

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

MÉTIS AT THE MOVIES

AWARD-WINNING MÉTIS DIRECTOR IS MAKING A MARK WITH FILM TAKING ON MÉTIS IDENTITY ISSUES.
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MÉTIS LEADERS SIGN HISTORIC PROTOCOLS

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YOUR MÉTIS COMMUNITY

MÉTIS COUNCIL
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NEW LEADERSHIP, NEW ENERGY, NEW DIRECTION:

*In the Spirit of
Louis Riel*

The Métis Nation of Ontario follows up this year's Louis Riel Day ceremonies on November 16th with a two day **SPECIAL PRESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY/AGA 2008** in Toronto, Ontario

Mark these dates on your calendar--November 16-18, 2008! The MNO's event of the year is rapidly approaching. This year's Special Presidents' Assembly and AGA 2008, is the official beginning of a new era, one that will build upon the past but focus on the future, and one that will certainly have a different format. For starters, it's in the fall, not the summer. It's in the big city at a big hotel, that the MNO has been able to get for an amazing rate to maximise participation! (See back page for details.) Despite the different venue and season the AGA will bring together Métis leaders and citizens from across the province, including PCMNO, Senators, Community Council Presidents and citizens, you too will want to be there.

Referring to the change of venue and timing of the AGA, President Lipinski said: "I want MNO citizens to know, their new leadership did not make this decision lightly.... However, in considering the logistical, administrative and fiscal challenges holding the MNO AGA in July would create this year, we believe this new direction for this year is the right decision for the MNO...." In another interview Gary stated that the PCMNO had taken a great deal of time and considered all the factors and knew the consequences and disappointment some would have in delaying the AGA.

"The MNO's new leadership is committed to a 'new way of doing business'.... As a part of the transparent, frank and two-way dialogue, I want to continue to reassure MNO citizens that we will consult with them over the next year on how they would like to proceed

with respect to future MNO AGAs." To this end, when citizens receive their "kits" at the Presidents' Assembly/AGA 2008 they will also receive a questionnaire seeking individual and family input on a preferred time frame for AGA 2009. Please note however, that this will not be discussed at the assembly. There will be opportunities to respond online and further information will be available in subsequent *Voyageurs*.

DAY ONE

NOVEMBER 16, 2008:

What better way to start this special three-day event than on Riel Day, November 16th? Although Riel Day occurs on the anniversary of the day Louis Riel was hung in 1885, we come together to celebrate his heroic life.

For those wanting transportation, shuttle buses will be available at the host venue, the Days Inn Hotel and Conference Centre – Toronto Airport East to take people to Queen's Park where everyone will assemble by 10:40 A.M. for the raising of the Métis flag. Led by Aboriginal veterans, Elders and a Legion Honour Guard, participants will march to the Northwest Rebellion Monument, where the opening prayer will be delivered. This year's MC, Chair, France Picotte, will open the ceremonies and make introductions and Vice-chair Sharon McBride will speak on behalf of the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Other speakers will include representatives from First



MNO President
Gary Lipinski

“
**THE
MNO'S NEW
LEADERSHIP
IS COMMITTED
TO A
'NEW WAY
OF DOING
BUSINESS'.**
”

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FILLING THE FREEZERS FOR THE NEEDY
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MÉTIS COMMUNITY NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

OCTOBER 2008, No. 55

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**The next Voyageur deadline is
December 1st, 2008**

O Creator

by **Senator Leora Wilson**
Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council

We ask you to teach us humility and wisdom
in our everyday lives.
Lead us to the paths that you would have us travel.

Show us the way to give whatever we have in the way
that we can best give, be it time, talent
or community support.

Remind us that we are here for such a short time, and
that we may have only one chance to do
something special with our lives.

Before we know it we become the elders of our nation.
Teach us the ways in which we can offer our life experi-
ence to our nation and our community.

Help us to reach out and take an opportunity to give of
ourselves to something that we truly believe in.

Show us that we are not indispensable. Someone else will
fill our shoes with new passion and energy.

Keep us focused on our goals. Let us not be swayed by
the opinions of others when we know the
right way for us.

Let us not take our blessings for granted.
All things have their time, and can be gone in an instant.

Show us your truth and let us live in that reality.

Marci,
Migwetch,
Amen

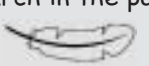
Looking for a new job?

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



Marsi!

My name is PJ the Snowy Owl!

FALL IS HERE...and I have been busy these last few months learning how to fly long distances and I have been losing some of my feathers along the way. Can you find them for me? Search in the pages that follow and you will see a few. 

Do your grandma and grandpa tell you stories? It is important to listen because our grandparents are wise and we can learn many lessons from them. My grandpa told me a few weeks ago to always tell my mommy and daddy anything that is bothering me because they will help me deal with it. So I told my mommy that I was flying around the neighbourhood with my friends who were making me fly too far. I was so happy to tell her because she told me to take my own time, relax and listen to the wind.

I hope you also listen to your grandparents and tell your mommy and daddy if you are having any problems. **HAPPY FEATHER HUNTING!**

AMAZING RECIPES:

Wild Rice Blueberry Pudding

by **TRACY BALD**

This year I have been able to freeze a great deal of wild blueberries. I love to have them on hand for pancakes, oatmeal, and one of my favourites, wild rice pudding. I made this recipe for an event we held to honour our Elders back in June. The pudding was enjoyed by all and many asked for the recipe. I thought I would share it since I am not the only one that thinks it is delicious. Enjoy!

2 cups cooked wild rice
2 cups cream or 2% evaporated milk
6 eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 cup blueberries
3/4 cup maple syrup

Whisk together the eggs, milk, vanilla and maple syrup. Over medium heat, stir together the wild rice and blueberries in a large sauce pan. Gradually add in milk mixture and stir well. Simmer over medium low heat for 30 minutes, stirring frequently until pudding thickens. Pour into bowls and cool slightly before serving. Serves 8.

Tracy Bald is the Community Wellness Coordinator for the Georgian Bay Métis Council.

MNO STAFF:

Welcome aboard!

Monique Richard joined MNO staff on September 2, 2008, as Executive Assistant to the President.

Monique comes to us with over ten years of administrative experience. She was an executive assistant in a corporate organisation, and most recently an event manager in the hospitality industry. Monique is currently completing her degree in administrative studies at York University.

"This position offers me the unique opportunity of working in the political arena. I am looking forward to assisting President Lipinski as he embarks on his quest to continually grow the Métis Nation of Ontario. As well, I look forward to meeting the MNO representatives, employees and citizens throughout Ontario and to attending Métis cultural events," said Monique.

As part of the *Operations Team*, Monique will also assist Chief Operating Officer, Doug Wilson.

Please join us in welcoming Monique Richard as a new member to the *Operations Team*.

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Familiar face is Employment & Training's new Supervisor

It is a pleasure to announce that, effective June 30, 2008, Tammy Webb became the Acting Supervisor of Employment and Training, reporting to Jennifer St. Germain, Director Education and Training.

Among her other duties in this interim position, Tammy supervises staff; monitors regional sites; reviews regional activity; oversees and reviews regional and provincial budgets; assists with program reporting requirements and staff training; monitors and co-ordinates expense claims; co-ordinates and schedules staff reviews, and represents MNOTI at community meetings and other meetings as assigned.

Tammy has been with the MNO for many years, and has gained a vast knowledge of the communities, procedures, operations and requirements of the branch. She has proven an integral and active participant in the development of MNOTI and her knowledge and experience are key to this position.

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OBITUARY

by *Gary Lipinski*

It is with deepest regrets that we learned of the sudden passing of Norm Monaghan. A founding member of the Northumberland Métis Council and a regular participant and volunteer at the MNO AGA. Norm's optimism and generosity in sharing his rich experiences and outstanding personal qualities has left a significant impression on those who had the privilege of knowing him.

We will greatly miss his companionship, vitality and convictions. On behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, I send our heartfelt respect, gratitude, and condolences to Norm's wife Margery and family.

When a friend dies, one truly isn't lost but is found in the lives and the hearts of all of us. It's good memories fused with time that help us through tomorrow.

Métis writer Maria Campbell receives Order of Canada



Métis author and Elder, Maria Campbell, was named to the Order of Canada this past July. Campbell may be best known for her first book,

"Halfbreed", which continues to be taught in schools today. She is honoured for "her contributions to Canadian literature and media as a writer, playwright, filmmaker and educator, as well as for her advocacy on Métis and Aboriginal issues."



Captain's Corner

by **KEN SIMARD**
CAPTAIN OF THE HUNT, REG. 2

Moose on the loose!

Moose on the loose! Watch out for wildlife on all roads, hunting or not hunting.

Be safe; stay alert; stay alive.

Did you know that at 1.9m (6 ft.) and 500 kg (1100 lbs.) a collision with a moose can be deadly? In northern and north-western Ontario, one in four motor vehicle collisions, involved a wild animal on provincial highways.

So be sure to take your winter survival kit and prepare for winter travel. Make sure you have: blankets; shovel; extra warm clothing and footwear; flares; matches; flashlight and new batteries; candle, and first-aid kit.

PS Have a successful harvest this fall!

Our Métis Rights

THE CROWN'S DUTY TO CONSULT AND ACCOMMODATE:



left to right: Timmins Métis Council President, Natalie Durocher; Temiskaming Métis Council President, Lillian Ethier; Northern Lights Métis Council President, Urgil Courvil; MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and PCMNO Councillor for Region 3, Marcel Lafrance.

Métis leaders sign historic Protocol in Timmins

ON JUNE 25TH, 2008, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President, Gary Lipinski, joined local and regional Métis leadership in Timmins to sign an historic "protocol", which aims to ensure that the Crown fulfils its constitutional duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights, interest and way of life in the region.

The protocol is the first of its kind within the Métis nation. It commits various levels of Métis government to work together to ensure that all Métis citizens who live in and use the Métis traditional territories of Abitibi/Temiscamigue and James Bay will be consulted in relation to upcoming

hydro-electric, mining and forestry developments in these territories.

Based on this protocol, Métis will be participating in the upcoming environmental assessment on Ontario Power Generation's Lower Mattagami Hydro-electric Project that is overseen by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency as well as engaging mining companies to ensure that Métis rights and interests are considered in future exploration and development in the region.

"With this protocol, the Métis Nation is building on the Supreme Court of Canada's affir-

“BY WORKING TOGETHER, THE MNO AND ITS COMMUNITY COUNCILS WILL ENSURE THAT ALL MÉTIS CITIZENS HAVE A SAY ON WHAT IS BEING DONE ON THE LANDS THEY HAVE RELIED UPON FOR GENERATIONS.”

— PRESIDENT LIPINSKI

mation of Métis rights in the landmark Powley case. By working together, the MNO and its community councils will ensure that all Métis citizens have a say on

what is being done on the lands they have relied upon for generations," said President Lipinski.

Lipinski concluded: "This community-driven initiative will also ensure Métis in the region begin to benefit from the energy, forestry and mining development that is happening within their traditional territories. I want to congratulate the local and regional Métis leadership who have worked so hard to see this protocol become a reality."

Copies of the English and French versions of the protocol are available on the MNO's web site at www.metisnation.org/consultation. ∞

PROVINCIAL RELATIONS:

President Lipinski set to meet with Premier of Ontario

Ongoing meetings with various provincial partners made September a busy month for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) executive.

On the radar for the end of September (at the time of printing) was a scheduled meeting between MNO President Gary Lipinski and the Honourable Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario. (Look for a follow-up in the next edition of the *Voyageur*)

President Lipinski plans to meet with the Premier to further enhance the positive relationship that the Métis Nation of Ontario has with the Ontario Government and to advance negotiations surrounding the Framework Agreement.



OUR ONGOING MÉTIS RIGHTS AGENDA:

MNO releases report from community consultations on Crown's Duty to Consult and Accommodate Métis Rights

ON JULY 29, 2008, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) released the final report from its community consultations on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework.

In January, 2008, the MNO announced province-wide community consultations, jointly supported by the Ontario Government and the Government of Canada, on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework. The proposed Consultation Framework will increase Métis engagement, input and participation in planning and development related to Ontario's natural resources consistent with the Crown's constitutional duty to consult rights-

bearing Métis communities on activities that have the potential to impact Métis rights, interests and way of life. The final report is based on over 17 community consultation meetings held throughout southern, central and northern Ontario, along with input received from Métis citizens via the MNO's web site dedicated to the consultations.

The final report includes over 60 recommendations on a wide array of topics, including, principles for an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework; education, training and communication initiatives on the duty to consult; Métis representation issues; capacity and funding issues; Métis research, mapping and data col-

lection; and creating partnerships with industry in the forestry, energy and mining sectors.

The report will be used to inform ongoing bilateral and tri-lateral discussions with the Ontario Government and the Government of Canada on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework as well as the MNO's collaborative work with the Ontario Government on its recent announcements relating to the protection of the boreal region; revenue resource sharing with First Nation and Métis communities; reforming and modernising Ontario's Mining Act, and the development and implementation of the New Relationship Fund, based on the

recommendation in the Ipperwash Inquiry Report.

"This report provides an important foundation upon which the Métis Nation can build, but it is clear that Métis citizens and communities want to continue to be actively engaged as we move forward on this important rights-based initiative. The MNO is optimistic that this report will represent a starting point for a collaborative journey, with both levels of government, in order to ensure Métis rights, interests and way of life in this province are respected and protected for generations to come," added Lipinski.



A COMPLETE COPY OF THE FINAL REPORT IS AVAILABLE AT:

www.metisnation.org/consultations/

COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS:

Métis Communities have their say

by **CHELSEY QUIRK**

The first round of consultations on the Duty to Consult initiative was completed at the end of June.

“The attendance and interest at the community meetings was very impressive,” said MNO President, Gary Lipinski. “It was clear from these consultation meetings that Métis citizens and communities want to know what is going on around them, as it relates to and impacts our rights, our way of life and our traditional territories. Our communities want to have an opportunity to assess and have a say in what governments and proponents are doing or planning on doing on lands Métis have relied upon for generations. Moreover, our communities want to share in the benefits flowing from economic development occurring

on Métis traditional territories.

“Without question, developing and implementing an MNO Consultation Framework will assist us in achieving what Métis citizens desire. However, we also heard from Métis citizens that we need to take our time in developing a consultation framework so it is community-driven, collaborative and strengthens Métis rights for generations to come. Similar to what we did in developing our MNO Harvesting Policy, we need to take time and ensure our citizens understand and support what we are putting into place.

“While we continue to consult on developing an MNO Consultation Framework, the MNO is also working to ensure Métis rights and interests are being respected by government and industry in relation to developments that are going on right

“**OUR COMMUNITIES WANT TO SHARE IN THE BENEFITS FLOWING FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OCCURRING ON MÉTIS TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES.**”

— President Lipinski

now.” (See *Timmins*, page 3 and *Sault Ste. Marie* below)

“In addition, the MNO is actively participating in hearings before the Ontario Energy Board on the Integrated Power Supply Plan as well as the Bruce to Mil-

ton Transmission Line, in order to ensure Métis rights and interests are protected.” (See page 24)

“What has become very clear from all of this work is that funding and capacity are desperately needed at the local, regional and provincial levels in order to ensure that our citizens and communities can effectively participate in the consultation and accommodation processes. Right now, we are simply unable to do all we need to do in order to protect Métis rights and participate effectively.

In order to assist MNO Community Councils in responding to notice letters received from government and industry, the MNO has developed a standard response letter for councils to use. A copy of this letter is available on the MNO's web site at: www.metisnation.org/consultation

MATTAWA/LAKE NIPISSING PROTOCOL SIGNED

SUDBURY---MNO President, Gary Lipinski, joined with local and regional Métis leadership and more than 120 citizens in Sudbury on to sign a Protocol, which aims to ensure the Crown fulfills its constitutional duty to consult and accommodate Métis rights, interest and way of life in the region.

“With this Protocol, the Métis Nation is building on the Supreme Court of Canada's affirmation of Métis rights in the land-



left to right: **Senator Marlene Greenwood; North Bay Métis Council President, Mel Jamieson; PCMNO Councillor, Region 5, Maurice Sarrazin; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; Sudbury Métis Council President, Richard Sarrazin, and Senator Rene Gravelle, Sudbury Métis Council.**

mark Powley case. By working together, the MNO and its Community Councils will ensure all Métis citizens will have a say on what is being done on the lands they have relied on for generations,” said President Lipinski.

The Protocol commits various levels of Métis government to

work together to ensure all Métis citizens who live in and use the Métis traditional territories of Mattawa/Lake Nipissing will be consulted in relation to upcoming hydroelectric, mining and forestry developments in these territories.

“The signing of this protocol is a positive step forward for the

council and Métis people as a whole,” said Sudbury Métis Council President Richard Sarrazin.

“The Crown's Duty to Consult is vital in our Métis communities,” said North Bay Métis Council President Mel Jamieson. “Our entire Métis community will benefit from this initiative.”

INDUSTRY SECTOR MEETINGS:

Sault Métis again prepare to take lead in advancing Métis rights

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a regional Métis community meeting in Sault Ste. Marie on June 11th, 2008, to develop an approach to increase Métis participation in the forestry sector, and other resource-based industries in the region.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, encouraged all Métis citizens living in the region to try to attend this historic meeting. He referred to the meeting as “an important next step in building on the Supreme Court of Canada's affirmation that Métis people in Ontario have constitutional rights.”

“It makes sense,” he said, “that the renowned Métis community in the Sault Ste. Marie region will once again be taking a lead in advancing the Métis nation's rights agenda, since it is the home of the landmark Powley

decision.”

In 2003, in its first decision on Métis rights, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that the Métis community in the Sault Ste. Marie region possesses a constitutionally protected right to hunt for food and confirmed that two MNO citizens--Steve and Roddy Powley--did not need a provincial hunting license because they were members of the rights-bearing Métis community and exercising the community's right to hunt for food.

Since 2003, the MNO and the Ministry of Natural Resources

(MNR) have reached a Métis harvesting agreement, which accommodates Métis harvesting practices and recognises the MNO's harvesters' policy and cards. Now, the MNR has indicated its willingness to discuss an arrangement with the rights-bearing Métis community in order to increase Métis access to the forestry sector.

“Métis rights are collective rights. We need to ensure that the entire rights-bearing community is engaged and supports this process. The purpose of this meeting is to bring the Métis

community together in order to get the ball rolling,” said Anne Trudel, MNO Regional Councillor.

In attendance at the meeting were MNO President, Gary Lipinski; MNO Chair, France Picotte; MNO Region 4 Councillor, Anne Trudel; MNO Captain of the Hunt, Brent McHale; and prominent Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, who have acted as counsel in several Métis rights victories in Ontario and western Canada. Ms. Teillet also was lead counsel for the Powley case at all levels of court.

Based on this meeting, a working group, consisting of regional community representatives, was established in order to engage with the Ministry of Natural Resources on forestry opportunities for Métis in the region.

TIMELINE:



Métis Rights and the Crown's Duty to Consult

POWLEY

19, September, 2003, in *R. v. Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada recognised that Métis communities hold constitutionally protected Aboriginal rights that must be respected by governments.

HAIDA & TAKU

18, November, 2004, in the *Haida Nation v. British Columbia and Taku River Tlingit v. British Columbia* cases, the Supreme Court set out a new legal framework--the duty to consult and accommodate--which directs the Crown to consult with Aboriginal peoples and accommodate proven and asserted Aboriginal rights when governments contemplate developments that may affect Aboriginal rights and way of life.

HARVESTING AGREEMENT

In July, 2004, based on the Powley, Haida and Taku decisions, the MNO and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) entered into a province-wide accommodation agreement on Métis harvesting based on credible Métis harvesting rights claims throughout the province.

COURT VICTORY

In June, 2007, the MNO-MNR agreement was upheld by the Ontario Court of Justice in *R. v. Laurin* as “legally defensible” and “highly principled” based on Haida and Taku.

