address their rights, interests and way of life. In essence, the Supreme Court said that governments have a duty to sit down with us, in the spirit of reconciliation, and ensure that any proposed government policy, legislation, action or approval does not harm our rights, our interests or our way of life. We do not have to go to court first in order to trigger this duty. The duty flows from s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* and the honour of the Crown and it is triggered when the Crown has real or constructive knowledge of credible Métis rights, claims and interests.

In Ontario, the Crown has real and constructive knowledge of credible Métis harvesting rights claims throughout the province. *Powley* confirms Métis rights in the Sault Ste. Marie region. Our historic July 7th *Agreement* with the Ministry of

Natural Resources is based on the Crown's knowledge of credible Métis harvesting rights throughout our traditional territories across the province. As such, the Crown's duty is triggered when it contemplates actions or contemplates allowing others to take actions that have the potential to affect our harvesting rights in our traditional territories. Crown development in the areas of mining, wind power, nuclear energy, hydroelectricity, forestry, etc., all have the potential to dramatically affect the lifestyle and way of life of our communities.

The Ontario Government and the Government of Canada are beginning to recognize they need to change the old ways of doing business. Increasingly, our communities are being engaged by government and industry. However, it is not enough for the government or industry to simply send us a letter or meet with us once or twice, in order to discharge the Crown's duty to consult. It requires real consultation. Consultation is a process of give and take and it's a process that takes time. Think of consultation as an ongoing dialogue. A good consultation process results in informed decision-making in a manner that furthers everyone's interests.

We also have roles and responsibilities in ensuring effective consultation, but we must have the capacity and information required in order to effectively participate with governments and industry. We must also have access to the needed expertise to know what type of accommodations to ask for once we determine our rights and interests will be affected (i.e. impacts and

“The Supreme Court said that governments have a duty to sit down with us, in the spirit of reconciliation, and ensure that any proposed government policy, legislation, action or approval does not harm our rights, our interests or our way of life.”

benefits agreements, guaranteed contract for Métis businesses, jobs for Métis citizens, etc.) and how to negotiate these with government and industry. In order to move forward on developing a consultation framework or model for the Ontario Métis community that will allow the Métis Nation to develop this capacity, the MNO will be undertaking community consultations this year. Both the Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians are providing the MNO with funding to undertake this work.

Our upcoming consultations will have two main objectives:

(1) providing information to Métis citizens on the duty to consult and accommodate, and,

(2) engaging discussions in order to develop an Ontario Community Métis Consultation Framework. There are many questions we must grapple with in developing such a framework. What does the 'duty to consult and accommo-

date' really mean? What should a Métis-specific consultation process look like? How should the MNO and community councils work together on consultation issues? In cases where more than one Community Council is affected, how should Community Councils work together? What information is needed in order to ensure effective consultation with the Métis community takes place? How can we ensure that Community Councils and Métis at the local level have the information they need to make informed decisions? These meetings will

provide us the opportunity to begin these discussions, with the support of MNO staff and the expertise of the MNO's legal counsel.

Based on these consultation meetings, the MNO hopes to develop a draft framework that can be brought back to our communities and to the next Annual General Assembly for consideration. In order to address the influx of consultation requests the MNO and its community councils are now receiving, we need to develop capacity in this area in order to respond in a manner that protects Métis rights and the Métis Nation's long-term interests. In our history, we have always taken the strong and consistent position that we are one nation, one people. We have a track record of success when we work together as a collective: the creation of the MNO, the MNO Registry, the *MNO Harvesters Policy* and Harvesters Card System, etc. Similarly, we need to develop a framework that reflects this tradition and our values. As well, we must develop a framework for consultation that works for the Métis Nation and meets our unique needs.

In the next few months we will be advertising and holding community meetings as well as some videoconferencing workshops. I encourage all citizens to come out and participate. The MNO will create a webpage dedicated to this initiative at [www.metisnation.org/consultation](http://www.metisnation.org/consultation) where MNO citizens can receive information on our upcoming meetings and updates on our work. This webpage will also have a helpful *Guide for Métis on Consultation and Accommodation* that citizens and communities can download. A hardcopy of this guide can also be obtained by contacting the MNO Head Office in Ottawa.

I look forward to working with MNO citizens and community leaders on this important initiative. It is just one of the areas the MNO is building on based on the *Powley* decision and pressing forward on our rights agenda. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me by phone at 807-274-1516 or via email at [garyl@metisnation.org](mailto:garyl@metisnation.org).

If you have questions or comments:

807-274-1516 or email [garyl@metisnation.org](mailto:garyl@metisnation.org)

For more information and Consultation dates and locations:

[www.metisnation.org/consultation](http://www.metisnation.org/consultation)



MNO SPORTS LEADER REALISES SHE HAS WORK TO DO...

## My Endless Journey



Over the past two years I have had the honour of working with some wonderful individuals. I have learned many lessons that will stay with me throughout my life. One of the most important lessons I have learned as part of the MNO health branch is that we should practice what we preach or even better if you're going to talk the talk you better be prepared to walk the walk. **BY PATTI MOREAU**

I am the Region 4 Sault Ste. Marie Community Sport Leader. All of my life I have had a weight problem. I was always on a diet and I was always trying new ways to help reduce my weight and deal with health issues. Each attempt would end in failure. As I came into this position I was considered to be "obese"

and I did not realise that I was. I always thought that my weight was slightly high and avoided any and all mirrors that might show me other wise. During an information session on lifestyle change in December, 2006, it was pointed out to me that I too could stand to improve my health by losing

some weight. First, I was insulted and ignored the comment. It wasn't until August, 2007, that I realised I needed to take a good long look at my own lifestyle. I was busting out of my clothes and I felt tired sluggish and just awful all the time. I decided to make some changes to my eating habits. It is very important that you have good eating habits and an exercise program that can be altered to accommodate the time of year/season as well as lots of support. You need sound individuals that you can bounce ideas off of, get suggestions from, and just sound off to when you are having a difficult day. Since deciding to make my lifestyle change I have lost 35 pounds. Although I still have some weight to go, I am no

longer "obese" and I am no longer feeling sluggish and tired, and I am not afraid to look in the mirror. I would like to challenge all the MNO Health Branch staff and all the MNO citizens to take a good long look at their lifestyles. It is one of the hardest things a person can do. After you have done this, look at all possible ways that you can make changes to improve your quality of life. It may be to lose weight; it may be to stop smoking; it may be to add exercise to your daily routine, or it may be adding some fruits and vegetables to your diet. Each step you take will bring you one step closer to your best health. Good luck in this new year with all your endeavours. Having said this, I would like to thank

