



# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 97, OCTOBER 2017

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO'S

# AGA

August 19-21 in Kenora, Ontario  
See our AGA Special Section



**Métis Nation  
Permanent  
Bilateral  
Mechanism  
meeting**

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SONG  
of  
BATOCHÉ  
A NOVEL

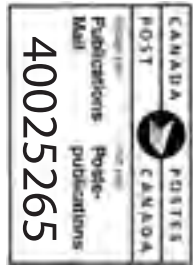
MAIA CARON



**Childhood  
memories**

from Senator Jim Turner

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THE  
**MÉTIS  
VOYAGEUR**  
OCTOBER 2017

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**SUBMISSION POLICY:**

The MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian Press Style Guide as well as for grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organization, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

With the exception of letters to the editor and submissions to the family section, all submissions should NOT be written in the first person.

The recommended length for a submission is between 400 and 600 words. Submissions longer than that may be edited for length.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



MARGARET FROH

I am pleased to be back to fulfil my duties as President of the great Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) after being on medical leave for the last several months. I want to thank everyone who sent me their well wishes during my convalescence and especially thank MNO Chair France Picotte who so capably filled my shoes while I was gone. I also want to recognize Sharon Cadeau and Senators Joseph Poiras and Ray Bergie who also fulfilled acting roles in my absence as well as all the members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) who kept the Nation steady and continuing to move forward. I am very excited to work with them again on advancing the goals and aspirations of the Métis in Ontario.

This edition of the Métis Voyageur is as usual chock full of stories that attest to the incredible commitment of MNO citizens to building up the Métis Nation. There are two special sections in this paper. One focuses on the 24th MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) held in Kenora this August. I was very disappointed that I was not able to attend but this section makes me feel like I was there. I must congratulate all the work done

“When I look at the breadth and diversity of activities our citizens initiate and are involved in I am humbled to be in a position of leadership for this great people.”

Margaret Froh  
President  
Métis Nation of Ontario

by PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund and the MNO Sunset Country, Kenora, Northwest and Atikokan and Area Métis Councils to make what was from all accounts one of the best AGAs ever! As you read this section and look at the pictures of

all the events you will be amazed as I was at everything that took place over the few days of the AGA. The AGA delegates also left the PCMNO and the MNO public service with homework in the form a large number of resolutions. Between now and the next AGA in Peterborough, MNO citizens can be confident that we will be working to make sure the work to make these resolutions a reality takes place.

The second special section is dedicated to the impressive Métis youth of the MNO Canoe Expedition who completed their 2200 kilometre trek from Ottawa to Kenora at the AGA. To call this a remarkable journey is an understatement and you can read all about it in an article by Gerald Lavallee, of the members of this year's Expedition. I was very fortunate to be able to spend some time with the Canoe Expedition in Ottawa on National Indigenous Day and in Toronto during their community visit there and I can tell you that these young people are the finest representatives of Métis culture and heritage that we could ask for.

The paper also has stories about some of the important developments that have taken place in the area of Métis rights in the last several months. This

includes meetings the MNO participated in with federal cabinet ministers and the announcement of the recognition of six new Ontario Métis historic communities and the release of the Ontario Métis root ancestors reports. As it should be, the bulk of the paper is taken up with stories submitted by MNO citizens that describe about what they are doing in their own communities that build and strengthen the whole Métis Nation. When I look at the breadth and diversity of activities our citizens initiate and are involved in I am humbled to be in a position of leadership for this great people.

In the next several months I look forward to seeing as many MNO citizens as I can at community events and during upcoming Louis Riel Day ceremonies.

Thank you,  
Merci,  
Marsee.

Margaret Froh  
PRESIDENT, MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

## Métis Voyageur Upcoming Submission Deadlines:

**November 3, 2017**

**January 19, 2018**

**March 16, 2018**

**May 18, 2018**

**September 7, 2018**

**November 2, 2018**

## Council Corner

**The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) benefits immensely from the dedicated volunteers who are members of its chartered Community Councils. These hard-working individuals spend hundreds of hours building and strengthening their Métis communities.**

MNO Councils are the cornerstone of a strong foundation for the MNO in its push toward its inherent right to self-government. MNO councils are important communication hubs that play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development for MNO citizens living within the geographic territory of that council.