NO APPEAL BY GOV'T

In July, 2007, the Ontario Government decided not to appeal the *Laurin* case and renewed discussions with the MNO in order to fully implement the MNO-MNR agreement.

IPPERWASH REPORT

31, May 2007, the Ipperwash Inquiry report recommended that the Ontario Government work with Aboriginal peoples on implementing the duty to consult and accommodate in legislation, regulations, and other applicable government policies in order to promote respect and understanding for this duty throughout the provincial government and increase Aboriginal engagement in and benefit from the development of natural resources in the province.

INCREASING MÉTIS INPUT IN FORESTRY, ENERGY AND MINING SECTORS

In January, 2008, both the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, on behalf of the Ontario Government, and the Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians, on behalf of the Government of Canada, agreed to provide resources to the MNO to undertake consultation on the duty to consult and accommodate with its citizens with a view to increasing Métis input and involvement in Ontario's forestry, energy and mining sectors as well as developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework.

Provincial Relations



INDUSTRY SECTOR MEETINGS:



Common Ground

Métis Nation of Ontario meets with provincial players in mining and energy

In the spirit of moving the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to the next level, President Lipinski and other MNO representatives have been meeting with private sector organisations and companies in the energy and mining sectors from across the province. The meetings were a first step in providing information about the MNO and Métis rights as well as developing relationships and creating opportunities to grow partnerships based upon common objectives.

On August 14th, President Lipinski met with Chris Hodgson, President of the Ontario Mining Association which represents 60 senior mining companies across the province, to discuss the possibility of establishing educational partnerships, “memorandums of understanding” (MOU) and resource and revenue sharing with Métis communities. Mr. Hodgson was very receptive to working with the MNO and to assisting in the facilitation of meetings with his member companies and the MNO.

On the same day, President Lipinski met with Shane Pospisil, President and CEO of the Ontario Energy Association (OEA) and John Priddle, Vice-president of Government Relations and Public Affairs with OEA. During this meeting, President Pospisil presented OEA's top five priorities for 2008, which identified common areas in which the MNO could be involved. Discussions moved on to ways to promote Aboriginal/private sector partnerships; MNOTI-industry MOUs related to increasing Métis employment opportunities and to assisting the MNO in securing funding commitments from government and industry for its proposal to create targeted bursaries in the energy sector, and bringing OEA members to the MNO for possible partnerships.

MINING ACT MODERNISATION: Ontario wants to ensure that mining potential across the province is developed in a sustainable way that continues to benefit the province and respects communities.

Premier Dalton McGuinty

established the context for a modernised Mining Act when he announced Ontario's “Far North Planning Initiative” on July 14, 2008.

The Premier stressed that the goal, both in the far north region and across the province, is to strike the right balance between conservation and development. Ontario wants to ensure that its mining industry remains strong. This includes making certain that mining practices are up to date, and that Aboriginal rights and interests are given the appropriate consideration.

“We think exploration and mine development should only happen with early consultation and accommodation with local Aboriginal communities,” the Premier said.

The Premier also announced that Ontario will develop a system of resource benefits sharing that would see Aboriginal communities benefit directly from resource development.

In February, 2007, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) released a discussion paper, *Toward Devel-*

oping an Aboriginal Consultation Approach for Mineral Sector Activities, and initiated a collaborative engagement process with the goal of developing an improved Aboriginal consultation approach.

COMMUNITY-BASED DISCUSSIONS: The MNO held community-based discussions across Ontario, and through these discussions, we learned that Métis communities have a variety of views on mineral sector activities, including when and how they want to be consulted. These recommendations were reflected in the MNO's report, *Toward Developing an Aboriginal Consultation Approach for Mineral Sector Activities*. The report was shared with the MNDM which resulted in further discussions and funding to move forward on the next steps identified in the report to undertake a Métis legal review and analysis of the Mining Act and its regulations and MNO/MNDM conducting further regional consultation meetings on Mining Act modernisation.

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BUILDING BRIDGES:



MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and Don MacKinnon, President of the Ontario Power Workers' Union (PWU).

President Lipinski meets with head of Ontario Power Workers' Union

On June 26th, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, met with Don MacKinnon, President of the Ontario Power Workers' Union (PWU), as a part of the MNO's ongoing efforts to build bridges with key partners in the province.

At the meeting, President Lipinski provided President MacKinnon and other PWU representatives information on the Métis people and the MNO's governance structures and institutions, including, the MNO's employment and training branch.

In particular, Presidents Lipinski and MacKinnon discussed Ontario's upcoming labour market needs in the energy sector and opportunities for the MNO and PWU to partner in the future.

It was agreed that officials from PWU and the MNO would hold follow up meetings to identify and make progress on potential partnership initiatives, including, establishing targeted bursaries and scholarships for Métis students pursuing careers in the energy sector.

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MNO welcomes Province's review of Child and Family Services System

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has responded to the recently announced review of the Child and Family Services system by Ontario's Attorney General, in response to the tragic death of Katelynn Sampson.

Sampson, a seven-year-old Toronto girl was found dead, with signs of trauma on her body on August 3, 2008. Her guardian at the time is being accused of her death. There is serious discussion taking place around the proceedings regarding the custody of Katelynn Sampson and the possibility of the absence of any consideration of the best interests of the young child.

President Lipinski expressed his distress by saying that “this tragedy emphasises the need for improved collaboration, enhanced supports and stronger safeguards within the overall system as well as

within the Aboriginal community in order to adequately address the best interests of our children and families in Ontario.”

The MNO has formally written to Ontario's Attorney-General as well as the Minister for Children and Youth, requesting that the Métis nation have an opportunity to provide its perspective in relation to the current system and its challenges and impacts on Métis children, families and communities in the province.

The MNO has also publicly released two discussion papers, titled, *Ontario's Child and Family Services: The Law, Current Policies and the Métis and How the Ontario Child and Family System Deals with Ontario Métis*, which it hopes will help inform the government's review as it relates to Métis children. These papers were completed as a part of the MNO's ongoing tripartite process with the Ontario Government and the Government of Canada. These documents can be found on our web site at www.metisnation.org.

“We have continually heard from our citizens that nothing is more important to the future well-being of our communities than the protection of our children. This recently announced review, along with these two discussion papers, will allow us to begin more focussed discussions on the role the Métis nation should play within the current system in this province,” added MNO Chair, France Picotte.

MÉTIS CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AGENCIES EXIST IN ALBERTA AND BRITISH COLUMBIA

In several other jurisdictions, the Métis play a significant role in the delivery of child and family services to their communities. For example, Métis child and family services agencies exist in Alberta and British Columbia. As well, in Manitoba, the delivery of child and family services has been successfully devolved to the

Manitoba Métis Federation through legislation.

Why is it important to consider Child & Family Services for Métis ?

In response to increasing attention of Métis citizens in Ontario to issues related to child and family services, the MNO is undertaking preliminary work aimed at gaining a more comprehensive understanding of child welfare in Ontario.

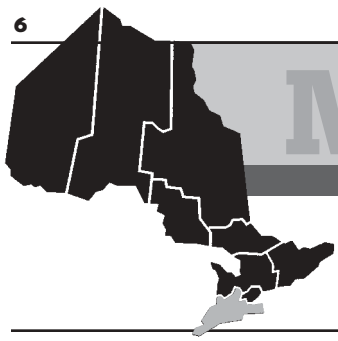
The child welfare system in Ontario is a large, complex multi-faceted system that spends over \$1.16 billion annually on child protection services. Child and family services, which generally refer to public social services intended to protect children from neglect, abuse and exploitation, are growing rapidly in this province and in jurisdictions across Canada.

Ontario was one of the first provinces in Canada to officially legislate consideration of the Aboriginal identity of children in child welfare decisions. The provision for child welfare services

to First Nations communities in Ontario follows a delegated model initially put in place by an agreement between the province and the federal government in 1965. However, there is no such arrangement for the Métis nation in Ontario and the child welfare system in Ontario is largely unaccountable to the Métis nation as an Aboriginal people.

While there is evidence that Métis, like First Nations and Inuit are grossly over-represented in the child welfare system, ‘on the ground’ research demonstrates that there is no formal surveillance, tracking and monitoring. Child welfare is an emerging field and it is timely for the Métis Nation of Ontario to be considering these issues. The fundamental principle of self-determination will guide any approach aimed at mending quality of life for Métis citizens. The challenge ahead is to reconcile with the past and build a foundation that is respectful of today's aspirations of the Métis nation.

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Métis Council News

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NORTHWEST MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

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THE NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL JOINS WELLAND'S ROSE PARADE



below, left to right: **Derrick Pont, Margaret Quesnelle (wife of Senator Stephen), Stephen Quesnelle NRMC Senator), Janice Booth, Barbaranne Wright (NRMC President), Peter Rivers (Region 9 Councillor), Richard Paquette (NRMC Chair), Karen Pierce and Amanda Lipinski.)**



Métis on parade

By **RICK PAQUETTE**

Celebrating Father's Day and Welland's 150th anniversary on the same day did not sound like a very good idea to me. However, as it turned out, it was a wonderful day!

The NRMC participated in the Welland Rose Parade under beautiful sunny skies and warm weather. The parade had 150 contributors in various forms from marching bands, pipes and drums, antique fire trucks, the Shriners and a wide variety of floats. Maybe I am a little biased, but I think the entry for the Niagara Region Métis Council was one of the best. We received many cheers as the float drove by and several people jumped up and started to dance when they heard that Métis fiddle music coming from our float. Others tapped their feet from their lawn chairs.

When we first decided to enter the parade, there were many details that we had to address. We formed a committee right away that consisted of Derrick Pont, Councillor, and Stephen Quesnelle, Senator. They came up with a great theme: "Métis Then and Now". Since the parade is the "Rose Parade" the organisers encourage the use of flowers on the floats. Margaret Quesnelle, wife of Senator Stephen, spent hours



and hours sewing flowers onto material which was later attached to the sides of our float. The finished product appeared to look like a Métis sash.

Thanks to the efforts of Karen Pierce, Councillor, we were able to secure a truck and trailer supplied through the generosity of her employer, Vancor Supply. Karen's husband, John, was our driver for the day. John likes to drive race cars, so this was a bit of a slower pace for him. Rick Paquette, Chair, and Senator Stephen put the banner together with the assistance of Rick's daughter, Andrea. On the day of the parade, Andrea and Stephen's two daughters, Theresa and Kathleen, were our colour guard with the red and blue Métis flags flanking the Canadian flag. Some of the outfits that were worn were borrowed from Glen Lipinski, while the rest

"WE RECEIVED MANY CHEERS AS THE FLOAT DROVE BY AND SEVERAL PEOPLE JUMPED UP AND STARTED TO DANCE WHEN THEY HEARD THAT MÉTIS FIDDLE MUSIC COMING FROM OUR FLOAT."

were made through the combined efforts of Janice Booth, Councillor, and Margaret Quesnelle. These ladies spent many hours working on the clothing and everyone looked just great.

Stephen and Derrick spent a couple of weekends in Steve's driveway building our Red River Cart. Steve's son-in-law came over to help with the finishing touches. On the day before the parade Steve and Rick made

some modifications to the trailer at Karen's and then assembled and rearranged the pieces on the float until they were satisfied with the look of the finished design. On the day of the parade everything came together beautifully with a wonderful turnout of almost 40 Métis citizens.

Becky Vander Sanden and Tammy Wintle from the MNO staff attended with their families. Becky's son Dalton was a good sport and looked great in his costume. It was really terrific that our Region 9 Councillor, Peter Rivers, and his fiancée drove all the way from Windsor to walk with us in the parade.

A special thanks goes to Amanda Lipinski who was our photographer for the parade and who did a great job of taking all those pictures. She had a difficult task weaving her way through the crowds on both sides of the street and still keeping up with us, but she managed. Other people who had a tough job were the ones assigned the task of pulling the Red River Cart. I think they had a taste of what some early Métis went through because we had trouble with the wheels which created a great deal of work for them, but they did not slow the parade down at all!

Everyone deserves a great big thank you for helping to make the Métis float the success that it was. Each of you should be very proud of your contribution!

MÉTIS COMMUNITY VOICES:

Dryden Métis paid a visit

by **ALISON POWELL**

On July 8th the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario in Dryden received a visit from the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Labour and Minister of the Economic Development Agency of Canada for the Regions of Quebec. With him were his two aides, Michael Winterburn and Andrea Kant as well as Greg Rickford, candidate for the Kenora Conservative Association and Anna Ayotte, president of the association. The purpose of their visit was to observe our facility and see what we do for the Métis community.

President of the Métis Nation in Dryden, Alvina Cimon, said: "We were pleased and quite surprised to have the honour of their visit to our small town of Dryden. This gave us the opportunity to meet a government official on a personal level."

The visitors were friendly and appeared interested in what we had to offer and say.

"It was a positive show of concern and support by a member of parliament; as a health branch service worker, I appreciated their sincere interest," said Don McDonald, the Long Term Care Coordinator.

Special thanks to Darleen Nordlum for all her information and assistance.

Words from Windsor

by **SENATOR R.E. SCOFIELD**

Well the staff in the Windsor office is busy and keeping the work of the MNO up-to-date. They are working in co-operation with the rest of the Aboriginal community.

Our council has been holding meetings--starting in September--to fill all the vacant positions and rebuild our council. We wish to thank the PCMNO and the Hamilton office for their help.

A big thanks to Jim Turner for sending the picture of the Métis flag pole in my front yard to the *Voyageur*. It was a real surprise to me to see the picture. The flag pole was a gift to me, built by Jim and installed by Jim and Roger Sleight.

GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER:



Built from a lightning-struck tree, Niimkii (thunder spirit) will be used to raise funds for council.

INTRODUCING NIIMKII!

By **BARBARA WHITE**

In the last *Voyageur*, I wrote an article about an amazing offer our community council had received. Aboriginal artist, Marcel Labelle, has built and donated a birch bark canoe to raise funds for our local council.

It is with tremendous pride that I let our citizens know that the canoe has been completed!

The creator of this magnificent canoe has named it. It's called, "Niimkii". The birch bark that Marcel used is from a tree that was hit by lightning. This makes our canoe special. Niimkii is "thunder spirit". Niimkii was built with tremendous heart, spirit, and generosity and is pictured above.

The council will be discussing the fundraising efforts, and putting our heads together to come

up with the best plan to ensure that everyone has a chance to win this wonderful piece of artwork. Of course, we will require the assistance of our Métis citizens to accomplish the best fundraising effort ever!

We will be asking the MNO to post this on their web site, as well as in the *Voyageur* so that all will know when this is going up for raffle.

COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS:

Thunder Bay's new Aboriginal Liaison working to improve community relations

On August 5, 2008, the City of Thunder Bay welcomed its new Aboriginal Liaison, Anna Gibbon, into the fold. As part of the city's 2007-2010 Strategic Plan, the Aboriginal Liaison will work to improve relations between the city and its Aboriginal community.

Anna brings to this position a unique cultural and professional background. A Thunder Bay girl, born and mostly raised, she has always had her feet firmly planted in two cultures—Anishnawbek from her mother's family and western European from her father's side.

Anna's professional career spans both public and private sectors. She has been a correctional officer, consultant, trainer, mediator, negotiator and a human resources manager. Throughout her career, Anna has enjoyed working with various Aboriginal groups in and around Thunder Bay, focussing primarily on alternative justice and dispute resolution. Her combined personal and professional experiences have laid a solid foundation on which to build the Aboriginal Liaison Office.

As we enter the traditional "gathering" season, Anna has begun gathering the people, ideas, resources, stories and histories she will need to help guide her on this new and exciting journey. She invites you to join her as she works to make things better for all members of the Aboriginal community and the community as a whole.

Anna's office is presently located in the City Clerk's office in Victoriaville Mall and she can be reached by calling (807) 625-2146 or email at: agibbon@thunderbay.ca.



Anna Gibbon is the City of Thunder Bay's new Aboriginal Liaison.

Owen Sound Métis celebrate heritage

by **SCOTT DUNN**

Monday, June 23, 2008

Leora Wilson said she didn't know who the Métis people were when family research revealed she herself was descended from French and native Indian blood.

That discovery more than 10 years ago led to her presence Saturday afternoon at Grey Roots, where she welcomed visitors to a celebration at the museum of Métis heritage.

"It's been forgotten, or hidden, all this time," Wilson said, wearing a traditional Métis sash and dream catcher earrings. "Everybody swept it under the table, didn't want to be half-breed or whatever you want to call it. Didn't want to be recognized as being part native."

Wilson, a retired Bell Canada operator, antique store operator and Markdale chiropractic office assistant, now holds the elected post of senator in the Grey-Owen Sound Métis community of about 150 people. She is considered a role model.

Métis people were critical to the expansion of the fur trade and initial settlement of Canada. Inter-marriage was encouraged by the government and often it was the Métis who bridged the language barrier between French and later British traders and the Indians.

As more European women



Jeff Wilson, Rebekah Wilson, Jesse Couture and Leora Wilson hold a photo of ancestor Joe Couture. Photo by James Masters for *The Sun Times*

began to populate the country, and as fur traders began to adopt native customs, which troubled officials back home, interbreeding was officially discouraged. People who were Métis were made to feel ashamed of their origin and over time denied it.

Saturday was National Aboriginal Day, so-called since 1996, when the annual day of celebration was officially declared by the governor general.

"The main thing I feel is pride," Leora Wilson said of the revelation of her heritage. "We have a wonderful community here and we're all just discovering ourselves. Here we were strangers and now we've become

a community."

Her son, Jeff, is vice-president of the group and his daughter, Bekki, is also active in it. All of them, and Leora's mom, Jessie (Garvie) Couture, celebrated the day together.

Leora's great-grandfather was Joseph Couture, who lived with his wife Marie Jones and their family at what once was called Squaw Point and today is Hibou Conservation Area. One son, Frank, began spelling the name Coture but they're from the same family, Wilson said.

The area where the Coutures lived was called The French Village, where a group of Métis fishermen and their families also

lived. Couture died in 1909 and his story was presented in 2005 at the museum as part of an exhibit from Alberta about the Métis, at museum heritage department head Petal Furness's initiative.

From various sources, it is believed that Joe Couture arrive in Owen Sound by boat as a sail maker's apprentice and remained to fish. In 1902 an Owen Sound newspaper referred to the sight of an elderly Joe Couture "as he rowed up to Town from the French Village."

A school textbook describes how legendary local painter Tom Thomson went on fishing trips with "old Joe Cloture, a French-Canadian fisherman who had a two-masted sailing boat that was said to be the fastest on the bay."

An obituary from the Owen Sound paper, printed Sept. 9, 1909, described how Couture had gashed his foot with an axe and didn't recover. When his death was imminent, he was returned home from the hospital to die. He's buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, the newspaper said.

It said Couture said "his mother was a squaw [sic], his father a Frenchman, of the class known as 'coureurs de bois'."

The story said he lived "in Indian surroundings" for his first three years before coming to this area. He later left to travel in Canada and the United States, the newspaper said, before he

returned to fish, hunt and trap.

He was tall, 6' 4", big and strong, a great boxer and wrestler. "But with all his strength and all his love for game, he was never quarrelsome. He was always considered one of Owen Sound's most peaceable and law-abiding citizens."

Yet Wilson said that when her great-grandfather died, his family had to leave home because they were considered squatters.

Another newspaper item announcing Couture's death in early September, 1909, at about 80 years old, lamented the pass-

HE WAS KNOWN FOR WEARING "SHOEPACKS OR MOCCASINS, NEVER SHOES."

ing of "part of the French-Canadian element of the area." It said he was one of the original settlers of the "French Village -- a hamlet that had extended along the east shores of the bay from the Imperial Cement Works to Carney Mills."

He was known for wearing "shoepacks or moccasins, never shoes."

Story reprinted with the kind permission of the Owen Sound *Sun Times*.

COMMUNITY ART & CRAFTS:

G “bee” MC

by TRACY BALD

For nearly two years a group of women has gathered at the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) under the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy to make a quilt.