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**EACH STEP  
YOU TAKE  
WILL BRING  
YOU ONE STEP  
CLOSER TO  
YOUR BEST  
HEALTH”**

the Métis Nation of Ontario for all of its support and for giving me the opportunity to work with the public to help them make their lifestyle changes. I look forward to all the challenges that the new year will bring.  
  
*Patti Moreau is the MNO Community Sports Leader in Sault Ste. Marie.*

<b>MNO HEALTH BRANCH ANNOUNCEMENT</b>   As of December 17, 2007:	<b>Lynne Picotte</b> (Timmins) is Health Program Supervisor, <i>Aboriginal Healthy Babies, Healthy Children</i>	<b>Michelle Foster-Millard</b> (Midland) is the <i>LHINS</i> Lead	<b>Patricia Messenger</b> (Windsor) is the <i>Long Term Care</i> Lead	New <i>Community Wellness Workers</i> : Tara Copegog (Port McNichol/Midland) & Ashley Froome (Thunder Bay)
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## ABORIGINAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING: To Play or Not to Play...

BY GLEN LIPINSKI  
MNO ADDICTIONS WELLNESS COORDINATOR

To play or not to play, to gamble or not to gamble: these choices face many of us on an increasing basis, and we may have unwanted help making the choice.

If we now understand that gambling is "any gaming behaviour involving risk where money or valuables may be won or lost", then we need only decide whether we should take part or not. Availability and access to gambling activities often have a direct bearing on participation. During a discussion at a recent responsible gambling meeting the following question was posed: "How much opportunity or incentive is there for us to gamble in our communities today?" The short answer is: "there is opportunity and plenty of it." We are constantly bombarded with gambling opportunities in the form of glitzy advertising campaigns--mostly for casino gambling, lottery tickets and even mega bingos. The Ontario Government annually spends over \$248 million on advertising and promotion of gambling activities. At the same time, the Government of Ontario offers a meagre \$36 million for treatment, prevention and

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**WE ARE CONSTANTLY BOMBARDED WITH GAMBLING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FORM OF GLITZY ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS....”**

“  
**CASINOS HAVE BECOME MUCH MORE COMMON IN CANADA IN RECENT YEARS.”**

research annually. (Azmier, Jason, 2005). Although the government has committed not to open any new casinos in Ontario, (for the time being) it has continued to spend millions of dollars to upgrade and expand the casinos already established in Ontario and has also greatly expanded slot machines at racetracks. There are more opportunities

to gamble in Canada today than ever before. The last 20 years have seen a dramatic increase in the number of casinos, electronic gaming machines, and other gambling activities in this country. There has also been a corresponding increase in gambling revenues, as well as an increase in the number of people experiencing problems related to gambling. In 2005/2006, there were approximately 40,567 gambling venues in Canada (CPRG, 05/06). Ontario and Quebec have the most venues overall. For a detailed list of gambling venues by province, please see the *Canadian Gambling Digest* 2005-2006, (an annual report on Canadian gambling statistics, produced by the Canadian Partnership for Responsible Gambling and released in October 2007). Casinos have become much more common in Canada in recent years. They provide an important source of revenue for provincial governments and are often (supposedly) set up to direct money to health care and various community and charitable organisations. British Columbia and Alberta have the most casinos at 20 and 17, respectively; Ontario has 10 regular full time operational casinos, also, Ontario and British Columbia have the greatest number of gambling tables in their casinos, 552 and 454 respectively (CPRG, 05/06). One of the most common forms of gambling available in Canada is lottery tickets. In fact, many people do not consider this to be a form of gambling at all. Lottery ticket outlets are most numerous in Ontario and Québec (CPRG, 05/06). Bingo has a long history in

Canada and was one of the few types of gambling available for many years. Five provinces have full-time designated bingo facilities. Québec has the most at 291, while Saskatchewan has the fewest at 21. Ontario has 101 registered bingo facilities (CPRG, 05/06). In addition, BC, Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario also offer

electronically linked bingo halls. The total government operated gaming revenues for 2005/06 were \$4,830,306,000 (after the prizes were paid out). To help further understand the impact gambling has on all of us and our communities and to try to get an answer to the ques-

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### 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.

**Métis Nation of Ontario**  
Ph: 613-798-1488  
or 1-800-263-4889 (toll free)  
[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

Funding made available through the Métis Health Human Resources Development Canada initiative, a four-year program funded by Health Canada.



# Like Buried Treasure

Digging up information on your ancestors can be like unearthing buried treasures

Most readers of the *Voyageur* have probably had some experience with genealogy. Over the years we have printed several exciting and heart warming stories of people digging for and finding their roots. However, sometimes digging for roots is more like digging for buried treasure with a rusty shovel in one hand and an enigmatic map in the other.

Usually, by the time a story reaches these pages most of the confusion and mystery has been sorted out. This particular story is a work in progress with lots of unanswered questions. Many of you will recall the bewilderment that results when several generations all have the same name, or when a younger child is named for an older one who died, or for an uncle. It was common practice at one time to name babies for family members who had recently died. To add to the puzzlement, spelling was much more fluid than it is now, and this could affect both given names and surnames, and that's just the European side of the family who were much more likely to produce some sort of written record.