Since July, the following MNO community councils have had elections. Thanks and congratulations go to all the candidates who participated in these elections and to the new council members listed here:

### MNO SUDBURY MÉTIS COUNCIL

President  
**Richard Sarrazin**

Secretary  
**Nicole MacDonald**

Women's  
Representative  
**Bernadette Picco**

Chair  
**Maurice Sarrazin**

Treasurer  
**Jeannine Vaillancourt**

Councillors  
**Clint Lefebvre**  
**Robert Coutu**

Senator  
**Richard Meilleur**

# NATION



▲ The governing members of the Métis Nation Council including the MNO, met with several federal cabinet ministers as part of the Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism.

## In the spirit of partnership

MNO participates in Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism leaders meeting in Ottawa

by  
MNO Staff

The Canada-Métis Nation Accord that was signed by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the other governing members of the Métis National Council (MNC) on April 13 of this year set up a permanent bilateral process that included a number of regular meetings between Métis Nation leaders and the Prime Minister and/or various federal cabinet ministers. One of these gatherings, the Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism Leaders Meeting, took place on September 21 in Ottawa. The MNO was represented at the meeting by Acting MNO President France Picotte.

Attending the meeting, along with the Presidents of all the MNC governing members were Dr. Carolyn Bennett, the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs; Jane Philpott, Minister of Indigenous Services; Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development; Patricia Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development



*These meetings demonstrate there is a new relationship between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect.”*

– France Picotte  
Acting MNO President

and Labour; Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health; and Seamus O'Regan, Minister of Veterans Affairs.

Discussion at this meeting focused on veterans, housing, early learning and child-care; employment and training; and health.

“I was pleased, on behalf of the Métis Nation of Ontario, to



▲ MNO Acting President France Picotte (left) with the Honourable Patricia Hajdu (centre) and Manitoba Metis Federation President David Chartrand (right) at the Permanent Bilateral Mechanism meeting on September 21.

participate today in the Métis Nation Permanent Bilateral Mechanism Leaders Meeting,” stated Acting President Picotte. “These meetings demonstrate there is a new relationship between the Crown and the Métis Nation based on recognition, rights and respect. We believe we are now moving forward in the spirit of cooperation and partnership. We will work with the federal government to realize our shared vision of a renewed relationship with the Métis peoples of Canada, for the benefit of all Canadians.”

The permanent bilateral process

established in the Canada-Métis Nation Accord includes annual meetings with the Prime Minister, semi-annual meetings with the key Cabinet Ministers and quarterly meetings with various Assistant Deputy Ministers and other senior officials on issues of concern to the Métis Nation.

“This kind of accountability and access will significantly advance reconciliation between Canada and the Métis Nation,” stated Acting President Picotte. “The MNO will use these new mechanisms and our exploratory discussions process with the federal government

to strengthen our role in improving the lives of Métis people in Ontario. We will continue to work to support Métis community health and well-being; creating opportunity for our Métis children and youth to be the best they can be; protecting and promoting the Métis Way of Life and the environment; advancing the self-sufficiency and sustainability of our nation; and stimulating economic development for our citizens. At the heart of everything that we do are our MNO citizens, families and communities,” said Acting President Picotte. ∞

**REGIONAL  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
(RAC)  
&  
MÉTIS  
AWARDS  
COMMITTEE  
(MAC)**

**The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is seeking Métis community members who are interested in volunteering their time as members of Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) or Métis Awards Committee (MAC). These roles offer an opportunity to make a valuable contribution to the Métis community across Ontario. RAC and MAC members assist in the review of employment and training services in keeping with program Principles, Policies and Procedures.**

#### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- RAC members review and recommend training proposals through an anonymous review process with the assistance of the Regional Employment and Training Coordinator (RETC).
- Reviews are ongoing however time commitment is limited in nature.
- MAC members are required to review bursary applications once or twice a year.
- All RAC and MAC business is to be completed by fax, e-mail and/or teleconference wherever possible. MNO will provide the tools necessary to assist us with making informed decisions
- RAC/MAC work is strictly voluntary

If you are interested in this position or would like to know more please contact:  
**Jade Bourbonnière**  
[jadeb@metisnation.org](mailto:jadeb@metisnation.org)  
or **1-800-263-4889**





# Results of groundbreaking Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project released

by  
MNO Staff

On August 19, 2017, at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) 24th Annual General Assembly in Kenora, the results of the MNO's Ontario Métis Root Ancestors Project (the "Project") were publicly released. The full results of the project are available on the MNO website with a link on the home page called "Ontario Métis Root Ancestors."