A lot of thought and reflection went into its making. The turtle reminded us of the Aboriginal creation story and the reverence given to the turtle in Aboriginal culture. The eight pointed star, a symbol of the sun is a powerful figure in traditional spiritual life. The choice of colours symbolise the four nations and the four directions. The turquoise represents the blue of the sky and the green of the earth, the brown, the soil of the earth, and the hand quilted waves are for the water, the basis of all life, and the infinity symbol in each corner for our Métis heritage.

The women contributing to the project include: Jeannette Brunelle; Barb Beaman; Rose Cadeau; Anne Zoschke; Carole Anne Moyer; Helen Bradley; Yvonne Bald; Marie Moreau; Mary Pause; Anita Laurin; Georgette Robitaille; Gertrude Marion, and Mary Mackie.

The old fashioned quilting bees brought much sharing and joy to the women involved. The quilt will be displayed at the new GBMC offices (355 Cranston Cres., Midland) and we hope to enter the quilt into area quilt



Top: **The Turtle Island Mother Earth quilt.**
Bottom: **Senator Helen Bradley working on the quilt.**

shows. Many thanks for everyone’s hard work, for funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and for the continued support of the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy.

The sewing circle started at the end of the “Reclamation project” in 2006 with funding from the Aboriginal Healing Founda-

tion. The quilt was made as a memorial to the residential school intergenerational legacy.

For more information about the quilt, or wish to join in on future quilting projects, contact Tracy at 705-526-6335 or email: tracyb@metisnation.org.

Tracy Bald is Community Wellness Coordinator for the GBMC..

Kenora knits for a cause

by CHELSEY QUIRK

The Kenora Métis Warmth and Wellness Group are staying true to their name and knitting up a storm to ensure that less fortunate Kenora citizens will find warmth and wellness this winter.

What started as a few friends sitting around with knitting needles and good conversation has turned into more than a dozen women with big hearts spending one evening each week knitting for a great cause at the Kenora Métis Centre.

The project was initiated by Métis Nation of Ontario Senator, Emily Quirk, (grandmother of head office’s Communications Officer, Chelsey Quirk) with funding assistance

provided by a New Horizons Grant. The New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) supports the Government of Canada’s overarching social goals to enhance the quality of life and promote the full participation of individuals in all aspects of Canadian society.

The idea came after Senator Quirk was involved in a no-charge winter jacket program last winter – the concept of “Drop a jacket off, take a jacket home” stuck with her and she quickly adapted the concept to this vision. Something very simple, much appreciated, and

highly necessary—especially given the harsh temperatures Kenora faces every winter.

“We need to keep children and those less fortunate warm and healthy, and that is what we are working towards,” said Quirk.

Since the group was formed in July, it has produced more than 65 scarves, 50 pairs of mittens, 8 pairs of slippers and countless pairs of socks. Next on the list are throws for people in wheelchairs and quilts for babies.

On September 22nd, group leader, Wendy Langlois, went into all of the schools across Kenora to assess the needs of students, so that the knitters can set some short and long

“WE WANT TO CHALLENGE OTHER COMMUNITIES OUT THERE TO START THEIR OWN VARIATION OF OUR ‘MÉTIS WARMTH AND WELLNESS’ GROUP.”

term goals for the future.

“We want to challenge other communities out there to start their own variation of our ‘Métis Warmth and Wellness’ Group,” added Quirk. “The work we are doing really makes a difference, and the outcome has been phenomenal. Not only are we helping people, but we have some darn good conversations too!”

Gathering promotes awareness

MNO Community Wellness Worker promotes Healing and Wellness at Brampton Aboriginal Gathering

by SIOBHAN MARIE LAVERDIERE

On June 7th, 2008, Brampton held its first annual Aboriginal event to promote awareness in the community and to recognise “Aboriginal month”. Hosted by the Region of Peel and in partnership with the MNO, Credit River Métis Council and Peel Aboriginal Network, *A Gathering* was an entertaining and educational event, featuring the “Grandfather Teachings”, Métis, First Nations and Inuit entertainment, cultural displays, vendors and agency booths.

The Seven Grandfather Teachings, the main theme of the June 7th event, connected people and their health.

According to the 2006 census, there are 2665 Aboriginal citizens residing in Brampton, 785 self-identifying as Métis. MNO Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy (AHWS) provided a booth at the event to inform citizens about the many health services (and other services) MNO provides.

Based on the trends of MNO AHWS Brampton clientele since July 2006, depression and anxiety appear to have a significant

impact in the community and surrounding areas. One reason may have to do with the lack of culturally appropriate services in the Brampton community, a contributing factor to self-identity and self-awareness.

As of now, MNO continues to provide the only Aboriginal-specific health service in Brampton and the surrounding suburban areas, with a staff of only one person at that. Below is a breakdown of the areas served by the program and the corresponding population:

Brampton: 2665 total Aboriginal population, 785 total Métis population.

Mississauga: 2475 total Aboriginal population, 760 total Métis population.

Caledon: 360 total Aboriginal population, 100 total Métis population.

Oakville: 665 total Aboriginal population, 200 total Métis population.

Toronto: 13,605 total Aboriginal population, 3,650 total Métis population.

That’s a total of, 19,770 Aboriginal people and 5495 self-identified Métis, with only one Métis-specific service in the area—the

THE SEVEN GRANDFATHER TEACHINGS:

WISDOM and awareness of the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs of self and the people;
LOVE for one’s self and those around us to promote an atmosphere of healing;
RESPECT for self and others to promote the same type of healing atmosphere;
BRAVERY to continue along the path of wellness even when confronted with obstacles;
HONESTY with self about those things in our lives that need to be healed;
HUMILITY in knowing that we are all souls on a journey toward self-understanding and wellness;
TRUTH in the knowledge of what needs to be done to bring healing in our lives which will set us free.

MNO. It comes as no surprise that those aware of MNO AHWS Brampton seem hungry to learn about their heritage and connect with community Elders. The

youth are accessing the service more frequently as time goes on.

So, where does the future of MNO AHWS Brampton lie? That’s difficult to say with the upcoming AHWS renewal lingering on the sidelines. However, based on the feedback given by some clients and community members, there is a definite need for the program and more funding seems to be key to providing more staff.

As always, AHWS Brampton continues to approach health on an holistic level. It is this worker’s hope that the Region of Peel, along with other Brampton community agencies, will continue to advocate for Aboriginal awareness and that, *A Gathering*, is only the beginning of a bright path filled with health and wellness for the entire community.

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More about “A Gathering” in Peel Region

On June 7, 2008, Peel celebrated Aboriginal peoples and their culture in the first annual “A Gather-

ing: Peel’s Aboriginal Celebration”.

This free, family-oriented event took place between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. at the Sheridan Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning in Brampton.

Hosted by the Region of Peel’s Early Years Integration division, *A Gathering* featured First Nations drummers and dancers; Métis fiddlers and jiggers; Inuit throat singers; and teachings by elders. This year’s theme was, 7 Grandfather Teachings.

In addition to Aboriginal entertainment, guests experienced cultural displays highlighting Aboriginal heritage while community-based early childhood-focused agencies and organisations exhibited information on services and programs in Peel for families with children from birth to six.

The Region of Peel’s Early Years Integration division has been working with the Credit River Métis Council, Métis Nation of Ontario, Peel Aboriginal Network, Peel Social Planning Council and Sheridan College to address service/program gaps for Peel’s Aboriginal children and their families. Together, they established the Peel Aboriginal Steering Committee in 2007, to raise awareness and to educate Peel’s residents about Aboriginal heritage and culture.

Walking in Nature

Medicine Walks in Brampton

by **STOBHAN MARIE LAVERDIERE**

On July 5th, 2008, twenty-one participants gathered to take part in a “medicine walk”, conducted by Elder Joe Paquette. The medicine walk, which was planned by the

MNO Community Wellness Co-ordinator in Brampton, was a way to encourage individuals to learn about cultural remedies, and also to initiate physical activity.

The walk took place at the Cawthra Trail, near Toronto, a hidden jewel behind the busy traffic and urban setting. One participant mentioned that at one time, developers were trying to cut down the forest for condo buildings. Thankfully, residents fought to keep the woods standing.

Among the various plant medicines the Elder covered, was Bloodroot. He dug up a sample to show participants. “Bloodroot is a perennial plant, one of the earliest and most beautiful spring flowers. It has a lovely white flower and produces only a single leaf and a flowering scape about six inches high. When the leaf first appears it is wrapped round the flower bud and is a greyish-green colour covered with a downy bloom, leaves palmate five to nine lobed, six to ten inches long. After flowering, the leaves increase in size, the underside paler showing prominent veins. The white flower is wax-like with golden stamens. The rootstock is thick, round and fleshy, slightly curved at the ends, about one to four inches long, with orange-red rootlets that contain an orange-red juice. When dried it breaks with a short sharp fracture, little smell, taste bitter acrid and persistent, powdered root causes sneezing and irritation of the nose.”

Although Bloodroot is poisonous in large doses, including such symptoms as: burning

in the stomach, intense thirst, vomiting, faintness, vertigo, and dimness of eyesight, it does exhibit medicinal properties. According to M. Grieve, some values of the root include the lowering of high blood pressure, helping with heart disease, reduction of ring-

worm and fungi growth. Of course, you should talk to a health professional before medicating yourself. Bloodroot was commonly used by Aboriginal peoples for dyeing their bodies and clothing.

The Elder also told a story about a plant called, Queen Anne’s Lace, a lovely, white, flowering plant, with a purple floret in the centre. The premise of the story goes that there was once a good queen named, Anne, and her evil twin. Queen Anne had a beautiful, white flowering umbrella that her sister replicated. The people were confused as to who was the real queen. Queen Anne despaired. A forest fairy appeared to her and gave her a special purple flower to place on her umbrella so everyone would know who the genuine queen was. Participants at the medicine walk learned that white flowers with the purple floret are non-poisonous, whereas, those without the floret are poisonous (a plant called Water Hemlock).

Also known as, Wild Carrot, the root of Queen Anne’s Lace is edible when it is young, but quickly becomes woody tasting as it matures. The root has been used as a natural contraceptive. The leaves of the plant can be



Queen Anne’s Lace



Elder Joe Paquette



above: **Bloodroot**

a skin irritant, so caution should be used when handling.

Additional walks were held on July 18th at the Etobicoke Trail in Brampton and July 26th at Heart Lake Conservation Trail. Each walk seems to rejuvenate participants on an holistic level: physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.



**Métis
Cookhouse**
by Gail LeBlanc



Lemon Squares

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup butter/margarine, softened
- 1/4 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Heat oven to 350F. Mix thoroughly flour, butter and confectioners' sugar. Press in ungreased square pan, 8x8x2 inches building up a 1/2 inch edge. Bake 20 minutes.

Beat remaining ingredients about 3 minutes or until light and fluffy. Pour over hot crust.

At 350F bake about 25 minutes longer or until no imprint remains when touched lightly in centre. Cool; cut into squares.



Peanut Butter Balls

- 1 cup peanut butter
- 1 cup Rice Krispies
- 1 tsp butter or margarine
- 1 cup icing sugar
- 1/2 cup nuts (optional)
- 1 cup coconut to roll balls into

Cream peanut butter, icing sugar and butter. Add Rice Krispies and nuts. Shape into balls and roll in coconut.

OTTAWA REGIONAL MÉTIS COUNCIL UPDATE:

Métis Community ‘By the Campfire’

by **LISA PIGEAU**

The Ottawa Regional Métis Council (ORMC) Community Wellness Program is currently planning for an eventful 2008-2009. Our largest gathering each year, co-hosted by the Ottawa Regional Métis Council is the “By the Campfire” event. This event highlights local Aboriginal musicians and artisans in celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

Last year, the event welcomed a whopping 342 guests! These types of gatherings require countless hours of volunteer support and co-ordination. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to the success of the 2007 *By the Campfire* event. It is truly amazing to see the culmination of all the efforts from the 25+ volunteers.

We look forward to continuing our efforts to provide one large



“By the Campfire” on Victoria Island in Ottawa.

cultural gathering/family fun day per season. We will also be hosting various other learning and growth opportunities aimed at improving Aboriginal health and reducing family violence. In the month of July, we participated in a provincial Community Wellness Initiative called “Nation in Motion”. This initiative saw the Ottawa Regional Métis communi-

ty invited to participate in a different physical activity over each of the four weeks.

Although the moccasin telegraph is an effective means of message transmission, we are currently trying to populate an email message list. If you live in Ottawa or surrounding area and would like to receive information on upcoming events, please forward

your contact information to me. My contact info is at the end of this article.

Technology does help us connect with our community. The Métis Nation of Ontario Mental Health Demonstration project uses the technology of video-conferencing to facilitate the Mental Health and Wellness initiatives across Ontario. Further, the MNO Health Branch is able to use technology to facilitate enhanced training opportunities for staff. Along with providing tele-psychiatry interventions through Providence Care Centre, we look forward to introducing provincial Senator/Elder visits over the video-conferencing units.

The internet is another way to seek out information pertaining to wellness. There are several reliable sites that you may choose to visit such as Health Canada’s web site www.hc-sc.gc.ca. You might

consider exploring this site to assist you in making informed decisions pertaining to your wellness. Further, in the Ottawa area, you might want to explore the City of Ottawa’s site (www.ottawa.ca). You’ll find lots of great information on recreational activities and other service information in this area. Please use the internet as an information tool only; be cautious of the web sites you visit and remember the information you discover should only be used as a guideline and does not substitute for the advice given by your primary health care provider.

I wish you all the best in your wellness journey.

Lisa Pigeau is the Lead for Mental Health and Community Wellness Co-ordinator for MNO in Ottawa.

Tel: 613-798-1488 xt.102
lispap@metisnation.org

PCMNO PROFILES:

Provisional Council up close & personal

Sharon McBride

Vice-Chair

Sharon was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and has lived in Ontario for over 35 years. She currently resides in Brampton, Ontario, with her husband Joseph of 22 years and her two boys Ryan and Shane. She can trace her Métis ancestry to the historical Métis community of Penetanguishene. Sharon became aware of her background in 1999 and from that time on has been actively involved within her community.

As an active volunteer for the Métis nation, Sharon was the founding President of the Credit River Métis Council in Brampton, and was the Regional Councillor for Region 8 and the spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO). She is involved with and sits on many different boards: the Peel Aboriginal Advisory Committee; The Peel District School Board; Historical Committee, and was on the judging panel in the past. Sharon was appointed by the Minister of Culture to the Grant Review Team of the Trillium Foundation. She was awarded by the Chair of the Region of Peel, "Volunteer of the Year" award in 2006. She also received the Ontario Heritage Trust Award for her work with



left: Sharon McBride with Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams



right: Sharon McBride with British Columbia Premier Gordon Campbell

Mississauga Heritage and the Mississaugas of the New Credit. She has received one of the highest honours from her community and has earned two eagle feathers.

With her current position as Spokesperson for the WSMNO she has been able to meet with, the Honourable Danny Williams, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador; The Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier of British Columbia; Rod Bruinoo, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians; The Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and David Ramsay, the past Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in Ontario.

Sharon's diverse background includes attending Sheridan College where she earned her Ontario Management Development Leadership Skills Certificate; Facilitation Skills Certificate; First Aid/CPR certificate, and has

taken many courses on communication skills and business writing.

The Métis Nation of Ontario is something that Sharon feels very passionate about. "I have so many people that I consider my family now. I always look forward to the next AGA; it is like a big family reunion." Her vision for the Métis Nation of Ontario is quite simply to continue building a strong Métis nation within Ontario for future generations. The youth and other citizens of the Métis nation need something that they can be very proud of. With her leadership qualities, prior PCMNO experience and passion for the Métis Nation of Ontario she is well equipped for her position as Vice-chair.

A letter to all citizens

When I made my decision to run for the position of Vice-chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario I had to ask several people that are very close to my heart, among them--Sen-

tor Reta Gordon and Senator Lois McCallum, thank you for your support and encouragement. I can tell you that I am very overwhelmed with all the support and such kind words from our citizens across Ontario.

This is a very exciting time for the Métis Nation of Ontario. We have come so far in the past 15 years and we couldn't have done that without Tony Belcourt as our president. With the change in leadership I am looking forward to working with the newly elected team on the PCMNO to assist with the mandate of the Métis Nation of Ontario over the next four years.

I would like to thank all citizens that ran in this past election; it is people like you that help build a strong nation. I would like to thank everyone that believed in me; I will not let you down.

CONTACT:
Tel: **905-846-8645**
sharonm@metisnation.org

Office of the Chief Electoral Officer: Notice of Community Council Elections for the HISTORIC SAULT STE. MARIE MÉTIS COUNCIL

Consistent with the Métis Nation of Ontario Community Charter agreement, By-laws and Community Council electoral code, a ballot box election has been called to fill vacancies and renew mandates of the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. All registered Métis citizens in the council area are encouraged to participate fully in this election process either as candidates or through exercising their right to vote. The area of the council includes: east to the western boundary of the Garden River First Nations Reserve; north, from Sault Ste. Marie following the shore line of Lake Superior to the Batchewana River, following the Batchewana River north-east until it reaches Wart Lake, draw a south-east line from Wart Lake through Ranger Lake until you intersect with Garden River. Follow Garden River in a southern direction until St. Mary's River, follow St. Mary's River south to the United States Border. The election process is as follows:

POLLING STATION:
Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council
26 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3
Tel: 705-254-1768 Fax: 705-942-9802

- Date and Time of Elections: November 23, 2008 (Sunday) between hours of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- General Advance Poll for all eligible MNO Citizens: November 19, 2008 (Wednesday) between hours of 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

RETURNING OFFICER:
Hank Rowlinson
c/o Métis Nation of Ontario
500 Old St. Patrick Street, Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
Tel: 613-798-1488 or Toll Free: 800-263-4889
Cell: 613-858-4809 Fax: 613-722-4225
hankr@metisnation.org

VOTERS' LIST:

- October 24, 2008: Posting of the Preliminary Voters' List at the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council office. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Returning Officer to ensure their correct address and name is listed.
- November 13, 2008: Posting of the Final Voters' List at the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council office. Official Candidates will be provided a copy of the Final Voters' List upon request to the Returning Officer.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTORAL CODE: A copy will be posted at the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council office.

VACANT POSITIONS ON COUNCIL:
There are 11 vacant positions as follows:

<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-president</i>
<i>Secretary/Treasurer</i>	<i>Senator</i>
<i>Women's Rep</i>	<i>Youth Rep</i>
<i>Councillors at Large</i> (4 positions to be filled)	

NOMINATION PROCESS:

- **Deadline for Close of Nominations:** 6:00 p.m. EST, October 24, 2008.

Nominations are to be submitted in writing to the Returning Officer by this date and time. Nominations are to include the name of the person being nominated (the candidate), the position the candidate is seeking, name and signature of two registered MNO citizens resident in the council area, signature of the candidate accepting the nomination. Candidates may be nominated for one position only.

- **Announcement of Official Candidates:** 6:00 p.m. EST, November 14, 2008.

All nominated candidates must have their documentation verified by the MNO Registrar who will be asked to do so by the Returning Officer after the Close of Nominations. The verification process ensures that all required genealogical information and proof of Aboriginal ancestry is in the records of the candidate at the MNO Registry Office.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
Any questions concerning this process may be addressed to the Returning Officer.

Marcel Lafrance

Region 3 Councillor

Hello, my name is Marcel Lafrance. I live in a small town in northern Ontario, called Matachewan. It is about 65 km's west of Kirkland Lake. The Montreal River runs through town and it is a fantastic place to fish. In the fall I love to go hunting for moose. I am married to a lovely woman named Debbie. She has been my partner for 32 years. We have two children, Samantha and Trevor. Samantha gave us two grandchildren Sky-Lynn and Anthony. Trevor has a little bundle of joy called Izabella.