This story was sent to me by a new Métis citizen, 82 year old Capt. Donald Maxwell Fowler, C.D., (Ret'd) of Brockville, Ontario. Donn has been trying to sort out his ancestors. (We've been corresponding quite regularly over the past couple of weeks, so I feel I can call him "Donn", which comes from the Scottish clan, "McDonnell of Glengarry", the tartan kilt he occasionally wore in WWII.) Some of what follows is conjecture, some is proven fact, but I think most of us can relate to the frustration and the thrill that accompanies the hunt.

**1621--Pierre Morisseau** (b.1621-) married Marie Guillebene (b.1624-) and had four offspring, in France: son, Vincent Morisseau (b.1647-d.1713) m. Marie Anne Beaumont in 1673. Vincent died in Repentigny, Quebec. His wife's mother was Marie Lunois/Lumon. And the name of

Morisseau, as recorded in the publication, *The Morisseau Family* by Dianne Sheppard; Sprague & Fryes; Gail Morin, and from Tanguay and Jette, extends over nineteen generations of births from 1621 to 1888. However, my concern with the name of 'Morisseau' begins in 1647, and is relative not only to Repentigny, Quebec, but also to "Detroit Michigan", and a few other geographic locations; in particular, to 1767, (q.v.).

**1740--Jenkins Daniel** (b. ca.1740-d.1824/25) might—or might not—have been, at age 48 (in 1788), the father of Mary (Daniel?) Corrigan (b.1788-d.1823) at the old Martin Fall HBC post. He was with the HBC from 1765 to 1825. Jenkins Daniel was from the Parish of Glamorganshire, Wales and served at the Albany post. A son was Jacob Daniel (b.1792-d.1890) more likely the father of a "Mary".

**1747--Antoine Jean-Baptiste Morisseau** (b.1747-d.1801) married, in 1770, at Repentigny, PQ Genevieve Grenon who died in Assumption, in December 1891. But their son, Antoine, was born in 1772 (q.v.)

**1761--Robert Goodwin/Goodwyn** (b.1761-d.1805) is believed to have died on the way to Martin's Falls. Robert may have deliberately surnamed some of his--a la facon du pays--seven children with "Goodwin" or with "Goodwyn", as follows: the "GOODWYNs": Caroline; Nancy; William, and Margaret "Peggy", their mother was Margaret (Cupper) Goodwin. And with the surname "GOODWYNs"--Mary; Anne, and Marguerite, their



Donn Fowler at the gravesite of great-grandmother Mary Corrigan

mother was "Jenny" Mistigoose, the daughter of Puckethwanisk and spouse, who were the native grandparents, and "in-law" grandparents, of all these Goodwin/Goodwyn children. It appears, too, that Jacob Daniel (b.1792-d.1890) married, respectively, Margaret "Peggy" (Goodwin) Daniel, and also Mary (Goodwyn) Daniel. It appears, too, that this Jacob Daniel could have been the father of my great grandmother, Mary Corrigan (b.1788-d.1823) at age 35; Mary Corrigan's thirty-five years of life, from birth to death, enabled her to produce five girls and one boy, between 1802 and 1818, with an average interval year of 1810; all this while Jacob was Master at Martin Falls from 1802 to 1812; moreover, Jacob Corrigan was on furlough from 1812 to 1813 and "Mary Corrigan", (Corrigan's a la facon du pays wife) was age 22 in 1810, and Jacob Corrigan was then age 38, and Mary's daughter, "Mary" would become--eventually--Mary ("Corrigan") Scollie, who was born in 1811, and carried the



Robert Scollie and Mary Corrigan

first name of her mother; therefore, with husband, Jacob Corrigan fully occupied, at Martin Fall, from 1802 to 1812, as its "Master", it does seem rather unlikely that his beloved wife would have "improperly" conceived the daughter, "Mary", in 1810, and given birth to her in 1811. But interestingly, the daughter "Mary" (of the mother Mary) was NOT named in Jacob Corrigan's Will, although all of his other children were so named; moreover, that does not necessarily explain why Mary the daughter was left unnamed in the Will, UNLESS her mother, Mary, may have "entertained" another "father figure" for her third child, to be named Mary, while Jacob Corrigan was otherwise

(left) A portrait of Donn Fowler's great-grandmother, Margaret Scollie, 1850-1936

"pre-occupied" somewhere along the Albany River. In brief, could Mary (Corrigan) Scollie, the daughter of Mary [Daniel] Corrigan, the mother, possibly have had as her father, the Antoine Morisseau who was born in 1808 and did later marry a "Mary" (Daniel) Morisseau? (Reference *The Morisseau Family*, pg 5 document confusion).

This Mary's daughter, Mary (Corrigan) Scollie, did marry Jacob Corrigan's HBC employee, Robert Scollie, on the 1st of March of 1834, when she was twenty-three, and he was thirty-five; moreover, they may have been wed on an HBC port ship, located at Albany. However, Jacob Daniel (b. 1792--d. post 1870) was an 18 year old teenager, in, 1810, and Jacob Corrigan's, Mary Corrigan, was age 22 in that same year, the year in which her daughter, Mary, (b.1811-d.1862) could have been conceived, with the assistance of the youthfully seductive "Jacob Daniel (b.1792-d.1870)", and that might explain why Mary [Daniel] Corrigan's name was never mentioned in Jacob Corrigan's Will, in 1844, when he died, at Cobourg, Ontario, all because she may not have actually been his own child; nevertheless, she was reared with Corrigan's other children following 1811. It is important to recall that Jacob Corrigan did go on furlough, from Martin Falls, Albany District, for a year, from 1812 to 1813, returning on the "Eddystone" in 1813. From 1814 to 1821 he was District Master at the Old Factory Albany, and became an HBC Chief Trader in 1821, nineteen years before he retired to Cobourg.