The Project—which included the review and compilation of well over 100,000 historical records—identifies hundreds of Métis Root Ancestors from well-recognized historic Métis communities within Ontario. The Project took over five years to complete and now represents the largest collection of publicly available genealogical information on Ontario Métis.

The Project flows from the direction the MNO received from its citizens and communities in province-wide consultations held in 2010-11 and subsequent direction from the 2011 MNO Annual General Assembly to create "a list of 'root' Ontario Métis families that people could simply trace to" and "a compilation of easily accessible source materials relevant to genealogical research" to assist individuals applying for MNO citizenship or Harvester Cards.

This direction was provided to the MNO because; unlike in western Canada, Métis land and money scrip was, for the most part, not issued in Ontario. As such, the extensive Métis scrip records



***We believe these materials will be helpful educational resources and tools in creating greater awareness about Ontario Métis history."***

- France Picotte  
Acting MNO President

available to the Métis in the Prairies in completing their genealogies do not assist the descendants of many historic Métis communities in Ontario in completing their genealogies in order to obtain MNO citizenship. Instead, Ontario Métis rely on different documents that identify Métis families in the historic record.

The release of the Métis Root Ancestor materials online will assist Ontario Métis in completing their genealogies showing they are ancestrally connected to a historic Métis ancestor as required by the MNO Registry Policy, which underlies the credibility of the MNO Registry.

More specifically, the Project identifies hundreds of historic Métis Root Ancestors and over five thousand descendants of these families from seven

well-recognized historic Métis communities within Ontario that include:

- The Rainy River/Lake of the Woods/Treaty 3 Historic Métis Community
- Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community
- The Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community
- Sault Ste. Marie and Environs Historic Métis Community
- The Mattawa/Ottawa River and Environs Historic Métis Community
- The Killarney and Environs Historic Métis Community
- The Georgian Bay and Environs Historic Métis Community

While these seven historic Métis communities have presently been identified, the MNO continues to undertake additional historic research for the potential identification of other historic Métis communities in Ontario as well as for new information that may change or expand these existing communities.

MNO Acting President France Picotte said, "We are extremely proud to be able to launch this Project at this year's Assembly. We believe this Project will benefit many in applying for citizenship within the MNO as well as assist our existing MNO citizens in applying for MNO Harvesting Cards."

"Moreover, we believe these materials will be helpful educational resources and tools in creating greater awareness about Ontario Métis history generally and the rights-bearing Métis communities that the MNO represents today throughout the province," added Acting President Picotte. ∞



During the MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora, large posters displaying the genealogy of Ontario Métis were available for viewing. MNO citizens were very excited to view the posters and in many cases learn about their own ancestry.



## Ontario Métis Historic Communities

# MNO and Ontario announce identification of historic Métis communities

by  
MNO Staff

On Tuesday, August 21, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Ontario were pleased to announce that collaborative work has resulted in the identification of historic Métis communities located throughout Ontario.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the province and the MNO have been working together to determine whether historic Métis communities existed in given areas in Ontario. In 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed in the *R v Powley* decision the existence of a Métis community in and around Sault Ste. Marie, with its own distinctive Métis culture. This case also recognized that this community has a Métis right to hunt for food. Under the Powley framework, the first step to recognize Métis rights is identifying whether an historic Métis community existed in a given area.