I've been on a disability pension for a few years. Because of all the spare time on my hands I decided to get a college degree. Well, what an eye-opener! The young ones called me "old man". They were a great bunch of kids. In the spring of 2007 I graduated. I felt proud of my accomplishment. It was 35 years late, but you know what they say, "better late than



never".

I am the Regional Councillor for Region 3. We are working on getting capacity funding for community councils. The volunteers that run these councils are the backbone of the MNO. With funding, the community councils will have the capability to keep the Métis citizens better informed about the activities going on in their region. I hope to see the Métis nation sign a constitution in the near future. With the participation of all Métis citizens the constitution is just on the horizon.

CONTACT:
Tel: **705-565-2342**
lafrance.m@hotmail.com

Maurice Sarrazin

Region 5 Councillor

My name is Maurice Sarrazin. I was born in Mattawa, a small town 45 km's east of North Bay. I am from a family of seven children, five boys and two girls. I attended high school at F.J. McElligot High in Mattawa. I joined the armed forces in 1977, and was stationed in Val Cartier, Quebec, where I trained in infantry with the Royal 22nd Regiment. I was then stationed at the Citadel in Quebec. While training for the Airborne, I was injured, and given a medical release.

Then, I met my wife, and moved to Sudbury, where we have lived since 1980, and where I attended Cambrian College. In 1981, I married my wife, Denise. We had two children, a boy who is now 23 years old, and a daughter, who is now 20 years old.

I presently work as a maintenance person at a long term care facility. I am also a small business owner, and a director for the Nickel Belt



Liberal Party.

I first became involved with the Métis because of my brother Richard. This is my second term as Region 5 Councillor. My goal is to create a provincial veterans' council that is funded, organized, and self-reliant. I would also like to create a data base of past and present veterans.

Presently, I am working on a Métis cemetery that has been lost or forgotten. My goal is to preserve, protect and document this cite.

CONTACT:
Tel: **705-897-6079**
maurices@metisnation.org

Homeland News

BRITISH COLUMBIA



**BRUCE DUMONT
RE-ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF
MÉTIS NATION
OF BRITISH
COLUMBIA**

Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, offered congratulations on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario to Bruce Dumont on his re-election as President of the Métis Nation - British Columbia (MNBC).

President Lipinski said “I wish to congratulate Bruce and all of the candidates in the Métis Nation British Columbia’s recent election. The democratic processes that are shared across the Homeland are a vital part of the legitimacy and strength of our governments.

“The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) looks forward to working with President Dumont and the MNBC Board of Directors to advance the Métis nation’s agenda,” added Lipinski.

“**THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES THAT ARE SHARED ACROSS THE HOMELAND ARE A VITAL PART OF THE LEGITIMACY AND STRENGTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS.”**

Dumont was first elected in December, 2005, when he won a large majority in the MNBC provincial by-election. Beginning his second term, President Dumont said: “...I am committed to continuing the level of excellence and professionalism we have built at the MNBC for the past few years. Also I will ensure the MNBC Five Year Implementation Plan will continue as we address the socio-economic issues of health, education, housing, and economic development.”

MNBC immediately began to prepare for the inauguration of the newly elected leaders who were sworn into office on September 26th, 2008, at the beginning of the MNBC 11th Annual General Meeting in Kelowna, BC

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL NEWS:
**Government of Canada
signs Protocol with
Métis National Council**

OTTAWA—On September 5th, the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians, announced the signing of a protocol with the Métis National Council (MNC) to begin discussions on a wide range of issues of interest to the Métis people represented by the MNC.

“This agreement marks a significant turning point in Canada’s relationship with Métis in Canada,” says Minister Strahl. “It ushers in a new era of open dialogue between the federal government and the Métis National Council, one that I believe will lead to constructive change and improvement in the lives of all Métis.”

“This protocol is the result of several months of productive discussions between the federal government and the Métis National Council,” said Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier. “If we can keep this momentum going in the coming months, and years, it could lead to a real breakthrough with some substantial improvements to the lives of Métis people in Canada.”

“I commend Minister Strahl for his commitment to build a positive and productive relationship with the Métis nation. I also thank him for extending his hand in the spirit of partnership and mutual respect,” said MNC Vice-President, David Chartrand. “We



Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, Chuck Strahl, and Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier.

look forward to working with Minister Strahl and the Government of Canada to address outstanding issues including issues faced by our Métis veterans, as well as moving forward on Métis governance, economic development and other priorities important to the Métis community.”

The range of issues expected to be covered under the protocol include Métis Aboriginal rights, economic development, roles and responsibilities, jurisdictional questions, and possible areas of federal-provincial-Métis co-operation on socio-economic and other Métis issues.

**CIBC celebrates culture
of Aboriginal employees**

On June 20, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Canada (CIBC) celebrated the culture, accomplishments and the contributions of its Aboriginal employees across Canada as part of the bank’s diversity celebrations.

At a special event hosted by the bank’s Aboriginal affinity group, known as the CIBC Aboriginal Employee Circle, more than 100 guests were treated to a traditional smudge ceremony, storytelling by Aboriginal Elder Derek Bresette, and dancing and drumming by the Council Fire Singers & Dancers. The celebrations were preceded by a semi-annual national Aboriginal employee forum on promoting awareness of Aboriginal culture at CIBC in the coming year.

CIBC has a rich history as a proud supporter of Canada’s Aboriginal communities. For the past 15 years, CIBC has been the lead sponsor of the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, which recognise outstanding career achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in diverse



Traditional dancers at CIBC’s Aboriginal Day celebration.

occupations. The awards also help build self esteem and pride and provide valuable role models for Aboriginal youth. In March of this year, CIBC donated \$100,000 to the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) education program of annual bursaries and scholarships that are provided to more than 600 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies in a broad range of fields. This year’s donation raised CIBC’s total sponsorship of NAAF scholarships and bursaries to \$800,000

since 2001.

In April, eight Aboriginal students graduated from CIBC’s six-week Job Readiness Training program offered in Calgary. The graduates received training as analysts, transaction processors and in customer service roles and are now pursuing new careers with the bank. CIBC was the first to offer job readiness training as part of a proactive recruitment strategy to attract and train prospective employees for a career in the financial services sector.

“I am proud to work for CIBC,



ALBERTA

**AUDREY POITRAS
RE-ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF
MÉTIS NATION
OF ALBERTA**

Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, offered congratulations on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario to Audrey Poitras on her re-election as President of the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA).

President Poitras is beginning her fifth consecutive term as president of one of the Métis National Council’s oldest governing members. Under her leadership, the MNA has become a recognised leader in financial management and accountability; the delivery of Métis training and employment services; economic development, and Métis identification and registration.

President Lipinski said, “I want to congratulate Audrey and all of the candidates in the Métis Nation of Alberta’s recent election. Our democratic processes across the Métis Nation Homeland are at the heart of the legitimacy, vitality and strength of our governments. Everyone who participates in these processes—whether it be by voting or putting their name forward as a candidate—should be thanked for their contribution to strengthening Métis self-government.

“The entire Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, looks forward to working collaboratively with President Poitras and the MNA’s new provincial council to advance the Métis nation’s agenda. Specifically, I look forward to continuing to serve with President Poitras on the Métis National Council’s Board of Governors,” concluded President Lipinski.

which takes a holistic and integrated approach in providing specialised financial services to First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples,” said Frances McIsaac, Vice-President of Training and Development and Executive Sponsor of the CIBC Aboriginal Employee Circle. “Our Aboriginal Banking Team provides access to financial services in remote communities, through seven on-reserve branches and an on-reserve agency to help meet the personal and business financial needs of our Aboriginal clients.”

Canada apologises, I

“The Government of Canada sincerely apologises and asks the forgiveness of the

On June 11th, 2008, in the House of Commons, Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered an apology for the residential school system which shattered so many Aboriginal families. Below is the text of that speech:

Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to offer an apology to former students of Indian residential schools. The treatment of children in Indian residential schools is a sad chapter in our history. In the 1870's, the federal government, partly in order to meet its obligation to educate aboriginal children, began to play a role in the development

and administration of these schools. Two primary objectives of the residential schools system were to remove and isolate children from the influence of their homes, families, traditions and cultures, and to assimilate them into the dominant culture. These objectives were based on the assumption aboriginal cultures and spiritual beliefs were inferior and unequal. Indeed, some sought, as it was infa-

mously said, “to kill the Indian in the child.” Today, we recognise that this policy of assimilation was wrong, has caused great harm, and has no place in our country. Most schools were operated as ‘joint ventures’ with Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian or United churches. The Government of Canada built an educational system in which very young children were often forcibly removed from their homes, often taken far from their communities. Many were inadequately fed, clothed and housed. All were deprived of the care and nurturing of their parents, grandparents and communities. First Nations, Inuit and Métis languages and cultural practices were prohibited in these schools. Tragically, some of these children died while attending

residential schools and others never returned home. The government now recognises that the consequences of the Indian residential schools policy were profoundly negative and that this policy has had a lasting and damaging impact on aboriginal culture, heritage and language. While some former students have spoken positively about their experiences at residential schools – these stories are far overshadowed by tragic accounts of the emotional, physical and sexual abuse and neglect of helpless children and their separation from powerless families and communities. The legacy of Indian residential schools has contributed to social problems that continue to exist in many communities today. It has taken extraor-

dinary courage for the survivors that have come forward publicly about the abuse. It is a testament to the strength of individuals and to the resilience of our cultures. Regrettably, many students are not with us today, never having received an apology from the Government of Canada. The government's absence of an apology is an impediment to healing and reconciliation. Therefore, on behalf of the Government of Canada, I stand before you, Mr. Speaker, to apologise to aboriginal people for the role in the Indian residential school system. To the approxi-

Aboriginal leaders respond to historic apology

A prime minister delivering an apology to Native people in the House of Commons is a first. That representatives of these Native people were actually allowed to speak in the House of Com-

mons is another first. The New Democratic Party claims credit for the government allowing Fontaine, Simon, Chartier, Aboriginal Peoples Congress leader Patrick Brazeau and National Aboriginal Women's Association of Canada President, Beverley Jacobs to speak from the floor of the Commons. A day earlier Harper rejected a request for that from Liberal Aboriginal MP, Tina Keeper, citing precedent and tradition. The Native leaders were told

only an hour before the apology that they could speak in the Commons. Even though, the Native leaders had no time to prepare speeches, speak they did. Assembly of First Nations Chief, Phil Fontaine, who personally suffered abuse at a residential school and was one of the first to go public about it years ago, said the apology marked “a new dawn” in race relations. “I reach out to all Canadians today in a spirit of reconciliation,” he declared, provoking thunderous applause and

pounding drums. Inuit leader Mary Simon also said she believed “a new day has dawned”. Métis National Council President, Clement Chartier, said: “On behalf of the Métis Nation, I want to express a deep sense of thanks and gratitude to the Prime Minister today for offering this most sincere apology to those people who have experienced the Indian residential schools system. It has been a long time coming, but it has been well received. I hope and I pray

that it will resonate in the hearts of those people who have suffered. The Prime Minister of Indian Affairs knows I am very sincere and that this is happening in a conflicted, because there is a understanding about the Métis Nation, our history is a temporary situation. We have had serious discussions with the Minister of Indian Affairs and we have agreed, and I believe

As we all know, many Métis were forced to attend residential schools. They and their descendants are still suffering the consequences. Following are comments and reactions from some MNO citizens.

Loma Rowlinson, Métis Human Health Resources Co-ordinator (Ottawa): This webcast ended a short while ago and my eyes and my heart are still filled with tears. My children walked in from school and I could not speak with the lump in my throat that I was choking back. They stood next to me and watched the final moments in the House of Commons and the first thing that my son AJ asked was, “Is Grandpa Clifford watching this?” Then our daughter Shelbey asked, “Do you think he will be happy?” To both questions, I answered truthfully, “I don't know”. I am overwhelmed with so many emotions for my father (who is suffering from post traumatic stress disorder as he works on being a survivor) and other members of my family and the estimated 100,000 other Aboriginal children (Métis, First Nations and Inuit)

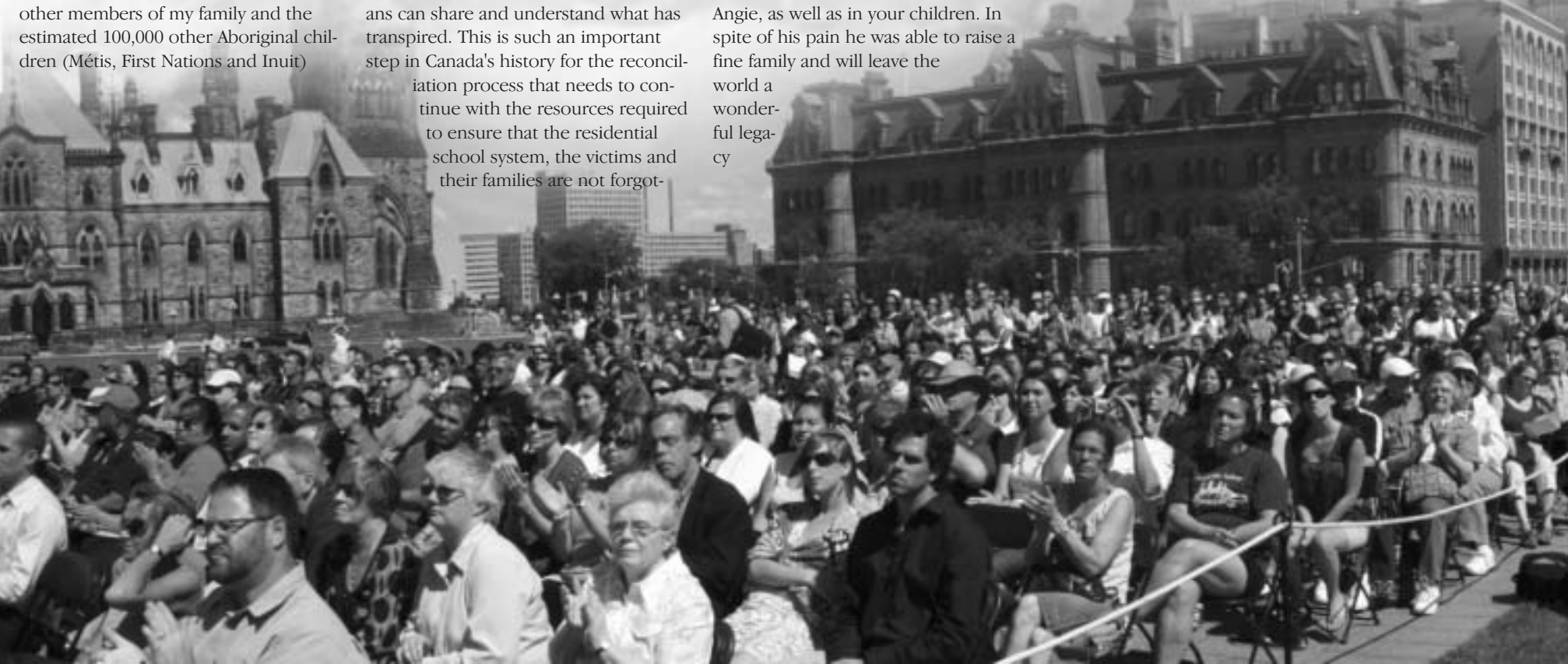
and their families who were all victims of one of the most despicable human rights violations of modern times. In listening to what the speakers had to say, and having all parties address our survivors, then hearing what our Aboriginal leaders and representatives had to say in response, I find myself stumbling for the right words to express myself, but I feel the need to share with all of you nonetheless. As I now sit here alone at my desk, absorbing what has happened, at this moment I feel vindication, great sadness, relief, despair, hope and trepidation all at the same time. Apologies are not worth the mouths they come out of without sincerity and I pray to the Creator that the Government of Canada, and all Canadians can share and understand what has transpired. This is such an important step in Canada's history for the reconciliation process that needs to continue with the resources required to ensure that the residential school system, the victims and their families are not forgot-

ten. It is my hope that this part of Canadian history will be written by Aboriginal people, supported by the government, and included in the education system, so that future generations of Canadians will know the truth; feel shame and dismay, and will look at us through new eyes, and with respect. ... **Jo MacQuarrie** in reply to Loma (Ottawa): I thank you very much for sharing your thoughts with me and our Métis family. I just wanted to gather you up and say, “there, there, its all right”. You are so fortunate to have such a father who survived the loneliness and pain of the residential schools. I can see his special strength in both you and Angie, as well as in your children. In spite of his pain he was able to raise a fine family and will leave the world a wonderful legacy

through his children and grandchildren. With affection and admiration. ... **Dalton Mathias**, son of Loma Rowlinson: Hi Mom, I went online and watched the whole apology cause I know that this is an important [part] of our family's past-that and because you told me I had to watch it. I didn't think the apology would take so long. I am a bit confused about comments made by the President of the Métis National Council when he said the 'Métis people of western Canada want in'. He said that quite a few times and I don't know what that means. Did he misspeak? Doesn't he represent me too? I was proud when the national president gave me the National Métis Youth Role Model award last year because I felt like I was part of something really important. But if he doesn't represent me then maybe the President of the MNO, who is proud of us Métis

kids in Ontario, should have won that award. Those comments distracted me from the proceedings until I watched the First Nation's word. She got to me and now I know because you care and eyes and hear it in her heart and was glad I was there. I talked to kids at school last year when she gave her speech on this subject and her speech on this subject in her class didn't even mention residential schools. I was in my grade believed that they know the truth and I want me watch this moment. I want to call Grandpa Clifford and see he's doing. Love, you

... **Jamie Panco-Fox**, Aboriginal Babies Healthy Children (Sault Ste. Marie):



but is sorry enough?

the aboriginal peoples of this country for failing them so profoundly. We are sorry.”

the thousands of sur-
ne forward to speak
buse they suffered.
to their resilience as
the strength of their
y, many former stu-
us today and died,
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nt of Canada.
recognises that the
ology has been an
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behalf of the Gov-
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in this chamber so
a country, to apolo-
peoples for Canada's
residential schools
nately 80,000 living

former students, and all family members
and communities, the Government of
Canada now recognises that it was
wrong to forcibly remove children from
their homes and we apologise for hav-
ing done this.
We now recognise that it was wrong
to separate children from rich and
vibrant cultures and traditions, that it
created a void in many lives and com-
munities, and we apologise for having
done this.
We now recognise that, in separating
children from their families, we under-
mined the ability of many to adequately
parent their own children and sowed
the seeds for generations to follow and
we apologise for having done this.
We now recognise that, far too often,
these institutions gave rise to abuse or

neglect and were inadequately con-
trolled, and we apologise for failing to
protect you.
Not only did you suffer these abuses
as children, but as you became parents,
you were powerless to protect your own
children from suffering the same experi-
ence, and for this we are sorry.
The burden of this experience has
been on your shoulders for far too long.
The burden is properly ours as a gov-
ernment, and as a country. There is no
place in Canada for the attitudes that
inspired the Indian residential schools
system to ever again prevail.
You have been working on recover-
ing from this experience for a long time
and in a very real sense, we are now
joining you on this journey.
The Government of Canada sincere-

ly apologises and asks the forgiveness of
the aboriginal peoples of this country
for failing them so profoundly. We are
sorry.
In moving towards healing, reconcil-
iation and resolution of the sad legacy of
Indian residential schools, implementa-
tion of the Indian residential schools
settlement agreement began on Sep-
tember 19, 2007.
Years of work by survivors, commu-
nities, and aboriginal organisations cul-
minated in an agreement that gives us a
new beginning and an opportunity to
move forward together in partnership.
A cornerstone of the settlement
agreement is the Indian residential
schools truth and reconciliation com-
mission. This commission presents a
unique opportunity to educate all Cana-

dians on the Indian residential schools
system.
It will be a positive step in forging a
new relationship between aboriginal
peoples and other Canadians, a relation-
ship based on the knowledge of our
shared history, a respect for each other
and a desire to move forward together
with a renewed understanding that
strong families, strong communities and
vibrant cultures and traditions will con-
tribute to a stronger Canada for all of us.
God bless all of you and God bless
our land.