Interestingly, the daughter, Mary (Daniel)("Corrigan") Scollie (b.1811-d.1862) had a son, George Jacob Scollie (b.1837-d.1923) and that son WAS mentioned in Jacob Corrigan's Will. George Jacob Scollie married my great aunt, Anne Fowler (b.1837-d.1918) a sister of my great grandfather, Samuel Fowler (b.1848-d.1911); in addition, Samuel Fowler's own wife, was my great grandmother, Margaret Charlotte Corrigan (Scollie) Fowler (b.1850-d.1936), and was a sister of the above George Jacob Scollie, so two Fowlers, namely, Anne and Samuel, married two Scollie's, namely, George Jacob and Margaret Charlotte Corrigan Scollie, in 1864 and 1862 respectively, but Samuel and "Maggie" remarried again in 1872 at Peterborough, having originally been married in Benton, Minnesota in 1862, when both were very young, indeed.

The search continues.

If any of our readers has information that might be useful to Donn, you may contact him by email at [dmf@metalex.com](mailto:dmf@metalex.com) or phone/fax: (613)-345-5430.



After living rock n' roll lifestyle  
Métis drummer pursues  
more serene dreams

# The Fishin' Musician

BY JENNIFER KING

"Fishing and music are perfectly at opposite ends of the spectrum for me," says Steph Leroux, "but often these two worlds collide. It takes a lot of stick-handling for me to keep the two in line. Not being a hockey player, I kind of have to split myself in half to do them both." He just can't get enough of either. When Steph is not wetting a line in one of northern Ontario's trout streams, he is rockin' on with his band, Anchor, in some local park or bar.

Known to his friends as "The Canadian Fishin' Musician", by day he gathers material for his website ([www.stephsfishinline.com](http://www.stephsfishinline.com)) and by night is one of the area's hardest working rock drummers. Combining both of his loves in life is the perfect way for this Corbiel resident to find the ultimate life style.

Even though [stephsfishinline.com](http://stephsfishinline.com) has only been up and running for a short time he has had over 9,000 users and 13,000 hits. "That's a lot of world-wide internet activity for a small town guy like me. Whew! I must be very popular."

Leroux, a North Bay area local drummer and singer, has opened at Toronto's old El Macombo, Gasworks, Piccadilly Tube, Larry's Hideaway, Nathan Phillips Square, the Carlsberg Pavilion and the Grandstand Stadium of the CNE with Twitch for such acts as Blondie, Burton Cummings, Platinum Blonde, Colin James and the Downchild Blues Band. This veteran of the Canadian music scene has toured with the likes of Goddo, Kim Mitchell, April Wine, Matt Minglewood, and Ellen Foley who sang on the Meatloaf album, *Bat Out Of Hell*.

"The biggest gig to date for me has to be opening for The Ramones at the old El Macambo in Toronto. These legends of rock and roll were outstanding in the long list of performers that I have worked with. I found Johnny and Mark Ramone very friendly and down to earth guys to share a dressing room with. Most memorable!"

Nice accomplishments for a drummer who hitch-hiked his way from North Bay, to Toronto to do his first gig in '79 with the band called "Twitch"! After a month's rehearsal in his dad's basement Twitch was ready for the stage. Bob Segarini discovered them at The Nickelodeon matinee up stairs at the Hard-Rock Café on Yonge St., brought them to El Macambo to open for

him that night and it was on and up from there.

"Working with these famous musicians I realised that they all had a love for the outdoors and fishing; I had to do something with that as a starting point to my current career."

Now at 50, Leroux says that this web site is a dream come true as he always wanted to host his own fishing show featuring famous musicians as guests. In fact, Leroux has received a number of letters of intent from such celebrities as Skip Prokop of Lighthouse, two members of the Downchild Blues Band, and Jason McCoy from The Road Hammers, just to name a few for the ice fishing season.

Steph Leroux is a Métis and lives on Lake Nosbonsing in Corbiel ON. He could not find the sponsorship needed to start a

some are just the average Joe that is out there with his heart into the sport or on his guitar. "I don't want it to be a show like Italo's (Labignan) or Bob Izumi's with the \$30,000. bass boats and all the bells and whistles. I just want it out there plain and simple, kind of a Jerry Seinfeld, real person type show that everyone can relate to."

*Steph's Fishin' Line* has the technical direction of all three Leroux brothers behind it. Steph is the front man and writer, Bernie Leroux of Northlight Pictures does some video editing, special effects and mixing, while brother Vince Leroux has helped with computer graphics, lettering and some video shoots, and all of them have wanted to run

him to make the move out of the big city and back to the north?

"I loved the north. All the time I was in Toronto I missed my home and the outdoor life. My roots are here in the North Bay area; it's where I grew up. I knew there had to be a happy medium between the music and the fishing. My Toronto life was very one sided to the music. I devoted a lot of time to rehearsing and doing studio sessions by day. Sometimes I would even do up to three shows on one date, an afternoon matinee, an early



If there are two things in this world that Steph Leroux loves they have to be fishing (above) and drumming (below).



paid programming contract offered to him in northern Ontario to cover production cost. With the outcome of streaming sites like YouTube, Leroux came to the realisation that he could reach more viewers in a different way.

"For seven and a half years I pounded the pavement in many cities for a sponsor for this show with no luck at all."

It is all a reality style TV show where Leroux is one on one with his roster of both music and fishing guests. Some are celebrities

their own businesses.

The North Bay Métis office has recognised Steph Leroux's drive and ambition to bring attention to northern Ontario's heritage and homeland. Steph exercises and follows conservation methods when fishing with his catch and release practice. It is obvious that his respect for nature and ecology is an up-front issue on all his shows.

It's a long way from El Macambo at Spadina and Bloor to the wilds of the McConnell Lakes area, so what possessed

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**I LOVED THE NORTH. ALL THE TIME I WAS IN TORONTO I MISSED MY HOME AND THE OUTDOOR LIFE.**”

evening opening show and then a late night headliner. That life was great and I gained a lot of experience as a pro drummer, but I still felt empty inside. This venture with *Stephs Fishin' Line* fulfils all that for me.

"I also play in my classic rock cover band Anchor with my son Dan Perreault from Sturgeon Falls on the bass. We have just recruited an old friend of mine on guitar by the name of Danny Unger. Danny and I were members in a band by the name of "Miss Lead", back in the '80s, great to be playing the old 80s covers again."