*The speeches delivered by National
Chief Phil Fontaine, Liberal leader,
Stephane Dion, and NDP leader, Jack
Layton, may be found at:*
<http://blog.macleans.ca/2008/06/11/btc-apologia>

n the communities
have been affected.
er and the Minister
w that although I
happy, perhaps,
g, I also feel deeply
there is still misun-
ne situation of the
story and our con-
ous discussions
Indian Affairs. We
believe the Prime

Minister is supportive, that we will,
based on this apology today, address
those issues that are outstanding to our
people, the Métis. I believe those state-
ments made today about the dark days
of the assimilation policies and I believe
those actions that took place in this
House will be addressed and hopefully
corrected in the future.
I really do feel conflicted, because I
am one of the survivors of a Métis resi-
dential school, which was no different
from Indian residential schools except

for the question of who paid. As for
who paid, it was those young people
who went there, people like Don (Don
Favel is a residential school survivor
who accompanied President Chartier in
the House of Commons.), people like
me. We paid.
I hope and I do believe sincerely in
the words of the minister that we will
address this. I said that the Métis
Nation would be here to share this day
with those people who have waited for
so long. We want to celebrate, and we

do celebrate, with them, with you, with
all Canadians, because this is a day for
all Canadians. It is a day for us to move
forward.
I know deep in my heart that the
party leaders and the Prime Minister
who spoke today spoke with sincerity,
not with the theatrics of the Commons.
That has been set aside. I can see that. I
can feel that. I know that it is deep and
it is real.
Finally, Prime Minister, the Métis
Nation of western Canada, which has

been excluded from many things by the
workings of this House and its policies,
wants in.

*For more information on the Indian
residential schools, you can also go to
the following web sites:*
Legacy of Hope Foundation:
www.legacyofhope.ca
Aboriginal Healing Foundation:
www.ahf.ca
Fallen Feather Productions:
www.fallenfeatherproductions.com

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omments really dis-
rest of the pro-
ched and listened to
oman at the end.
made me feel the
ould see it in her
er voice. I believed
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about this at
n Shelby wrote
subject. The teacher
ren know what the
were and no one in
ne. Now, maybe
. Thanks for making
I think I am going
ord now to see how
ur son, Dalton.

The healing for the survivors might
just be starting and I feel that
those are the voices we need to hear
back from as they have their own sto-
ries of what it was like being in those
schools. I too shed many tears yester-
day as my dad is also a survivor who
was extremely dysfunctional. As a front-
line worker I truly believe that in some
way the “sixties scope” still exists in a
more politically correct manner. As the
prime minister was apologising yester-
day the Children’s Aid Society (CAS)
was down at the hospital apprehending
a new-born baby. I at this time have
more clients involved with CAS than
not involved with CAS, so, to me, I’m
having a hard time buying into the
whole “we’re sorry” story....As we all
try to recover from some of the damage
we may or may not have experienced as
children, we must understand that
good things come in time. At 50 I truly
hope I’m still around to
experience a time when
the number of Aborig-

inal children in care is fewer than the
number of non-Aboriginal children in
care.

...
Beverley Newton, MNO Manager
Human Resources (Ottawa):
So many tears were shed yesterday,
and for so many reasons. But we
can only hope that each tear will wash
away some of the suffering.

...
Pauline Desroches-Saulnier, PCMNO
Councillor, Region 7 (Midland):
Even though my family was fortu-
nate not to be part of the residen-
tial schools, the compassionate side of
me tends to agree that the apologies
are only worth anything if the person
mouthing the words is sincere, speak-
ing the real truth, and it is coming from
deep inside. Let’s see how far this gov-
ernment will go once the

media displays have gone and the real
moment of truth is upon them.
I ask the Creator to empower all
these victims to change the history
books, to put in laws that prevent this
ever happening to any other people
and to make sure that it never ever can
happen again.
The healing for the survivors might
just be starting and I feel that those are
the voices we need to hear back from
as they have their own stories of what it
was like being in those schools.

...
GARY LIPINSKI
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario:
Thanks for...letting us know first
hand the gambit of emotions
someone so closely connected is going
through. It truly was an historic day, an
emotional day, and a day of new hope
for the future. Any apology is only as
good as the sincerity with which it is

delivered and when the actions which
caused the apology in the first place are
changed. In this case, how govern-
ments move forward will demonstrate if
they truly “get” the magnitude of the
inter-generational consequences of
those past actions; how government
not only deals with those who have
been directly and indirectly affected by
the past, as well as how those issues
have affected the broader communities
and respective Aboriginal nations.
Going forward, we have to be opti-
mistic and take people at face value
believing that they will live up to their
commitments. However, the proof will
only be there when we see action and
commitment. Our hearts go out to all
those who have been affected by this. Let
us be supportive of those individuals,
families and communities in the future.

Aboriginal Healthy
en Co-ordinator

**Special thanks to Loma for sharing her
correspondence with the *Voyageur*.**





What is the Ipperwash Inquiry?

The Ipperwash Inquiry was established by the Government of Ontario on November 12, 2003, under the Public Inquiries Act. Its mandate was to inquire and report on events surrounding the death of Dudley George, who was shot and killed in 1995 during a protest by First Nation members at Ipperwash Provincial Park. The Inquiry was also asked to make recommenda-

tions that would avoid violence in similar circumstances in the future. The Honourable Sidney B. Linden was appointed “Commissioner” in November, 2003. *The Commission* delivered its final report containing its findings, conclusions and recommendations (100 recommendations) to the Attorney General of Ontario and the Report was made public on May 31, 2007.

What is “The New Relationship Fund”?

A key recommendation of Justice Linden’s Ipperwash Inquiry Report was the establishment of a fund to improve the capacity of First Nation and Aboriginal people in Ontario to participate in the many land claim, treaty, or Aboriginal policy and consultation processes underway in the province at any given time.

On May 15, 2008, Minister Michael Bryant, along with MNO President, Gary Lipinski, and Chiefs of Ontario Regional Chief, Angus Toulouse, announced the creation of the “New Relationship Fund” (\$25 million over the first two years).

What is the purpose of the Fund?

The Fund has two broad purposes:

- supporting First Nations and Métis communities to enhance their consultation ability to participate in meaningful consultations with government and the private sector on important land, resource and other development initiatives; and
- supporting Aboriginal individuals, organisations and First Nations and Métis communities to enhance skills development, training and education and build business partnerships for sustainable economic development, and employment.

What is being done?

Following the May, 2008, announcement, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA) engaged the MNO in discussions on the details of *the Fund*. MAA also engaged First Nations, Inuit organisations, other Aboriginal organisations, financial and business institutions, industry, the federal government and Ontario Government ministries on the details of *the Fund*. Specifically, MAA is engaging partners on the following issues related to *the Fund*:

- Beneficiaries of *the Fund*
- Governance structure
- Funding requirements
- Guiding principles
- Recipients and programs eligible for funding
- Apportionment or targeting of fund for First Nations and Métis
- Mechanism for Aboriginal input to operation of *the Fund*
- Performance measures for *the Fund*
- Administration of *the Fund*

How can I get involved?

Consultation material on the details of *the Fund* have been circulated to MNO Community Councils and the PCMNO. As well, this material is available on the MNO’s web site at www.metisnation.org/ipperwash. Métis citizens are encouraged to provide comments to their

local and regional leadership or respond via the MNO’s web site. A workshop on the details of *the Fund* was also held at the PCMNO meeting in September. As well, *the Fund* has been discussed at various community meetings held during the summer and fall of 2008.

What happens next?

Based on the input received from these consultations, the MNO will be preparing a submission to the MAA on the Métis nation’s interest and position in relation to *the Fund*. Prior to the MNO formally tabling this sub-

mission with Ontario, it will be brought to the MNO’s upcoming AGA for review and validation by Métis citizens. Specifically, a workshop on *the Fund* will be held on November 17th, 2008 at the MNO AGA.

When will the Fund be operational?

It is likely that resources from *the Fund* will not be available to Métis communities until the next fiscal year (starting in April 2009). The MNO is hoping that funding will be available sooner, but various internal Ontario Govern-

ment processes need to take place before funding flows. The MNO will continue to keep Métis citizens updated on progress related to *the Fund*.



PCMNO PROFILES:

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Audrey Vallee
Senator



I was born in Victoria Harbour, Ontario, a beautiful village at the southern tip of Georgian Bay. I attended elementary school there and high school in Midland.

After high school I worked for a few years in the monthly payment department of Simpson’s mail order office in Toronto. In 1951 I came home and worked at Woolworth’s in Midland until I married Allan, my first and only love. We will celebrate our 57th wedding anniversary in December.

We had five children, two girls and three boys. When my youngest started school I went back to work outside of our home for a few years.

We have one grand daughter and two grandsons, one of whom I raised from the age of four to eighteen.

In 1973 we bought a farm and raised beef cattle, swine, turkeys and chickens. As Allan went to work every day, I was left to tend to the farm. I learned to look after animals in distress. I also looked after the finances, did the farm books along with being the “go-for”. Go for supplies; go for feed; go for machinery parts. I could write a book about our adventures on the farm; some are funny and others not so funny. We still farm, although we do cash cropping now.

We got involved with the farmers’ market where we sold corn and vegetables, home baking and crocheted and knitted baby outfits. I have won many prizes at the local fairs for my crocheting, knitting and baking. I attended judging school and received my judging certificate to judge at fairs.

I do a lot of reading and do crossword puzzles daily. I have been a volunteer collector for the Cancer and Arthritis Societies. I was also a co-captain on the neighbourhood watch and Tay Township community policing in our area.

When Allan was on the Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC) I attended events and volunteered with him in different positions.

In 1999 I received my citizen card. I am a proud Métis and an

avid promoter of the Métis nation wherever I go.

In 2005 I was appointed as Senator for the GBMC, and later elected Senator on the PCMNO. I was appointed Senator Advisor on the Women’s Senate of the MNO, Senator Advisor on the Child and Family Service of the MNO and Senator Advisor for Veterans.

I have attended many meetings and functions including the Federal Liberal Convention in Montreal where I said the opening prayers for the Aboriginal meeting. I also offered opening and closing prayers at the HIV Forum in Burlington, and attended an Aboriginal Women’s Awards Ceremony at Queen’s Park; the Aboriginal Women’s Forum at the Native Friendship Centre in Toronto; the 2007 Women’s Conference in Vancouver, and the 2008 Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario in Toronto where I said opening Prayers. I have attended many other functions, such as a Drum Birthing and the wind down of the Reclamation Program at GBMC.

Allan and I attended the Harvesting court cases in North Bay and Parry Sound.

This is my third year on the Region 7 Rendezvous Planning Committee. These three years have been exciting and informative enabling me to see the development of our Métis nation.

I would like to say thank you to my Senator sisters and brothers for their support in the last election. I would like to stand for re-election this year and I am once again asking you for your support.

The Uplifting Falls

by Raymond D. Tremblay

Did you ever notice the elegant
And fluttering dance of leaves as
They glided towards Mother Earth?
How so graceful! How so comforting!
Did you admire them when they blanketed
The ground with a myriad of colours? It is no
Wonder that their innate beauty mesmerised you.
When you played in the fallen leaves, do you remember
Their haunting cries when you stepped on them? You knew
You never meant to hurt them. They gingerly cushioned your falls.
It was as if they were sacrificing their lives to uplift your wounded spirits.
Do you remember when they welcomed the first snow fall? It was as if they were
Thirsty for sacred love. From birth, they knew that in the fall they would be
Separated from their nurturing source only to return to Mother Earth and
To their Creator just like you and me. They died to remind us of Life.



Métis Communities



Grey-Owen Sound Métis Councillor, Pete Coture (left); Councillor, Peter Gendron (centre), and Vice President, Jeff Wilson (right), proudly kick off the day's events with a traditional grand entry.

Métis carry the colours

by REBEKAH WILSON

Grey Owen Sound Métis celebrated Aboriginal Day with community Métis people from across Ontario at the Grey Roots Museum and Archives near Owen Sound at annual National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

The event, which partnered Grey-Owen Sound Métis Council and Grey Roots Museum and Archives for a special cultural day, took place on June 21st. Refreshments and a lunch time meal were served to attendees, who socialised outdoors and enjoyed traditional drum music.

All members of the Grey Owen Sound Métis Council were in attendance, as were several long-term members of the community, and surrounding Owen Sound area, as well as dignitaries representing the City of Owen Sound and various organisations from the community.

Following a traditional grand entry onto the picnic grounds, Senator Leora Wilson welcomed all, and introduced Council and special guests. Vice-president, Jeffrey Wilson acted as the picnic's MC.

Throughout the day, children were encouraged to participate in traditional voyageur games, including snowshoe and sack

racers, as well as beading and educational activity books about Aboriginal history and culture.

Guests enjoyed musical entertainment in the museum's theatre. The headlining bands included Rudy and Jean Couture of Bognor, David Dillon Blues Band from London and Brenda Willis and RBC Country Band of Grey & Bruce Counties.

The Métis nation, who embraces diversity, was happy to welcome visitors from many walks of life. This year's guests ranged in age from four weeks to 98 years old, and came from towns all across Ontario. "I've never been to an Aboriginal celebration before, but I had a great time. Everyone is like a big family here; it really makes you feel welcome," said first-time attendee, Barbara O'Halloran.

MNO representative Scott Carpenter of Midland attracted many interested guests to view his indoor display of Aboriginal culture, including traditional clothing, flags and foods that tell a special tale in history.

The event was a resounding success, with many new friendships made and promises of return for next year. "It was a lot of hard work, but I hope everyone enjoyed it," said Senator Leora Wilson. "We look forward to seeing familiar faces, and many new ones next year."

MÉTIS COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATES:

Region 2: Thunder Bay area Métis community has busy summer

By CAMERON BURGESS

We have had a busy spring and summer; here are the details.

May: The Thunder Bay Métis Council and health staff hosted two, first year Northern Ontario Medical Students for the month of May. This is the third year of hosting and the purpose is to show these future doctors Métis governance and culture. This year, they were involved in a meet and greet with all the staff-luncheon, music and dancing; a day with a Métis commercial fisherman on Lake Superior (700 lbs. of fish caught); a day and night spent at a Métis trappers shack, involved with skinning beaver and deer; a day at the Regional Hospital in Geraldton, followed by a day on the lake fishing for

walleye and a fish fry. Thanks go to the health staff for their participation.

June 19th: The 5th Annual Métis Community Centre golf tournament was won by Cam's foursome of Denise Kowolski (finance housing) her sister and Edwin Martinez from Best Western Nor'Wester, retaining their title from 2007.

July 12th: The David Thompson Brigade, composed of 160 paddlers, travelled across four provinces to take part in the *Great Rendezvous* at Fort William Historical Park. Two MNO canoes with Métis citizens and invited guests paddled from *the Fort* to meet *the Brigade* and guide them to *the Fort* where we were met by cannon fire, musket fire, singers and dancers and a welcome from *the Fort's* governors. A huge feast

was enjoyed by all.

August 15-17th: Fort William Historical Park invited MNO to participate in their 2nd Annual Kesguin Pow Wow Days. On the Saturday night the fantastic Asham Métis Dancers and Fiddlers from Winnipeg entertained the large crowd and showcased our culture. At this event we were also given the contract for the parking. Thanks go to John, Terry, Robbyn, Nancy, Ken and Cam for raising \$2510.00 for the Community Centre.

A \$10,500.00 grant was awarded to Thunder Bay Council from the City of Thunder Bay to produce and install a 16' x 32' mural on our building. More details to follow in next issue.

Cameron Burgess is the PCMNO Councillor for MNO Region 2.



Thunder Bay Métis Council members participate in the David Thompson Brigade Event.

Region 4: Métis Dance Club of SSM leads graduating class

by ANNE TRUDEL

For many, high school graduation ranks as a prestige highlight of their school career and a marker into the "adult" world. Jeri Powley of Sault Ste. Marie was approached by Alexander Henry High School of the Algoma District School Board and asked to participate in the June 25, 2008, graduation.

Traditionally, in some Region 4 schools, the students, when being marched in and out of the ceremonies are escorted by the school's band, a highland bagpiper, or an Ojibwa Fancy Shawl Dancer. This year, the Métis

Dance Club of Sault Ste. Marie and area, was invited to choose whether to precede the students in or lead the grand exit of the graduates out. Jeri Powley and Rebekah Trudel, third year members, and Tammy Hill, first year member of the Youth Dance Troupe who all belong to the Métis Dance Club, accepted this honour. They performed the "butterfly dance" which requires three dancers to perform it.

For those who have not heard of the butterfly dance, the dance has three main sets of patterns done in sequence. Because butterflies eagerly spread their wings when they burst out of their

cocoons, this dance seemed most fitting to bring the students out of the auditorium and was capitalised by Senator Brenda Powley who gave a few closing remarks.

"We had chosen the butterfly dance to lead them out, because it symbolised them soaring high as their dreams and ambitions would take them," said Senator Powley.

Among the graduating class was award winning Métis student, Jake Blais. Good Job Jake!



Jeri Powley

CALLING ALL MÉTIS HARVESTERS!

Filling the freezers for the needy

by MICHELLE DALE

The season is upon us, when we're booking our holidays, checking gear, rounding up our friends, all in the name of harvesting/ hunting season. This year, I would like to put out a "challenge" of sorts. In the past years the Métis Nation of Ontario health programs have supported local community gatherings for our hunts. However, sadly enough, many of our com-

munity freezers have sat empty! What I, and my co-workers in Region 4, as well as the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council are proposing is to get as many of our Métis hunters together as possible for a gathering on November 1st, 2008, starting at 6:00 AM. This event will have the sole purpose of filling our local freezers and assisting our community in ensuring that families who fall on difficult times or who are not able to harvest for them-

MÉTIS HARVESTER GATHERING:

When: **Nov. 1st 2008**, 6AM

Where: 58 Blais Drive, (off Whitman Dam Rd.) **Searchmont** (Louise and Michel Blais' home)

selves will have access to meat over the long cold winter. Métis Nation of Ontario, Region 4 staff, council and volun-

teers will be preparing and cooking you a delicious breakfast (bacon, sausage, eggs, home fries, toast, coffee and juice), providing you with a warm and hearty lunch or a bag lunch if you wish to not come in, as well as a family-style dinner. If you are unable to make it to our gathering, but have been able to harvest meat, please donate some to your local health branch. A pound of burger, or a roast, or steak from every hunter will go a

long way in providing for our community!

For information contact: Michele Dale
Community Wellness Coordinator
26 Queen Street East
Sault Ste Marie, ON
Tel: 705-254-1768

Check with your local councils or health branches in other Regions for information on their community freezers and gatherings.

NAHO's '08 National Aboriginal Role Models announced

Her Excellency, the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, presented awards to 12 role models on June 21, 2008, at Rideau Hall in Ottawa. Chosen by the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO), the new national Aboriginal role models were also celebrated at the Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival in honour of National Aboriginal Day on Victoria Island, (Ottawa). "Each of the Aboriginal Role Models being honoured today has a story of success," said Dr. Paulette C. Tremblay, CEO of NAHO. "The National Aboriginal Role Model Program supported by Health Canada will provide these 12 role models with the opportunity to share their accomplishments and inspire First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth to pursue the life journey of their dreams." The role models--all Aboriginal youth between the ages of 13 and 30--were recognised for their achievements and leadership. The Role Models for 08-09 are:

- John Carriere**
Cumberland House, SK

Robert Animikii Horton
Rainy River First Nations, ON

Inez Jasper
Chilliwack, BC

Jenna Kilabuk
Pangnirtung, Nunavut

Kyle Kuptana
Inuvik, NWT

Channing Lavallée
St. Ambroise, MB

Katelyn Matthew
Chase, BC

Ry Moran
Victoria, BC

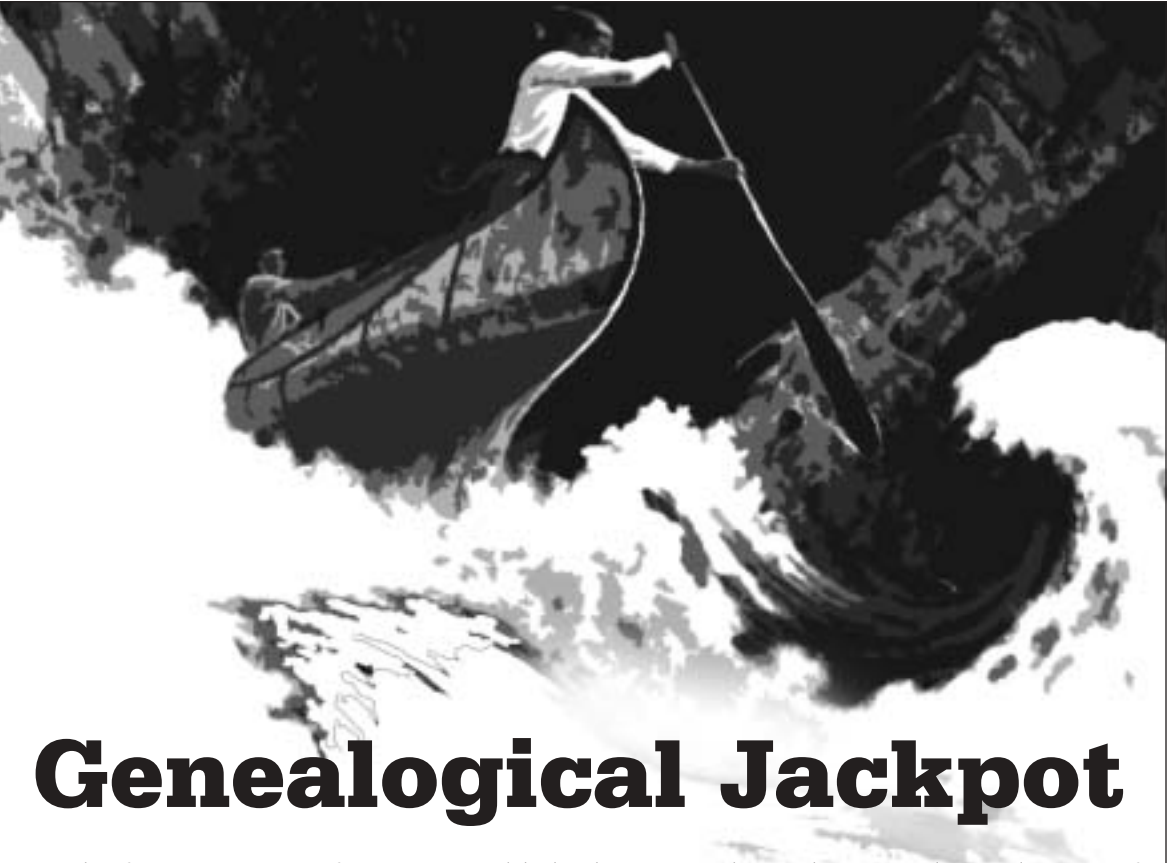
Candace Polson
Timiskaming First Nation, QC

Shaneen Robinson
Pimicikamak Cree Nation, MB

Heather Watts
Six Nations of the Grand River, ON

Jennifer Williams
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL

Lead Your Way! is hosted by the National Aboriginal Health Organization and funded by Health Canada.



Genealogical Jackpot

In the first Voyageur of 2008 we published a story about the genealogical quest of a new Métis citizen, Capt. Donald Maxwell Fowler, C.D., (Ret'd) of Brockville, Ontario. Donn was trying to sort out his ancestors and he shared some of his research and findings with us in this article. At the end we asked that any readers who had information relevant to Donn's search contact him. I am very pleased to report that someone did! —LL

by **DONN FOWLER**

I have hit the "jackpot" big time, many thanks to Ms. Ethel MacDonald of Dryden, Ontario, who sent me a massive 109 page typewritten manuscript (which arrived here today, 23 July, 08) concerning the HBC's Jenkin Daniel (b.1740 or 1750-- d. 29 September 1823) of Glamorganshire, Wales; my primary paternal link to Mary (Daniel) Corrigan (b.1788-d. 23 Sept.1823), spouse of Jacob Corrigan (b.1772, d.1844), the parents of Mary (Corrigan) Scollie my great great grandmother of Otonabee Twp. Peterborough County, who lived quite close to the Hiawatha First Nation at Rice Lake. The remarkable Daniel manuscript covers almost all of the essential Daniel family, a massive HBC archives' work undertaken by Lynne C. (Begg) Charles of North Vancouver and especially by a Mabel A. (Quirk) Hykaway who was the one who researched just about everything the HBC has on Daniel records. Interestingly, I have now learnt that Jenkin Daniel and Robert Goodwin originally came to the Bay from London on the same ship. Jenkin Daniel was "illiterate" when signing on in 1781. (Note the death dates of both Jenkin and "his daughter" Mary (Daniel) Corrigan. Quite an unusual coincidence); also Robert Goodwin died quite suddenly while on his way to Marten Falls in 1805. His Indian wife was "Jenny" Mistagoose. They married in Manitoba on 23, Dec. 1841, a year after Jacob Corrigan retired to Cobourg, Ontario with three spinster daughters and one bachelor son. I have many official HBC charts for Corrigan; Daniel; Fowler (HBC ship captains in the 1700s); Goodwin/Goodwyn; Grant; Hardisty; Hodgson; Morriseau; Mowat; Nourse; Scollie; Sinclair; and lastly, Donald Alexander Smith, whose wife Isabella Sophia Hardisty Grant (b.1825, d.1913) a former aboriginal soulmate to a Grant, but later twice married to Donald Alexander Smith. Aside from the

young Grant boy--who was adopted by Smith and renamed "Smith"--the Smiths had only the one natural child, "Margaret Charlotte" (b.1854, d.1926) possibly named after my great grandmother Margaret Charlotte Corrigan (Scollie) Fowler (b.1850, d.1936). Donald A. Smith was well acquainted with William Nourse and Anne (Corrigan) Nourse while they were both posted to Labrador, and it is likely that Donald A. Smith knew my great great grandfather John Fowler who was a "contractor of public(sic) works" and built railways and at one time owned the charter for the Ontario and Quebec Railway now in the possession of the Canadian Pacific Railway. John Fowler's son, Robert Fowler C.E., held contracts for several sections of the Canadian Transcontinental Railway near "Rat Portage" (Now Kenora, Ontario) and Robert's sister drove in the last spike linking Ontario with Manitoba. The search continues. Ethel MacDonald (also related to Robert Goodwin [Goodwyn]) of Dryden, who so kindly sent Donn the 109 page manuscript has been in communication with Mabel A. Hykaway of Winnipeg--the woman who did all the original Daniel family research at the HBC archives in Winnipeg-- to check the HBC archives again to see if Mabel can now find a clear and unambiguous Corrigan-Daniel connection one way or the other. Mabel is related to JENKIN DANIEL as is James T. Charles of North Vancouver, whose wife Lynne edited and put out the entire manuscript, all neatly bound. Thanks to Ethel MacDonald for sharing her research. If anyone else has information that might be helpful you can contact Donn by e-mail: dmf@metalex.com or phone: (613)-345-5430.

Readers are encouraged to share their genealogical stories and questions. Perhaps someone you don't know can break down a brick wall for you. Stories and queries can be sent to me for publication consideration lloyd@kingston.net

EDUCATION:

McGuinty Government offers more Support for Students, Strengthens Programs

School boards across the province are strengthening programs and resources that support First Nation, Métis and Inuit students. The McGuinty government is increasing its annual investment in First Nation, Métis and Inuit education by \$5 million, to help First Nation, Métis and Inuit students increase their success.

This new funding is part of a \$15.5 million annual grant for culturally relevant education programs to assist First Nations, Métis and Inuit students. These programs are open to all students, which is part of the government's strategy to educate Ontarians about First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories, cultures and perspectives.

New Director for MNO

It is a pleasure to announce that Robert Waldon joined LMNO staff on September 2, 2008, as Director of Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations. Bob has a strong background of working with Aboriginal people, diverse interest groups and local communities, as well as natural resource and environmental agencies through management and consulting roles with business and government. He also brings experience as a volunteer and board member for non-profit organizations. Bob says: "I feel confident of working in an effective and respectful way within MNO and its governing structures. The MNO statement that 'every voice is heard' resonates with me." We are confident that Bob's past experience, insights, knowledge and enthusiasm will be a great asset to the MNO as we move forward. Please join us in welcoming Bob Waldon as a new member to our team.

CONTACT:
Robert (Bob) Waldon, Director of Natural Resources, Environment and Community Relations
bobw@metisnation.org

Métis Youth

10th Annual North Simcoe Children's Festival:

Good time had by all

by MARY MACKIE

Children and their parents, grandparents and caregivers had lots to do at the North Simcoe Children's Festival this year.

Over 200 children and parents attended the 10th Annual Children's Festival held out doors this past June at the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum.

Mary Mackie, MNO's Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children worker in Midland, Region 7, with staff and volunteers from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Penetanguishene Centennial Museum, La Cle d'la Baie, Ontario Early Years and Canadian Action Program for Children (CAP-C), co-ordinated the day of free activities.

It was exciting to have 20 different groups/organisations and volunteers bring arts and crafts, interactive activities and educational material to one location. Clowns and strolling musicians kept the crowd entertained while the children participated at the various stations of activities such as Aboriginal beading, face paint-



The younger members of the Moreau clan with Sparky the fire safety dog.

ing, bike and helmet safety, obstacle courses, family health display, wooden boat and knotting demonstration, a bouncing castle, and reptile petting zoo, just to name a few.

Aboriginal Youth Drummers (ages 8-12 years) and a jingle dancer performed. The Moreau

children (in the photo) were talking to Sparky the fire safety dog about fire safety at home. Sparky's home is at the Penetanguishene Fire Department.

Garfield Dunlop, MPP for Simcoe North, presented a plaque to the Children's Festival committee recognising the 10th anniversary

of the event. The plaque will be hung in the Penetanguishene Centennial Museum. Penetanguishene's Mayor, Anita Dubeau, brought greetings from the town and Bruce Stanton, MP for Simcoe North, brought greetings from Parliament Hill.

A good time was had by all.

YOUTH & VETERANS' COUNCIL VACANCIES TO BE FILLED AT SUMMER AGA

Vacancies for the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) and the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council (MNOVC) will be filled at the 2009 MNO Summer AGA, in accordance with Article 9 of the MNO Electoral Code:

ARTICLE 9. Vacancies filled at Summer Assembly

9.1 If, after the close of nominations there are offices that are vacant, the chief electoral officer shall, by May 15th, announce in writing that elections to fill any such vacancies will be held at the next Annual Summer Assembly. The chief electoral officer shall conduct any such Annual Summer Assembly elections to fill vacancies and shall follow the rules set out in this Code with any necessary practical amendments.

Therefore, no vacancies will be filled during the Special Presidents' Assembly / AGA 2008 in November and further information will be posted on or before May 15, 2009.

Should you require further information please contact:

HANK ROWLINSON
Deputy Chief Electoral Officer
500 Old St. Patrick Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4
Tel: 613-764-1077
Fax: 613-722-4225
hankr@metisnation.org



Senator Gerry Bedford with his grandson Carter Dodds.

A young Métis' first harvesting expedition

By GERRY BEDFORD

Carter Dodds, who is affectionately referred to as "Sir Carter" by Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, went on his first fishing trip on August 16th, 2008. Sir Carter was accompanied by his dad, Darryl Dodds, and his grandpa, PCMNO Senator, Gerry Bedford.

It was a beautiful hot summer day on a private lake just outside of Orangeville, Ontario. Like real Métis, the trio headed out onto the weedy lake with a 14' aluminium boat and two paddles. Carter was a little nervous in the boat at first, but it wasn't long before he was leaning over the



side and splashing his hands in the water. He had no trouble handling the dew worms and helping to put them on the hook. Alas, like many fishing trips, the fish were not co-operating—no

action whatsoever.

After a couple of hours, it was decided that we would head back to the dock. We decided to try off the end of the dock, and almost right away Sir Carter had hooked onto an eight inch small mouth bass. His reaction was: "More! More!" In 20 minutes he had caught three bass, which we returned to their rightful domain.

We packed up and Carter could not wait to tell his grandma-Carol and his mama, Coral Dodds, (Women's Representative of the Credit River Métis Council), of the successful outing.

It was a very good day for all of us and we hope to do it again soon.



Métis students receive scholarships for their role in making communities better

Two Métis students are among the winners of the 2008 Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation's excellence awards. The award recognizes outstanding achievements in leadership, social innovation, academic performance and community service.

The award's goal is to assist outstanding students pursue a post-secondary education. This year's 1,052 entrance award laureates have distinguished themselves by their work in local, regional and international development projects, information and biological technologies and community fund-raising initiatives, while preparing themselves for studies and, ultimately, a career.

Hard work and dedication have spelled success for:

Cheyne Dallyn a student at Carpenter High School in Meadow Lake Saskatchewan;

Nicole Laplante, a mother of two, attending Sakewew High School in North Battleford Saskatchewan.

Cheyne and Nicole are Provincial Award winners. They will both receive a cash award of \$ 4,000 towards the cost of studies at any university or college this fall, renewable to a maximum of \$ 16,000.

"An investment in the education of these outstanding citizens is an investment in our society's future," said Norman Riddell, executive director and CEO of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation. "These individuals have already demonstrated their ability to better the world around them; they know how to make a difference – something they will continue to do long after the Foundation's mandate winds down at the end of next year."

Since 2000, the Millennium Foundation, through its different awards programs, has delivered 800,000 bursaries and scholarships, worth \$2.3 billion, to students. For a complete list of this year's laureates and more information visit: www.millennium-scholarships.ca

SENIORS & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

by GLEN LIPINSKI

In year three of our Substance Abuse Program we will be focussing on substance abuse and seniors. One of the most serious issues facing many of our Métis elders is the misuse and/or overuse of prescription medications. Although medication is a part of reality for most seniors there are concerns coming from seniors themselves. I spoke with Métis elders and asked them for their comments on the subject.

Are our seniors being used as guinea pigs? “Yes”, according to one of our elders. Doctors and more important the pharmaceutical companies are constantly developing new medications and want our seniors and elders to try them. Seniors often don’t feel comfortable asking about medications or just can’t be bothered. Drug expenditures are responsible for an increasing proportion of the Canadian health care cost, \$9.9 billion in 1993 and \$14 billion in 1996. Approximately one-third of the increases in cost are related to new drugs entering the market, and 24% to increased use by patients (more prescriptions per person)

Seniors, rather than youth or the middle-aged, are more likely to receive prescriptions for medications that are potentially inappropriate; nearly 46% of seniors receive at least one inappropriate prescription per year. Prescribing errors account for up to 36% of drug-related hospital admissions.

Western medicine is concerned solely with treating the symptoms of a condition after they become visible. Treatment of these symptoms mostly involves prescribing some kind of product from the “Big Pharmaceutical Companies”.

Seniors trust doctors to make the best decisions for them and will not question doctors about their choice of medications. All too often seniors are not aware or do not notice changes to their own bodies as a result of the medications they are on. Most doctors do not have the time to make sure that the medications they are prescribing are not conflicting with other medications.

At least one of the seniors I spoke with referred to taking a look at the typical senior visiting a doctor’s office; they all carry their little bag filled with drugs. The majority of seniors have many different drugs in their “drug bag”. The average number of prescriptions is projected to grow to 38 prescriptions per elderly person by 2010.

Think for a moment of all the seniors that you know. How

many of them are on regular prescription medications? According to a survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation, 75% of seniors with at least three chronic health conditions, take at least five or more medications regularly.

The “prescription drugs and seniors” issue is “pathetic” and possibly even borders on elder abuse according to one of our Métis elders. Seniors are not always aware of the side effects of their medications. Improper use of medication by our seniors is another one of the problems that we need to be concerned about. Researchers at the University of Manitoba conducted a study on prescription drug use. Results showed that 19% of acute care admissions were due to improper use of medication by persons aged 50 and over.

Prescription drug use and its costs are like a runaway train. Where is it heading? Can we, should we, try to slow it? Is there an optimal balance between effective medication use and overmedication?

Here are some things seniors can do to reduce potential conflicts and over medicating:

- When you receive a new medication from your doctor have your son/daughter or family member research the medication; check it on-line, to ensure it doesn’t conflict with your other medications.
- Inform the doctors about all medications currently being used, including over-the counter (OTC) drugs.
- Always use the same pharmacy to fill prescriptions.
- Be aware of the signs and symptoms of adverse drug effects, such as unsteadiness, drowsiness, confusion, dizziness, headaches, irritability and changes in heart rate (Addiction Research Foundation, 1993b).

There is not enough education out there for our seniors in regard to the use of medications. In many cases medications are changed when the old ones work just fine. Do we really need that? Canada needs improved policies to ensure safe, effective and accessible drugs/medications for seniors. Please pass on the information in this article to our Métis elders who may or may not be aware of the issues surrounding prescription drug use. The care and well-being of our elders is the responsibility of all of us.

Make informed decisions regarding medication in consultation with your medical provider and pharmacist. If you have concerns ask your health care provider team to help evaluate your medications and the



“THEY ALL CARRY THEIR LITTLE BAG FILLED WITH DRUGS. THE MAJORITY OF SENIORS HAVE MANY DIFFERENT DRUGS IN THEIR ‘DRUG BAG’.”

effect you feel it is having on you.

Note: This article is intended for information and educational awareness only. The information contained in the article should not be considered a substitute for the medical advice of a doctor. Readers should not make any alterations or changes to any prescription drug use without consultation with a physician. This article in no way recommends changes to your current medication use without the permission of your doctor.

CONTACT:

Glen Lipinski

Addictions Wellness Coordinator

20 Division St., Welland, ON

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DRUG & ALCOHOL ABUSE IN THE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY

Why are substances like alcohol and drugs abused?

Contact with Europeans and European culture has harmed the traditional way of life of First Nations, Inuit and Métis. This damage includes the loss of homelands, traditions, languages and culture over generations, which in turn has damaged the overall health of Aboriginal communities, families and individuals.

Some Aboriginal communities don’t have more substance abuse problems than the rest of Canadians, but others do. Many Aboriginal families have to live and deal with poverty, isolation and unemployment in their communities. Some people abuse alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs as a way to deal with difficult life conditions.

There are also very personal reasons why someone might abuse alcohol and drugs or other substances, including:

- escape from pain (could be emotional and/or physical)
- a family history of substance abuse
- child abuse
- the loss of a relative or friend
- peer pressure.

What can drinking and doing drugs do to your health?

Abusing alcohol, drugs and other substances can cause physical, emotional, spiritual and mental problems. Depending on what is being abused, how often and how much, it can also:

- cloud your thinking and affect coordination
- increase risky/violent behaviour
- cause problems within family
- cause permanent damage to a developing baby during pregnancy. No known amount of alcohol is safe to drink during pregnancy. Drugs also harm the unborn child. Ask yourself: “would I give my baby this after s/he is born?”

Aboriginal people in Canada have some of the most serious health problems because of substance abuse. These include:

- death from alcohol abuse
- depression and other illness that may be caused by illegal drugs and substance abuse
- cancer and serious health issues as a result of non-traditional use of tobacco
- brain damage from sniffing
- effects of the abuse of prescription drugs
- HIV, specifically from the use of injection drugs
- alcohol abuse and dependence which has been linked to diabetes with some people. It could be the cause or what is making a diabetic condition much worse.

How can problems with alcohol and other drugs be fixed?

The health of Aboriginal communities, families and individuals can be improved through a mixture of physical, emotional, spiritual and mental healing. For some people this involves learning about their cultural traditions and values, while for others it may involve seeing a counsellor outside their community. Some people just decide on their own that they need to change, and they develop their own methods. Each person has his/her own way of healing.