The long-term dream for *Steph's Fishin' Line* is to have a full length television show series one day soon. Maybe this internet exposure will connect them to that source. "Right now it is all pre-production exercises and stepping stones to the big time. I want to be a pro, high-tech fishing show host in my own rock and roll kind of way. I'll never let that dream die."

**Check out Steph's online:**

[www.freewebs.com/thenewanchor](http://www.freewebs.com/thenewanchor)  
[www.stephsfishinline.com](http://www.stephsfishinline.com)

Originally published November 18th, 2007, courtesy of the Winnipeg Free Press

## Should we continue to pay the rent?

Chief Peguis envisioned annual payments forever

By BILL REDEKOP  
WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

PETERSFIELD--You stole our land, says one side. You don't pull your weight, counters the other side.

That's not just today's rhetoric. It dates back a couple of centuries, according to Donna Sutherland's book, Peguis: A Noble Friend.

Peguis is one aboriginal leader celebrated by all Canadians. Born in 1774, it's highly likely Peguis was Métis, or so he told settler Janet Gunn Muckle.

Peguis claimed his mother was Ojibway and his father a French fur trader, according to the Gunn family archive. When his father abandoned the mother, she abandoned the baby, and the baby was adopted by an older Ojibway woman.

Peguis, of course, is best known as the native leader who saved the first Selkirk settlers in 1812 from being slaughtered by the North West Company fur traders, allowing the Red River colony to take root.



But later, Peguis made the same sort of complaints about non-native land ownership in the 1850s as, say, Hollow Water First Nation made recently when it blockaded roads into cottage country in northeastern Manitoba.

In 1857, Peguis vented against the arrival of Europeans in a long letter to the British newspaper Colonial Intelligencer, known to be sympathetic to native peoples. "The Silver Chief," as Peguis called Lord Selkirk, never paid him in full for the land taken by the settlers, he said.

Peguis wanted a kind of landlord-tenant relationship. Selkirk paid Peguis tobacco and ammunition as a first

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MÉTIS SENATOR HONoured BY PROVINCE



We're proud of you, Helen!

MEDAL FOR GOOD CITIZENSHIP

On January 31st, 13 Ontarians were honoured with the *Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship* at a ceremony at Queen's Park. In 1973, the Government of Ontario established the Medal for Good Citizenship to recognise people who, through exceptional long-term efforts, have made outstanding contributions to the well being of their communities without expectation of remuneration or reward.

"These individuals demonstrate citizenship in action," said the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who presented the awards at the ceremony. "They are recognised for outstanding achievement, and their exemplary contribution to our province and beyond."

"The men and women receiving this award are role models who have made their communities better places to live," said the Hon. Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration.

BY LINDA LORD

The Métis Nation of Ontario wishes to congratulate Helen Bradley. Helen has been presented with a "Good Citizenship Medal" by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David C. Onley.

"Best wishes to you! This is very deserved and I applaud the Georgian Bay Métis Council for their initiative in ensuring that your hard work and dedication has been recognised with this honour," said MNO President, Tony Belcourt.

Helen Bradley (nee Lepage) is the daughter of a commercial fisherman on Georgian Bay where she still lives. Over the years Helen has volunteered as a genealogist, assisting people who need help with a translation of documents from French or Michif; as a board member at the Enahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre as a Metis Elder; at a local correctional facility; as a fundraiser par excellence and just about anywhere else that she can help.

Well known for her expertise in cooking and preparing wild meat, Helen is also a wonderful beader and keeper of the craft. She quilts and of course understands that these circles held in the centre she started so many years ago, are not about the crafts but about the sharing of history, coming together as a people and feeling good about companionship.

Commenting on the event, Helen said: "I want to thank the Georgian Bay Metis Council that made this possible for me. I am very honoured and cannot express how happy I am. I had tears in my eyes when I received the phone call from the Ontario Government way back in December and was told that it was confidential....I could not even tell my children why I wanted them to attend this ceremony...in Toronto. Thank you everyone I am a very proud Metis person and will continue to volunteer as much and whenever possible."

Smartly dressed in a black skirt and vest bedecked with a

THE MNO'S VERY OWN TWO KID: MÉTIS YOUTH IS NAMED A SUPER CITIZEN

BY HANK ROWLINSON

We are always proud of the contributions that citizens throughout our communities make to the values and pride of Aboriginal people and how such efforts directly influence our children.

December 9th, 2007, was "International Day of Children in Broadcasting". Television programming was dedicated to inspirational children from different countries and was broadcast around the globe. *TVO Kids* aired a program called "Super Citizens". This program featured Ontario youth role model Super Citizen Award recipients, their contributions and influence on society.

The Métis Nation of Ontario's own Dalton Mathias (13 years old) was chosen from the hundreds of children interviewed. In the spring of 2007, producers contacted Dalton and travelled to his home to interview him on film for the program. They discussed his stance on anti-bullying, the volunteer work he does for the Aboriginal community, his National Role Model Award,



13-year old Dalton Matthais

and filmed him doing demonstrations of the traditional *Voyageur Games* that are hosted at the MNO's Annual General Assembly. A short ensemble featured Dalton as a strong and proud Aboriginal youth.

The impact that our children can make in bringing Aboriginal people to the forefront is a testament to the pride in our culture, our past and future. Congratulations to Dalton on his accomplishments in sharing his stories and bringing a little Métis insight to other children around the globe.

*Hank Rowlinson is a Senior Policy Analyst with the MNO.*

Métis sash, Helen Bradley was a fine example of Métis pride. Accompanying Helen were her son, Larry and his wife Elsie, as well as her daughter Linda and partner Daryl, all sporting Métis regalia. Helen's good friend, Cyndi King (MNO Provincial Apprenticeship And Employer Co-ordinator) was also there as her special guest and to assist.