Some Aboriginal communities have taken action against substance abuse problems by developing programs and policies that actively discourage substance abuse. These actions recognise that healthy communities are made up of healthy people. For example, some communities restrict the sale of alcohol, and other communities plan cultural activity nights (such as games, crafts and community meals) to offer people something to do that doesn’t involve alcohol or drugs.

Remember, no one has to wait for the community to make a decision on how it will become more healthy. The best way to make an impact is to ask ourselves what can I do to be more healthy? What can my family do to become more healthy? If we all take these basic steps toward better health, imagine the impact we could have on our Métis nation.

FOR ASSISTANCE WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE

or more info you can contact any one of your local MNO Health Branch Offices, the Addictions Wellness Coordinator in Welland or the MNO Ottawa Office at 1-800-263-4889 ask for Health Services



Sudbury volunteer drivers recognized

by JOYCE CAMERON

The Sudbury Métis Council and Health Branch staff held a Service Providers Gathering on Friday July 4th, 2008, at Mine Mill Campsite on Richard Lake.

The MNO Long Term Care Program volunteer drivers were recognised as valuable service providers to the Sudbury MNO LTC medical transportation program. These individuals provide transportation to MNO clients and citizens to and from medical appointments. They contribute many hours monthly offering individual support and friendship.

The day included a compli-



from left to right: **Long Term Care Co-ordinator, Nancy Martel; Armand Trottier; Pamela Gagnon; Edward Burke; Norman Guerin and AHWS Co-ordinator Joyce Cameron.**

mentary lunch, a “Problem Gambling” presentation, an “Individual Wellness Planning” presentation, a focussed stretching activity and an invitation to take part in a sharing circle. We concluded the day by presenting the volunteers with certificates of appreciation for their ongoing dedication and contribution to our clients. Unfortunately, not all of the drivers were able to attend.

Certificates of Appreciation were prepared for: Pamela Gagnon of Spanish; Edward

Burke of Killarney; John Haiste of Killarney; Monique Boulard of Verner; Norman Guerin of Alban; Yvette Gervais of McKerrow; Angele Lemieux of Alban; Betty Fairbairn of Webbwood; Stella Dumont of St-Charles; Norman and Alice Viau of Noelville; Armand Trottier of Warren, and Kevin Dupuis.

We would like to thank Senator Rene Gravelle and the Sudbury Métis Council President, Richard Sarrazin, for attending and for their assistance, also our provincial Addiction Wellness Co-ordinator, Glen Lipinski, for his presentation on Problem Gambling. We would also like to thank everyone who attended and helped make this day special.

A terrifying tale about child services



Practice makes perfect

by SABRINA STOESSINGER

A child comes to school with a red mark on her face and tears in her eyes. Teacher says, “what’s the matter child?” Child says, “my mother is angry and hits me all the time.” Teacher says, “don’t worry; you are safe now,” and sends the agency.

Mother appeases agency with apologies and promises not to do it again. After the agency leaves mother snarls at the child. “Don’t ever tell anyone what happens again.”

Another year, another school, another teacher who sees child is sullen and withdrawn and wearing bruises. “Child what is the matter?”

Child says nothing. “Don’t worry child you will be safe.” “No I won’t; I will be in trouble.” Teacher says, “I won’t let that happen. You will be safe if you tell me what is wrong.” Child says, “my mother punches me and kicks me and pulls my hair out in clumps. She calls me stupid and fat and ugly and destroys and smashes the things I love.”

Again the agency comes, and again they leave, and after they send a counsellor. The counsellor talks and listens and gives advice. Weeks later mother tells the counsellor all the right things and says she feels better and says she is cured and the counsellor doesn’t come back anymore.

Child can’t go swimming that summer even when it is so hot because people will

see the giant purple welts that can’t be covered by her swimsuit.

One day the child and her sister run away and the agency says, “you are safe now. We will protect you; tell us what is wrong.”

“Our mother beats us with shoes and hairbrushes and kitchen utensils. She makes us sleep in the garage and eat out of the garbage can. She dents the walls and the washing machine and the refrigerator with our heads. She drags us down the stairs by

— — — — —

“MY MOTHER PUNCHES ME AND KICKS ME AND PULLS MY HAIR OUT IN CLUMPS. SHE CALLS ME STUPID AND FAT AND UGLY AND DESTROYS AND SMASHES THE THINGS I LOVE.”

our hair and throws knives at us. She beats us until we can no longer stand and we pee our pants. Please don’t make us go back.” The agency keeps the children until the court date.

Mother asks to meet with the children before they talk to the judge, and the agency says “yes that is okay”. Mother tells the children they have remembered things wrong and she will forgive their mistakes if only they will admit they lied. They are just chil-

dren and people expect children to lie and she even brings in another lady and she too says it’s okay to say they lied. Mother turns the story around and confuses the children and tells them their little sister misses them and if they would just tell everyone that they lied they could come home and see their little sister.

The children are scared and uneasy and don’t know what to say. So mother tells the judge the children lied. Mother says she is outnumbered by the children and needs to protect herself. Mother says whatever she needs to say so the judge will believe her.

The judge does believe her and says the children must leave the agency and go back home and it’s no use how loud the children wail and how tight they cling to the bench the judge just won’t change her mind.

Six months later the child and her sister run away again because the change didn’t last and both are homeless and both are on the street, but anything is better than being at home. They go to the agency and say please, please, please, help our little sister. She is there with mother now all alone and there is no one to protect her.

“Don’t worry” says the agency “your little sister must be safe because if she were being hurt she would tell her teacher at school.”

Sabrina Stoessinger is the Long Term Care Coordinator for the Sunset Country Métis Council in Fort Frances.

MétisHEALTH



Hamilton, Welland Métis at Health Conference

by KATHLEEN LANNIGAN

Hamilton and Welland Métis community members, councils, MNO staff and Six Nations of the Grand River Territory citizens attended the Aboriginal Health Search Conference on February 29, March 1st and 2nd, 2008. The focus of the conference was to explore the deficiencies in health care for Aboriginal communities in the Province of Ontario. We discussed the changes that we would like to see in the planning and financing of future health care initiatives.

Kathleen Lannigan is the Regional Employment & Training Coordinator for Region 9.

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MÉTIS SENATORS:

Moon River Senator's busy year

Continued from *Métis Voyageur*, June/July 2008, page 26

by **RUTH WAGNER-MILLINGTON**
Senator-Moon River Métis Council

This past year has to be condensed to make the overall picture simpler:

Moon River Council's President, Louise Goulding, who is Captain of the Hunt for Region 7, arranged a grant through MNOTI and the Moon River Council, to research the history of the Métis people in the Penetanguishene Midland area and publish it in book form. I wrote a poem called *The Métis Paddling Song* describing the progression of the history of the Métis, and also composed a fiddle tune, to which it was sung, and named the tune *Louise's Waltz* after our "go-getting" president, because she takes on and accomplishes so much. The song was performed and sung at our spring general meeting, which was the book launching. Then President Tony Belcourt, Registrar Karole Dumont-Beckett, and several federal and provincial members of parliament who were there all complimented me on how well it described the history of the Métis people.

Aboriginal Day

I saw in the local newspaper where the (former) Lieutenant Governor, The Honourable James Bartleman (whose mother was First Nation and father English) was to be in Bracebridge for a book signing. I wrote him an invitation, put on my coat which has a Métis sash sewn down the front and around the hood, drove to town; bought his book, and handed him the invitation I had just written him to attend our June 21st Aboriginal Day celebration held at the Huntsville Heritage Place. He looked at my coat with its sash and smiled. Several weeks later I was phoned by his secretary; he had accepted! And came!

Huntsville Heritage Place has log cabins in which we demonstrated trapping, bannock making, talking stick making, gourd painting, drum making and traditional clothing. I also did a demonstration of Métis fiddle versus traditional violinmaking. The Lieutenant Governor-wearing a Métis sash--along with other invited dignitaries, 450 school children, their teachers and parent volunteers looked on. We unveiled a special plaque acknowledging the Métis people to be on permanent display at Huntsville Heritage Place. We passed out copies of the *Métis Paddling Song*, to everyone. Our chairperson, Verna Porter, her cousin and I played it while everyone sang the words.

That same day at Huntsville Heritage Place there were speeches. As Senator, I was asked to speak. I phoned Senator Lois



Senator Wagner-Millington

McCallum, because she had a version of what it was to be "Métis". She kindly dictated it to me over the phone. I rewrote and changed it many times until I got what I felt could be delivered quickly to a crowd of 450 students. I gave my version of what it was like to be Métis. When it was over, Lt. Governor James Bartleman, Terry Souter, Director of the Huntsville Heritage Place, and Julia Fitzpatrick of the *Bracebridge Examiner* newspaper, all asked for copies of my speech, and permission to print it.

The following weekend I headed to Oshawa Council's Aboriginal and Heritage Day Celebration where I had been asked to play *O Canada* on the fiddle, and do a Métis fiddle making demonstration. I was pleased to see Senator Olivene Tiedema presented with a Métis sash with her picture on it. This sash was specially made, and is to be worn by the Oshawa Métis Council dancers, who will be called the Olivene Bousquet Dance Group, in honour of all she has done for the Métis cause.

Senators' Forum

I attended the Senators' Forum at the AGA in Thunder Bay, and during the tributes to the recently deceased Senator Marion Larkman, I composed a tune for Marion, and played it for the Senators.

As a Senator at the AGA, I was asked by Christi Belcourt who was doing an art class, to participate, and interact with the kids who might attend. We spent a very interesting morning. Three of the boys and one of the teenage girls, told me about how they were made fun of at school because of the way they talked--with a Michif accent, because that was spoken at home to live-in grandparents, and about how they went hunting with their families, and although they liked doing it, they felt different from their peers at school. We talked about how we must learn to be

MÉTIS ARTISTS MAKING THEIR MARK:

Best director honours for Métis filmmaker

by **LINDA LORD**

Dreamspeakers Film Festival, 2008: "And the winner for best director is Shane Belcourt." Cheers. Applause. Whistles.

Talking Stick Film Festival, 2008: "And the winner for best director is Shane Belcourt." More Cheers, more applause and more whistles.

And "Bravo" too!

Then there was the Cowichan International Aboriginal Film Festival and the American debut at the 2008 Palm Springs Festival of Native Film and Culture.

All of the excitement began last fall when Shane Belcourt's film, "Tkaronto" was a highlight of the 2007 imagineNATIVE Film + Media Arts Festival. With over 100 people turned away from the sold-out closing night gala screening, Kerry Swanson, the Executive Director of the festival, called it "the most successful closing night screening in the festival's eight year history."

Since its opening a year ago the film has received positive reviews from just about everyone—*The Globe and Mail*; *EYE WEEKLY*; *NOW*; *The Ottawa Sun*, and *The Ottawa Citizen*.

In true Métis fashion, the movie was made on a minuscule budget, with very few people and not enough time. Sound familiar? The actual budget was \$25,000; it was filmed over 17 days--eight months from script to post-production; there were six crew members, and Shane Belcourt as filmmaker, writer, director, cinematographer, producer, and songwriter. I think every review I read commented on the shortage of money, time and people as if the accomplishment were

proud, not ashamed of who we are as Métis.

At the AGA I also attended the Senators' Youth story telling time. Where I was pleased to have the opportunity to play the fiddle along with the very talented auto harp player, Senator Leora Wilson, and Senator Elmer Ross on his Métis mouth organ. Senator Leora asked me to play the *Marion Larkman Song* I had composed, and she picked up on it right away, and we had a good time jamming.



Melanie McLaren as Jolene in Tkaronto.

the greatest miracle since the loaves and fishes. But how could a first movie made by Métis about Métis be made any other way? Shane has been training for this his whole life. It's part of the culture.

The theme of the movie in the broadest sense is something like, "two people trying to find themselves." It's a theme that recurs in almost every book and every movie. It's the universal quest, but in this case it is more personal because the two leading characters are Aboriginal. They are travellers, as we all are—metaphorically speaking—and they aren't just looking for personal identity; they are looking for cultural identity. As Shane said in an interview with *The*

Globe and Mail, "In the city, you see churches and mosques and other cultural places, but for Aboriginal people, the visual reminders of your identity are supposed to be outside the city....But many aboriginals are born and raised in cities, so where is our place?..."

Largely autobiographical, the story seems to ring true for many, native or not. "...I think if you take it a step back, it's anyone who has mixed ancestry or mixed identity or anybody that is trying to fit into the North American thing but is still trying to maintain their sorta cultural identity within that," said Belcourt.

TKARONTO has been sold to superchannel.

Check out www.tkaronto.net where screenings will be posted from now until January 2009. DVDs will not be available until July 2010.



SHANE BELCOURT

Métis Fiddle-making

Civic holiday, I did Métis fiddle making at the Sault Ste. Marie Canal locks in an exhibit of Métis culture put on by Parks Canada.

In 2006, I was asked to attend a Métis Day celebration at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishene and do a Métis Fiddle making demonstration, which I did and received a nominal stipend and gas allowance. In 2007, I was contacted and asked to do it again, and was sent the

forms to complete (only this time the stipend and gas allowance offered was half of the year before). I phoned to inquire and was told that the same people would probably attend and so possibly they already knew what I would say so they were only offering half of the year before! With gas prices going up, the trip from St. Joseph Island and my time and effort staying the same, I declined!

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The World Drum makes an appearance at the Oshawa Metis Council's Annual Heritage Celebrations in June 2008.

The World Drum

A sacred drum created to encourage people to take care of our Mother Earth is seized by U.S. authorities. MNO's Charlie Fife led the charge to get it back.

by LINDA LORD

There are many unsung heroes among us. Charlie Fife, MNO Region 8 Councillor, is one such person. Back in July a flurry of emails regarding the seizure of the World Drum by U.S. Fish and Wildlife officials caught my attention. At first I thought it was a joke, but it wasn't.

In case, like me, you have not heard about the drum, it is the aim of The World Drum Project to bring attention to the critical condition of Mother Earth. The drum, which made an appearance at the Ottawa Métis Council celebration in June (search YouTube for video), began its around the world journey in Norway and was created by Birger Mikkelsen.

The drum's goal is to draw attention to pollution by having ceremonies in public places, and generally encouraging people to take better care of the planet. How could anyone object to that? Here's what happened. Charlie Fife says: "After our wonderful World Drum ceremonies in Oshawa at the Oshawa Métis Council's Annual Heritage Celebration, June 28-29, we sent the World Drum on to its next destination in Hot Springs national Park in Arizona where it was to be received by the Manataka Indian Council. The Drum was sent June 30th via UPS. Upon its arrival the World Drum was seized by US Fish and Wildlife service. An information package travelled with the Drum clearly explaining the Drum and its mission. This Drum is sacred; it is on a healing mission for Mother Earth and all her peoples....Let us offer our prayers that the World Drum be allowed to continue its mission of healing Mother Earth and the hoop of life that includes us all."

Charlie did not sit on his hands waiting for something to



above: Young ones have fun with Métis history at the Oshawa Metis Council's Annual Heritage Celebrations in June 2008.

right: PCMNO Councillor for Region 8 Charlie Fife with the World Drum.

happen. He made it happen and when I next visited www.theworlddrum.com I found the posting below, reproduced here with the permission of The World Drum Project, Morten Wolf Stordeide, Norway.

The World drum released!

It is with great joy and gratitude we now can celebrate the release of The World Drum from its captivity by the U.S. Government.

The unconditional release is, as far as we know, historical. Never before has such an object been released unconditionally from the US Department of Fish & Wildlife and the US Department of Homeland Security.

This "victory" and celebration have become possible thanks to:

Charlie Fife of the Métis Nation of Ontario and Amanda



Morningstar Moore of Manataka/AIC – American Indian Council, in co-operation with Maureen Angela Blanchard of the US Embassy in Canada together with Annie Prigge of Canada's Department of Foreign and International Affairs and several others involved.

We in The World Drum Project would like with much respect, to express our warm and grateful thanks to all those involved in the

release of The World Drum, and especially Charlie Fife who has been most dedicated to this matter.

Also we would like to thank for all support from both participants around the world, as well as other people who have contacted us regarding this matter and who have been ready to take further action if needed.

Also our thanks go to the US Department of Fish & Wildlife and the US Department of Homeland Security Officials whose realities would have never had the opportunity to be effected by The World Drum and its Sacred Mission, but who through this occurred situation got to know The World Drum's Sacred journey.

Fortunately, with the understanding that love is our most powerful weapon, this matter has now been solved and The World Drum released. Knowing the way of our Creator sometimes can be difficult to understand. We also know that all happens for a reason. And what we see now is that the situation occurred all together have united and brought people together in the Spirit and the Mission of The World Drum.

The World Drum will now be returned to Charlie Fife – Métis Nation of Ontario, in Canada untouched and with all objects and bundles attached. Knowing that attached objects and bundles may create several problems many places in the world in the future and one of the goals for The World Drum is to be in motion, we have decided to remove all objects from The World Drum.

These objects and bundles are sacred and will for that reason be treated as this. Removing these objects and bundles will be done during a sacred ceremony with Oshawa Métis Council.

AboriginalARTS



New Aboriginal Arts Officer for OAC

This past July, Sara Roque was named Aboriginal Arts Officer for the Ontario Arts Council. Ms. Roque is a filmmaker, writer, arts administrator and activist who has worked on a number of community-based arts projects and organisations. She has an Honours BA in Indigenous Studies from Trent University.

Her past work experience includes development co-ordinator at The Centre for Indigenous Theatre in Toronto; programmer at Te Wairiki Pūrea Trust, a Maori arts and cultural organisation based in Rotorua, New Zealand; and programmer of the O'Kaadenigan Wiingashk Collective based in the Kawartha, a collective dedicated to raising the profile of Indigenous artists and training in the region.



Native Earth Performing Arts 2008/09 Season highlights

A Very Polite Genocide

by Melanie J. Murray
Dec 6-21 2008, *Buddies in Bad Times Theatre, Toronto*

A young woman's sense of identity is buried under the scar tissue of the residential school system. A chance encounter with a photograph exposes the legacy that binds Josie to her family and its ghosts.

Weesageechak Begins to Dance XXI

February 5-8, 2009, *Theatre Passe Muraille Mainspace*
Shocking. Ripped open. Raw. Emerging and established Indigenous writers from around the world present their latest works. Care to dance?

Almighty Voice & His Wife

by Daniel David Moses
Mar 28-Apr 12 2009, *Theatre Passe Muraille Mainspace*
18 years after its triumphant premiere, Native Earth mounts a new production of Almighty Voice & His Wife. Daniel David Moses' seminal play about the legendary 19th century Saskatchewan Cree, explores Almighty Voice as both accidental martyr and icon.

Native Earth Performing Arts is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to the creating, developing and producing of professional artistic expression of the Aboriginal experience in Canada. www.nativeearth.ca

MNO Citizen leads charge to free the World Drum

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This will be done with the exception of the one feather attached to The World Drum on its birth and which is a part of The World Drum. A documentation of its origin and how it become in possession of the Sami-Medicineman (Sami is the Indigenous People of Norway) who made The World Drum will follow The World Drum's further journey.

After this ceremony (removal of sacred objects) The World Drum will be sent back to Manataka – American Indian Council in US, so that their organisation can be able to carry out the planned ceremonies before The World Drum continues its journey to Europe.

Finally we would like to share some of the words from Charlie Fife of Métis Nation after he received the message that The World Drum would be released:

The Gitchie Spirit Warriors

This is the story of The World Drum and the Eagle Feather and how they united to challenge two of the most powerful offices the world has ever known: The United States Department of Fish and Wildlife and the powerful Department of Homeland Security.

It is a win/win story of how the Eagle Feather used its power to raise the issue of The World Drum to an International status, and how The World Drum used its powers to raise awareness of the plight of the Eagle Feather, both on a world stage. Like two of the greatest warriors, uniting to go into battle.

Like the story of the Eagle and the Condor, uniting to gather strength to speak with one voice for all of the America's Indigenous Peoples on the world stage, the story of the Spirit of the Feather and the Spirit of The World Drum is also a great occasion that all mankind has a stake in. We are all connected. - *Charlie Fife*.

With these words we thank the Creator of all things, and look forward to the continuing journey of The World Drum. The beat of the drum is the beat of Mother Earth as it is the beat of all that dwell upon her.

For more information on the World Drum Project:
www.theworlddrum.com

HONOURING OUR VETERANS:



Wear a Poppy on November 11th

RED FRIDAYS FOUNDATION OF CANADA is an organisation to promote support for the men and women who serve our country.

Our Canadian military has made many sacrifices in the name of peace, not only for Canada but for many other countries around the world.

Wearing red on Fridays is a symbolic gesture to show fellow Canadians and our troops that we care and honour those who fought for our freedom, our peace, our resolve.

The foundation's goal is to show non-partisan support for our military troops. It does not support any

particular policy, political position, agenda or the nature of military missions. This support is for all Canadian troops regardless of their activity whether at home or abroad.

As Canadians we need to show support for the men and women who place themselves in harm's way for all Canadians. They are our national treasure.

United we stand for peace in Canada no matter of opinion, creed, religion, colour or race. Show you care by becoming a part of this sweeping support. Wear RED on Fridays to show you care. (This message is excerpted from www.redfridays.ca)

ELECTION NOTICE:

WOMEN'S SECRETARIAT OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO ELECTIONS

-- Office of the Chief Electoral Officer --

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer is accepting nominations from MNO women citizens that are interested in standing for the four (4) women representatives in the Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

In accordance to the MNO Electoral Code the nominees must be women who have been verified as MNO Citizens and resident of Ontario for a minimum of one year.

The committee of 4 women representatives will be elected by the women citizens of the MNO for a term of 3 years. These ballot box elections will be held on November 16, 2008 between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm during the MNO Special President Assembly/AGA2008.

Nominations close November 10, 2008 at 4:00 P.M. EST

Please send Nominations to:

Hank Rowlinson / Deputy Chief Electoral Officer

500 Old St. Patrick Street

Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 9G4

Fax: 613-722-4225

hankr@metisnation.org

the Métis
Nation of
Ontario

La Nation
des Métis
de l'Ontario

Moon River Senator's busy year

from page 20

Moon River Council covers a large geographic area. I researched Trillium Foundation grants, and brought the forms to our council who inquired further to see what was available for us to acquire a meeting place, but we decided that for the present we would continue to meet at councillors' homes for our monthly meetings because some of us have to drive an hour and a half each way to meetings. This way it spreads out the travelling. For our two general meetings, we choose Mactier, because there is a fairly large Métis citizen population in the town and an arena which facilitates our meeting and dinner.

In the fall at the Métis Rendezvous, I was very pleased to have the opportunity to make music again with Senator Leora Wilson, who is not only an auto harp player and fiddler, but also a composer of some wonderful tunes. It is too bad we live so far apart.

In the winter I was asked to attend an Elders forum in Thunder Bay put on by the Chiefs of Ontario. Senator Elmer Ross and

Senator Kay Lynch also attended. There were representatives from the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the provincial and federal government. Basically put, the water in the whole of Canada has serious pollution issues.

When I was asked to go to Thunder Bay for the Chiefs of Ontario Elders forum, I was told by Paul Heighington (MNO Senior Policy Analyst) that I would be met at the airport by someone. When I arrived at the Thunder Bay airport I was wearing my winter coat with the Métis sash sewn down the front and around the hood. As I looked at the sea of unknown faces around the baggage carousel I felt lost, and suddenly, across the room, I saw a girl holding up a Métis sash and smiling at me. I smiled back, and as she approached, I felt found! Thanks to the Métis sash! We all have such a marvellous way of recognising each other, our sashes and our infinity symbol.

I was invited to Senator Olivine Tiedema's 80th birthday party. I wondered what to give her. I sat down at the piano to practice, and diddled with the keys, all the while thinking



Olivine, Olivine, Olivine, and suddenly, another composition came to mind. I grabbed manuscript paper and wrote it down—*Olivine's Birthday Waltz* her birthday present, and a signature dance piece for the dance group named after her!

Recently, I was interviewed by a CBC reporter who had seen me give my speech on being Métis

and had heard me fiddling. She recorded some of my thoughts, and a lot of my fiddling. It is to air on a programme dealing with Métis heritage and harvesting.

I sit on the advisory board of the Orillia Campus of Lakehead University as the Métis representative, and as such attend meetings and functions.

Recently, I was asked by the office of Aboriginal Initiatives of Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, to sit on their advisory board on behalf of the Aboriginal Management Council as a satellite member from the Orillia Lakehead University Campus. In this capacity I attend some meetings via teleconference, and other functions I will attend in person.

I grew up knowing that I was a Métis and having the culture shown to me. I would like the opportunity of helping the Métis Nation move forward with pride by focusing on all the wonderful diverse aspects of our Métis culture, not just hunting and fishing, but, to name some: story telling; games; beadwork; leatherwork; outdoor survival; camping; tracking; canoeing; snow-shoeing, and of course, jigging and fiddling!

∞

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ADVERTISING RATES & SIZES

The *Métis Voyageur*, the official newspaper of the Métis Nation of Ontario, is published six times a year. It has a print run of 12,000 and is mailed directly to over 10,000 households across Ontario. Copies are also sent to government, business and educational institutions throughout the province.

PUBLICATION SPECIFICS:

- 16 to 24 page tabloid-sized on newsprint
- 11" x 17" with a 5-column grid

SUBMITTING ADS:

Advertising may be submitted as camera-ready artwork or as electronic files (PDF preferred)

Full Page: \$450
Back Page: \$650
10"x16"



1/2 Page: \$250
vertical or horizontal
5"x16" or 10"x8"



1/4 page: \$150
vertical or horizontal
8"x5" or 2.5"x16" or 10"x4"





Métis hoop dancer and budding poet Chantika Hazell.

I Am Canadian, I Am Métis

by JUNE FOGEN

The poem below was written by my 13 year old niece, Chantika Hazell, who is a Métis hoop dancer from Calgary. The lake she refers to in this poem is in Manitoba. It is named after her late great uncle, Gabriel David LaPlante, who was 23 years old when he died in a Japanese prisoner of war camp. He is buried in Hong Kong.

Chantika has competed in the youth division in Phoenix, AZ at the World Hoop Dance competition. She is proud of her Métis heritage and demonstrates this through her dancing, whether it be hoop dancing or the Red River Jig. She has performed across Alberta, at the Calgary Stampede, for the Premiere of Alberta and several other events. She invests her time to train hard and to be the very best she can be. I would like to share her poem with *Voyageur* readers.

I am Canadian!

by Chantika Hazell

I am Canadian when I stand for my flag,
I am Canadian when I fight for my Rights
I am Canadian when I stand in Victoria,
I am Canadian when I hike in Alberta.
I am Canadian when I swim in our lakes,
I am Canadian, I'm not fake.
I am Canadian in Halifax,
I am Canadian and that's a fact.
I am Canadian in Hudson Bay,
I am Canadian all the way.
I am Canadian at LaPlante Lake,
I am Canadian isn't that great?
I am Canadian can't you see,
I am Canadian from Calgary.
I am Canadian when I go to school,
I am Canadian when I study our history,
I am Canadian when I make kids smile.
I am Canadian when I don't fight,
I am Canadian when I do what's right.
I am Canadian when I read the paper.
I am Canadian when I stand for my peers,
I am Canadian when I stand up to my fears.
I am Canadian when I was born free,
I am Canadian it's plain to see.
I am Canadian, proud to be,
I am Canadian, I am Métis
But most of all, I am Canadian
when I am me.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY IN BRUCE MINES:



By SENATOR JACK LEROUX • The North Shore Council is keeping busy showing off Métis culture in the schools, at a local bank, and by taking part in Bruce Mines' July 1st celebrations and the Bruce Mines' Community Day on July 28th.

New Métis Youth Group in Ottawa

by DAVID HARTLEY

On July 21st a small number of youth and adults got together at 500 Old St. Patrick Street for a meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to facilitate an opportunity for Métis youth to take the lead in planning, organising and participating in health promotion activities. As a result of this meeting the Métis Youth Group/Council was formed. First steps were taken toward organising a health camp for the fall and weekly meetings were planned with activities ranging from bannock making to safe biking and baseball.

For more information contact: David Hartley, tel: 613-798-1488 xt.102 or via email at davidh@metisnation.org.



Voyageur-style family reunion

by SENATOR JACK LEROUX

Again this year, Senator Jacques Leroux reports that the Leroux family and cousins gathering, which took place on the weekend of August 7th to 11th, was a great success. Following in the foot steps of their voyageur ancestors the family reunion enjoyed fishing and camping at Pimisi Lake on the Mattawa River at the base of Lake Talon Chutes.

The Mattawa River has been used by native peoples as an important transportation corridor for many centuries. In 1610, Étienne Brûlé and in 1615, Samuel de Champlain were the first Europeans to travel the river. For some 200 years thereafter, it formed part of the important water route leading from Montreal west to Lake Superior. It was the primary access to the vast Canadian interior in the days of the fur trade. Canoes travelling west up the Ottawa turned left at "the Forks" (the mouth of the Mattawa) to enter the "Petite Rivière" ("Small River", as compared to the Ottawa), reaching Lake Nipissing by way of "La Vase Portage", an 11 kilometre (7 mile) stretch of water and portages.

Other notable travellers on the Mattawa included Jean Nicolet in 1620, Jean de



left to right: Senator Jack Leroux; Stephen Leroux (Jack's son); Steve Fleury (cousin) of Syracuse NY; Breanda Bradley (cousin) of Ottawa; Vern Larue (cousin) of Ivy Lea ON; John Leroux (cousin) of Cornwall ON.

Brébeuf in 1626, Gabriel Lallemant in 1648, Pierre-Esprit Radisson and Médard des Groseilliers in 1658, La Verendrye in 1731, Alexander MacKenzie in 1794, and David Thompson in 1812.

With its 45 degree climb and rocky terrain, the portage along side the Talon Chutes, located at the south-eastern section of Lake Talon, was known to the voyageurs as the most difficult and treacherous on the route to the west.

There is a story that on one trip from the east to Ft William the voyageurs transported a grand piano. Our ancestors were amazing people!

Enjoy your history.

CONSULTATION INFORMATION FOR MÉTIS CITIZENS:

THE DUTY TO CONSULT IN ACTION

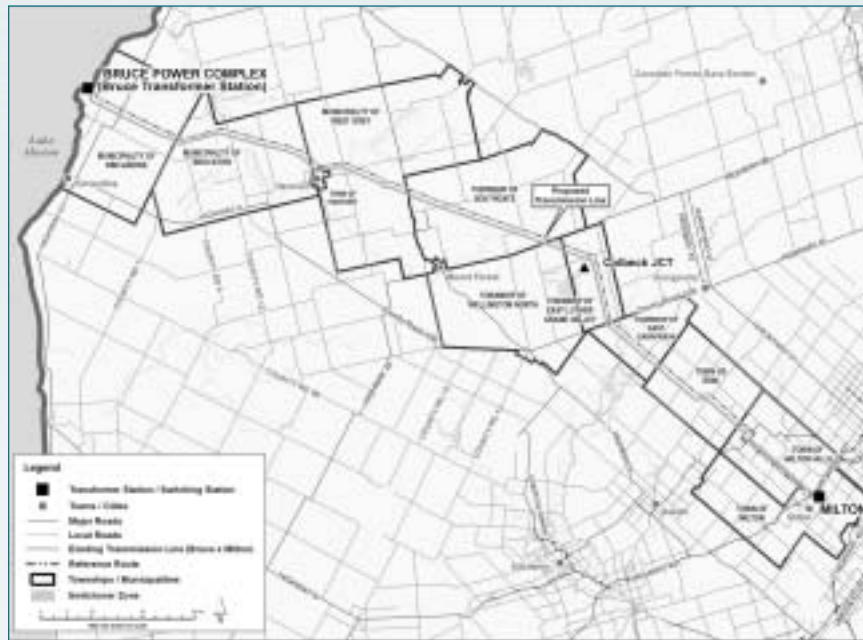
MNO CONSULTS CITIZENS ON PROPOSED POWER CORRIDOR

Hydro One Networks Inc. (Hydro One) is proposing construction of a 180 kilometre double-circuit 500 kilovolt electricity transmission line adjacent to the existing transmission corridor, extending from the Bruce Power Facility in Kincardine to Hydro One's Milton Switching Station in the Town of Milton (see map on this page).

Hydro One has recently obtained approval from the Ontario Energy Board (OEB) for the project. As well, an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be conducted on the project based on terms of reference that have been approved by the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

An EA reviews the environmental effects of the project on health and socio-economic conditions, archaeology, wildlife, ecosystems, etc. As a part of the EA process, the impact of the project on Aboriginal land use, way of life and traditional knowledge, are also reviewed. Métis Nation of Ontario citizens who are interested in more information on the project, can visit www.hydroonenetworks.com/brucetomilton. This web site contains information, updates and documents on both the OEB and EA processes.

As part of both the OEB and EA processes, the Crown is obligated to ensure that appropriate consultation and



Route of transmission corridor from Bruce Power Complex to Milton

accommodation occurs with the potentially affected Aboriginal peoples. As can be seen in the map, the proposed project passes through the Georgian Bay traditional Métis harvesting territory, which has been recognised and accommodated by the Ontario Government as a part of the MNO's harvesting agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

Because the project does not fall solely within the geographic scope of one MNO chartered community council and Métis right-holders throughout the entire Georgian Bay traditional harvesting territory may be affected, the MNO has taken the lead on ensuring all potentially affected MNO citizens are

informed about the project in order to make sure Métis rights, interests and way of life are considered and respected by the Ontario Government as well as Hydro One.

To see that Métis rights, interests and claims are being considered and respected, the MNO is participating in the EA process to ensure Métis rights and interests are recognised and respected.

To find out whether Métis harvesting practices, land use, sacred places, cultural interests, and way of life in the region will be affected by the project, the MNO has been engaged in discussions with Hydro One. Based on these discussions and working co-operatively with Hydro One, the MNO will be doing the following:

- conducting a preliminary survey of holders of valid MNO Harvesters Cards for the Georgian Bay territory in order to identify the number of Métis who actively harvest in and around the proposed location of the project;
- sending a mail-out to MNO citizens living in and around the project to provide them with more information on the project and an opportunity to bring any questions or concerns forward;
- providing information on the project to all potentially affected MNO citizens through the *Métis Voyageur*, MNO's web site, etc.; and,
- encouraging all potentially affected MNO citizens who have concerns or would like more information about the project to contact the MNO (contact information below).

As new information about the project and the MNO's work become available, the MNO will ensure affected MNO citizens and chartered community councils are made aware. In the meantime, if you would like additional information about the project or if you would like the MNO to be made aware of, or address specific issues or concerns related to the project, please contact:

HANK ROWLINSON
Manager, Community Relations
Tel: 1-800-263-4889
Fax: 613-725-4225
hankr@metisnation.org

SPECIAL PRESIDENTS' ASSEMBLY/AGA 2008

FROM PAGE 1

Nations; the federal government; Ontario Government; the Ontario Conservative Party; the Ontario New Democratic Party, and Métis Youth. Finally, Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, and Jean Teillet, representing the Riel family will lay a wreath. A moment of silence will follow before the closing remarks.

Bus shuttles will be available to return participants to the Days Inn Hotel and Conference Centre. The day will culminate in the Lady Hilton Ballroom around 6:00 P.M. with a dinner feast, the swearing in of the new PCMNO including newly elected Senators, live entertainment, and the announcement of this year's recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnette Volunteer of the Year Award.

Beginning at 9:00 A.M. on November 17th, the nation's business will get underway.

DAY TWO

NOVEMBER 17, 2008:

The signing of the MNO/Ontario Framework Agreement; Reports from Finance and Administration (including);

- Report by MNO Secretary/Treasurer (Tim Pile),
- Report by MNO Chief Operating Officer (Doug Wilson),
- Presentation on 2007/08 audit by MNO Director of Finance

(Steve Berry) and MNO auditor (Collins Barrow LLP);

- Approval of 2007/08 audit and appointment of auditor for 2008/09.

Workshop on Duty to Consult and Accommodate including:

- Update on Métis rights developments (Jean Teillet);
- Presentation on developing an Ontario Métis Consultation Framework (Jason Madden);
- Question and Discussion;
- Update on Ipperwash Report implementation and New Relationship Fund (Jason Madden and/or Joanne Meyer);
- Question and Discussion;
- Resolutions from workshop on Métis Rights and Crown's Duty to Consult.

As President Lipinski said,

Our Venue

DAYS INN HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTRE TORONTO AIRPORT EAST

1 677 Wilson Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M3L 1A5
Tel: 416-249-8171
Fax: 416-243-7342
Toll Free: 800-267-0997
www.daysto.com
Room rates: Single or Double - \$87/night + tax

what is needed "...is a solid business plan on which to move forward, a strategic plan that people can contribute to...." Day three will see this intention begin to take shape.... "This new PCMNO is committed to putting MNO on a solid foundation-going forward-and if it means making tough decisions and changing how things have been done in the past so be it!"

DAY THREE

NOVEMBER 18, 2008:

- Strategic Planning Workshop on Building a Stronger Métis Nation and Empowering Métis Communities & Métis Citizens;
- Presentation and facilitated open discussion on developing a strategic plan for the MNO (Institute on Governance) presentation on accessing economic opportunities and building wealth and self-sustainability with Métis communities and Métis nation.

Participants will be treated each evening following dinner to Métis music, dance and culture.

Our Venue: As people are preparing to attend this event, the MNO has negotiated a special corporate rate at the Days Inn Hotel and Conference Centre – Toronto Airport East, 677 Wilson

Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M3L 1A5. Our MNO Special Rate is \$87/night/room (single or double occupancy) plus taxes.

Hotel Overview: The Days Inn Hotel & Conference Centre - Toronto Airport East is located where highways 401 and 400 intersect. Guests can access the sunlit indoor swimming pool, sauna, whirlpool and fitness room; free on-site parking and complimentary airport shuttle service. Spacious guest rooms all come equipped with coffee maker, complimentary coffee/tea, iron and ironing board, hair dryer, data port voice mail and free high speed internet access. The lobby features two restaurants, lounge, gift shop and a car rental agency. In the immediate neighbourhood, are the 75 store North York Sheridan Mall, several plazas featuring restaurants, banks, pharmacies, and numerous other services. The hotel is situated five miles from Toronto's Lester B. Pearson International airport, close to the Yorkdale Mall and only eight miles from the CN Tower. Web: www.daysto.com

Directions to Hotel:

From Highway 400: Exit on collectors for Black Creek Drive. Exit at Jane Street and turn left (North). Follow Jane Street to Wilson Avenue and turn left (West). Follow Wilson to the Hotel.

From Highway 401 (east or westbound): Exit on collectors for Black Creek Drive. Exit at Jane Street and turn left (north). Follow Jane Street to Wilson Avenue and turn left (west). Follow Wilson to the Hotel.

From Queen Elizabeth Way: Follow QEW and exit on Highway 427 north. Follow Highway 427 to Highway 401 east. Follow Highway 401 and exit on Black Creek Drive. Exit at Jane Street and turn left (north). Follow Jane Street to Wilson Avenue and turn left (west). Follow Wilson to the Hotel.

Reservations: To reserve your room and secure our special corporate rate please contact Loma Rowlinson directly at the MNO Head Office 1-800-263-4889 extension 113. Please reserve soon to avoid disappointment as rooms are limited.

Métis Vendors & trade show: Be sure to watch for and support our Métis vendors who can be found in the Trafalgar Room next to our large meeting room. Interested vendors, institutions, industries and government are encouraged to contact Loma as soon as possible to ensure that a spot is secured and available for you.

As always, we welcome you and your family and hope that you can join us as we continue to look to the future, together.