Hosted by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Good Citizenship Investiture ceremony took place on the grand staircase of Queen's Park, Toronto. Simcoe North MPP, Garfield Dunlop, and his wife Jane were also in atten-

dance to congratulate Helen. In addition, she received a letter of congratulations hand delivered by Emily Bullock, Special Assistant to the Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

Senator Bradley enjoyed a further honour when she, and three other recipients, were invited to dine at the Sutton Place Hotel with the Honourable David C. Onley and his wife Ruth Ann.

"It was a memorable day I will never forget. Having my children there wearing their sashes, made me really feel so proud to be their mother. I will be wearing my medal with pride," said Helen.

∞

To Play or Not to Play...

from page 14

tion: "How much opportunity or incentive is there for us to gamble in our communities today?" I thought it would be interesting to take an imaginary road trip throughout our communities and just see what gaming facilities and resources are out there to tempt us or make our access to gambling easier.

I started out in the west side of the province (Region 1) and worked my way east, including only communities that have casinos and/or large bingo centres. It is interesting to note that every single one of our communities offers nearly unlimited access to lottery tickets, pull tabs and scratch tickets. Including, but not

limited to corner stores, grocery stores, gas stations, etc., there are 10,798 lottery ticket outlets alone in Ontario.

The first stop on my road trip is Kenora, where we have the Golden Eagle Charitable Casino and Entertainment Centre; it also includes a bingo hall. On to Fort Frances, that has one major bingo hall. Thunder Bay, has the Thunder Bay Charity Casino, (Grand Portage Casino in the US) and five major bingo halls. Sault Ste. Marie has Casino Sault Ste. Marie (plus two casinos on the American side) and five major bingo halls. Timmins, has one major bingo hall. Sudbury, has five major bingo halls. North Bay, has three major bingo halls. Ottawa, has Casino Lac Leamy, just next door

in Gatineau, and five major bingo halls. Georgian Bay, has Casino Rama nearby and one major bingo hall. Toronto, is not far from casinos Rama, Fallsview, Niagara and Great Blue Heron not to mention 17 major bingo halls. Hamilton, has Brantford Charity Casino and three major bingo halls. Welland/Niagara, has Casino Niagara, Fallsview Casino and Seneca Casino and five major

bingo halls. Windsor, has Casino Windsor, Windsor Raceway (plus two casinos on the American side) and 18 major bingo halls. Note: bingo halls and casino numbers information is from internet listings and may require updating.

That is an amazing total of 17 casinos and 73 bingo facilities, but does not include the numerous small neighbourhood charity or

fund-raising bingos and casinos that are held in our community centres, homes and churches throughout the province. These are the minimum numbers. I know I may have unintentionally missed quite a few casino/bingo facilities. The list was not meant to be "all inclusive" but rather a general cross section of gambling opportunity in Métis communities across the province. With the opportunity to gamble all around us, it is no wonder that problem gambling is such a rapidly increasing health issue for everyone.

**Even people with moderate gambling problems can experience serious consequences, including:**

- Financial Crisis
- Emotional Difficulties & Isolation
- Health Problems
- Burnout
- Physical/Emotional Abuse
- Suicide
- Crime

**If you do decide to gamble remember these simple suggestions in order to enjoy responsible, healthy gambling:**

- Don't think of gambling as a way to make money
- Always gamble with money you can afford to lose
- Set a money & time limits
- Never chase losses
- Don't gamble when you are depressed or upset

**CONTACT:**  
**Glen Lipinski**  
Addictions Wellness Coordinator  
20 Division Street  
Welland, ON  
Ph: 905-714-9864  
glenl@metisnation.org



CHIEF PEGUIS | Should we continue to pay the rent?

from page 16

instalment on the land but Peguis expected to be paid “annually,” a perpetual rent. That never happened.

Settlers who arrived later made payments in tobacco and ammunition but aboriginal bands were upset at the payment levels and how the numbers of settlers grew and spread over “all the lands between the Assiniboine and Lake Winnipeg -- a quantity of land nearly double of what was first asked of us,” Peguis said.

But, Peguis also conceded aboriginal people had “derived great benefit” from the settlers. The Scottish settlers brought European ingenuity, everything from log home construction, pots and pans, medicine, agricultural production, rifles and ammunition, and, deleteriously, alcohol. Aboriginal people welcomed most of the comforts.

Peguis also sided with the colonists because he didn't like the fur traders. “The traders have never done anything but rob and keep us poor,” Peguis said. (This is likely true but keep in mind that wholesale buyers, from the Manitoba Fresh Water Fish Marketing Board to Wal-Mart, are rarely loved by their suppliers.)

“*Were Peguis and the four other bands that signed the Selkirk Treaty of 1817 right to expect ongoing rent payments from immigrants?*”

Peguis also confided that he believed the settlers might be useful allies against the Sioux.

But mostly, Peguis was a magnanimous person. He wasn't from the area either, having arrived with his Ojibway band from Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., in the 1790s.

“I think he saw himself as someone who came from somewhere also, and that there was room for everyone,” said Suther-

land, interviewed in her log home 45 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

Which makes Peguis sound like an early immigration agent. Were Peguis and the four other bands that signed the Selkirk Treaty of 1817 right to expect ongoing rent payments from immigrants?

That's not our current system. The economic benefits from immigrants are in their skills and productivity, not from charging them rent. It should have been the same back then, even more so with the flow of new technologies from Europe.

It didn't turn out that way. The real virus those early fur traders and settlers unleashed across the land was capitalism. But as the fur trade dwindled and died, aboriginal people became underrepresented in the capitalist economy. And if you're not in the economy, you have a tougher time seeing the economic spinoffs from things like immigration.

The rent idea persists today. Grand Rapids Chief Ovide Mercredi is now demanding rent for cellphone signals crossing First Nations airspace, despite the benefits to him and others from rural cellphone service. Manitoba Hydro's next northern power line may ultimately be routed along either the east or west shore of Lake Winnipeg -- depending on which First Nations charge the least rent.

Don't blame these ideas on author Sutherland, a Métis whose ancestry dates back to the 1730s when an Orkney ancestor married a Cree woman.

But her excellent book on such an interesting historical figure as Peguis -- published in 2003 by the Chief Peguis Cultural Park to raise funds for historic St. Peter Church -- encourages looking at the context in which events took place.

It's based almost entirely on unfiltered primary sources -- the letters of the early Selkirk settlers and Peguis sifted from the Hudson's Bay Co. archives.

“You can form your own opinions,” she said.

CONTACT: bill.redekop@freepress.mb.ca

PJ's kids corner



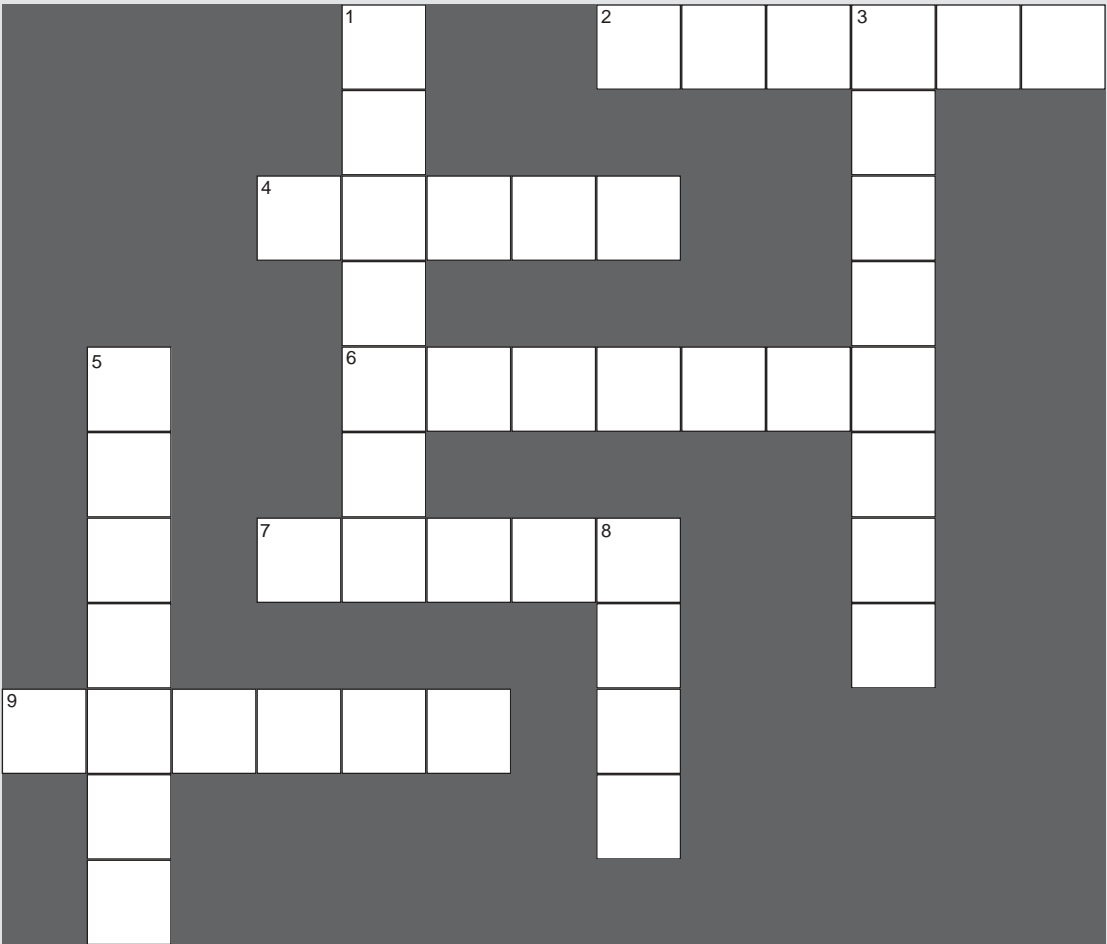
Marsi!  
My name is PJ the Snowy Owl!

I live in the open field nearby and will be visiting your neighbourhood throughout the year.

I am an owlet (a baby owl) and just learned how to fly on my own. I will be sharing with you my adventures so keep a look out for me in upcoming issues of *Métis Voyageur*. Please join me and help me with my homework. These puzzles contain words that are associated with our Métis heritage.

Till next time, have fun and laughter...

PJ's CROSSWORD  
Let's do this crossword puzzle together!



ACROSS

- 2. Four-footed rodent valued for its fur; trading of its fur lead to early trading posts in Canada
- 4. A long boat used by Aboriginal people of the north-west
- 6. The work of finding or capturing animals for food or pelts
- 7. Objects used to catch an animal
- 9. A stringed instrument sometimes called a violin

DOWN

- 1. Birds have these all over their bodies
- 3. A fur trader, canoeist and traveller along the lakes and rivers of North America
- 5. The act of threading beads to make jewellery or decorations for clothing
- 8. A wide piece of brightly coloured cloth worn around the waist or over the shoulder

ANSWERS: ACROSS: 2. beaver; 4. canoe; 6. hunting; 7. traps; 9. fiddle. DOWN: 1. feather; 3. voyageur; 5. beading; 8. sash.



Nominations are being accepted for the 2008 National Aboriginal Role Model Program.

The National Aboriginal Health Organization is looking for Canada's top Aboriginal youth (between the ages of 13 and 30) who are positive role models to others. Role models are First Nations, Inuit or Métis who have shown leadership in school, in sports, or in their communities.

The nomination deadline is March 28, 2008.



For nomination forms or further information, please visit: www.naho.ca/rolemodel or call 1-877-602-4445

Funded by Health Canada



ATTENTION ALL CITIZENS OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

ELECTION NOTICE2008

DATE OF ELECTION:

May 5, 2008

DATE OF ADVANCE POLL:

May 3, 2008

HOURS OF POLLING:

9:00 AM ET to 8:00 PM ET

ADVANCE POLL:

3PM to 7PM in each relevant time zone

POLLING STATIONS:

Tentative List below

CLOSE OF NOMINATIONS:

April 15, 2008, 5:00 PM ET

POSITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR NOMINATIONS:

All candidates must submit a written acceptance of the Nomination and a statement that the candidate has read the *MNO Electoral Code* and *MNO Bylaws* and is eligible to be nominated as a candidate in the MNO election.

POSITIONS FOR ELECTION TO THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO (PCMNO):

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS (PCMNO)

- President

• Vice-Chair
- Chair

• Secretary-Treasurer

- ∞ Candidates require seven signatures by registered voters from each region
- ∞ \$100.00 non-refundable deposit

OTHER PCMNO POSITIONS

- 9 Regional Councillors

- ∞ Candidates require 21 signatures by registered voters from within their respective region
- ∞ \$100.00 non-refundable deposit.

- Post-Secondary Representative (PCMNO) \*\*

- ∞ Candidates require four signatures of registered voters per region
- ∞ \$50.00 non-refundable deposit.
- (Any registered voter can nominate Post-Secondary Representative).

- Youth Representative (PCMNO) \*

- ∞ Candidates must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election
- ∞ requires four signatures of registered voters who are under 29 years of age from each region.

MÉTIS VETERANS' POSITIONS:

- President

• Vice President

• Secretary Treasurer
- Women's Representative

• Youth Representative

• Senator

- ∞ Candidates require four (4) signatures of electors who are veterans.
- ∞ A signed Veteran's Affirmation (statement that the candidate is a veteran)

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO YOUTH:

- Regional Youth Representative (MNOY) \*

- ∞ Must be 16 to 26 years of age on date of election.
- ∞ Candidates require seven signatures of registered voters who are under 29 years of age from their respective region.

\* Must include a statement that the candidate on the date of election will be between the ages of sixteen (16) and twenty-six (26) years of age.

\*\* Must include a statement that the candidate intends to be a student at a post-secondary institution in Ontario for at least 2/3 of the term of office.

SAMPLE NOMINATION FORMS:  
NOMINATIONS:

**Made available through MNO Council offices or by email from the Chief Electoral Officer.**  
**Will be accepted by the Chief Electoral Officer up to end of the nominations closing date of April 15, 2008**, either in person, by mail or facsimile. Deposits, where required, must be received by end of closing date. If nomination forms are submitted by facsimile, the original forms must be received by mail or in person before the posting of candidates April 22, 2008.

POSTING OF CANDIDATES:

**April 22, 2008**  
Upon completing a review of all filed nominations to ensure they meet the necessary requirements, the MNO Chief Electoral Officer will issue an official candidates' listing. The listing will also be posted on the website: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

PRELIMINARY VOTERS' LISTS:

**April 1, 2008** - made available at all MNO Council Offices  
Upon provision of evidence satisfactory to the Chief Electoral Officer of legitimate errors and omissions, names can be added or deleted up to 14 days before the election.

FINAL VOTERS' LISTS:

**April 20, 2008** - posted in Council Offices

MNO ELECTORAL CODE:

The procedures and rules governing these elections are contained in the Métis Nation of Ontario Electoral Code: Part A, and will be available through MNO Community Councils and on the MNO website: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

Returning Officers and Poll Clerks will be required. If interested, please contact the *Chief Electoral Officer*. For further information or for a copy of the *MNO Electoral Code* please contact: **Lawrence Gladue**, *Chief Electoral Officer* or **Hank Rowlinson**, *Deputy Chief Electoral Officer*

**PHONE: 613-798-2957 or TOLL FREE: 1- 866-591-9948**  
**FAX 613-798-2923 email: [mnoelection@metisnation.org](mailto:mnoelection@metisnation.org)**  
Election correspondence can be mailed to the *Chief Electoral Officer*  
500 Old St. Patrick St., Unit D, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4

MNO MAY 2008 PROVINCIAL ELECTION TENTATIVE POLLING STATIONS

REGION 1

**Kenora Métis Community Council**  
70 Park Street  
Kenora, ON P9N 1Y6

**Sunset Country Métis Council**  
426 Victoria Avenue  
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3M7

**Northwest Métis Council**  
34B King Street  
Dryden, ON P8N 1B7

REGION 2

**Thunder Bay Métis Council**  
226 May Street South  
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 1B4

REGION 3

**Timmins Métis Council**  
347 Spruce St. South  
Timmins, ON P4N 2N2

REGION 4

**Historic Sault Ste.Marie Metis Council**  
26 Queen Street East  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3

REGION 5

**Sudbury Métis Council**  
260 Alder Street - Upstairs  
Sudbury ON P3C 5P4

**North Bay Métis Council**  
101 Worthington St. East, Unit 243  
North Bay, ON P1B 1G5

REGION 6

**Ottawa Regional Métis Council**  
500 Old St. Patrick Street  
Unit D  
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4

**Metis Nation of Ontario**  
236 Steward St.,  
Suite 102  
Renfrew, ON K7V 1X7

**Metis Nation of Ontario**  
91 Chemaushgon Street  
Bancroft, ON K0L 1C0

**Metis Nation of Ontario**  
33002 Hwy 62 North  
Maynooth, ON K0L 2S0

REGION 7

**Georgian Bay Métis Council**  
9170 County Road 93 W.,  
Unit 301  
Midland, ON L4R 4K4

**Grey Owen Sound Metis Council**  
380 - 9th St. East  
Owen Sound, ON N4K 1P1

REGION 8

**Credit River Metis Council**  
170 Steelwell Rd., Unit 102  
Brampton, ON L6T 5T3

**Metis Nation of Ontario**  
103 Richmond St. E, Unit 404  
Toronto, ON M5C 1N9

REGION 9

**Niagara Region Métis Council**  
20 Division St.  
Welland, ON L3B 3Z6

**Windsor/Essex Métis Council**  
145-600 Tecumseh Road East  
Windsor, ON N8X 4X9

**Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council**  
445 Concession St.  
Hamilton, ON L9A 1C1