As a result of this collaboration between Ontario and the MNO, six additional historic Métis communities have been identified. These are:

- The Rainy River / Lake of the Woods Historic Métis Community
- The Northern Lake Superior Historic Métis Community
- The Abitibi Inland Historic Métis Community
- The Mattawa / Ottawa River Historic Métis Community
- The Killarney Historic Métis Community
- The Georgian Bay Historic Métis Community

*The advancement and recognition of Métis rights has always been and remains the highest priority for our citizens and communities. This important milestone provides a foundation for meaningful reconciliation as well as future negotiations with the Crown on these important issues.”*

- France Picotte  
Acting MNO President

Documents outlining the basis for determining these are Historic Métis Communities have been posted on the MNO website. A link on the home page entitled “Historic Métis Communities in Ontario” provides access to the documents.

These historic Métis communities

developed their own distinctive collective identities, each with its own customs, practices, and traditions. While identification of these historic Métis communities is a significant milestone, this alone does not determine who in Ontario is Métis or who holds Métis rights, nor define Métis harvesting areas or territories.

Working in partnership with the MNO to identify historic Métis communities is one of many steps on Ontario’s journey of healing and reconciliation. It reflects the government’s commitment to work with Indigenous partners, creating a better future for everyone in the province.

“The Métis Nation of Ontario is pleased and proud to announce the results of our collaborative work with Ontario in identifying historic Métis communities,” stated Acting MNO President France Picotte, “the advancement and recognition of Métis rights has always been and remains the highest priority for our citizens and communities. This important milestone provides a foundation for meaningful reconciliation as well as future negotiations with the Crown on these important issues.”

“Ontario has built a strong partnership with the Métis Nation of Ontario and we are committed to advancing meaningful reconciliation and fulfilling our constitutional obligations to Métis,” stated Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer, “in circumstances where there are overlapping obligations to First Nations and Métis, Ontario is committed to working together with affected partners to reach fair and balanced resolutions.” ∞



▲ The Ontario Métis root ancestors genealogy maps displayed at the MNO Annual General Assembly received a lot of attention.





# MNO Métis Youth Wellness Engagement technical platform launched

submitted by  
**Wendy Stewart**  
*MNO Manager of Mental Health and Addictions*

Statistics in Canada show that one in five Canadians suffer from Mental Health issues. For various reasons, including stigma and insight, only 20% of those suffering seek and receive help. Looking specifically at the Métis population here in Ontario, the numbers show that Métis youth are even less likely to seek help. In an effort to reach out to Métis youth, 15-29 years of age, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Youth Wellness Engagement technical platform has been

developed by Métis youth for Métis youth and is currently being piloted after its internal launch at the MNO Youth Council Conference held prior to the MNO Annual General Assembly in August 2017 (see page B10). This technical tool can be downloaded from [keepingitrirel.com](http://keepingitrirel.com) where it can be used on a mobile device or computer. It administers a self-guided mental wellness tool to get Métis youth thinking about their personal wellness and offers access to MNO and other resources to address mental wellness needs in their region. The connection to community and culture are additional pillars to wellness and as such, this tool endeavours to connect Métis youth to culturally

grounded services within the MNO, their community councils and other Métis forums and activities. As this tool continues to evolve in consultation with the Métis Wellness working group, it is asked that you or others you know become involved in the #MNOWellnessRevolution! The MNO would like to thank the working group for their significant contributions to date. The group will be meeting again shortly to add participants and to enhance this tool's continued relevance and responsiveness to emerging needs. At the same time, the MNO continues work to expand the types of mental health and addiction services available to all Métis people. ∞

If you have any questions or suggestions or would like to join the working group, please contact:  
**Wendy Stewart**, MNO Manager of Mental Health and Addictions  
[wendys@metisnation.org](mailto:wendys@metisnation.org)  
613-798-1488 ext. 125



▲ Bonnie Cann speaks at the Women's Gathering prior to the MNO AGA in Kenora this past August.

## MNO Women's Council receives funding through Status of Women Canada

submitted by  
**Lisa Pigeau**  
*MNO Manager of Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women*

The next three years are going to be pretty exciting for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Women's Council and the chartered MNO community council's Women's Representatives due to the success of their recent funding application to Status of Women Canada. The goals of this funding are to increase leadership skills and strategies for meaningful participation of the Métis women's representatives in the MNO's decision-making processes; develop and implement a Métis culture based gender lens for policy development, governance and decision making that can be applied at the local and broader levels of government; and create opportunities for mobilization and mentorship for Métis women leading to increased social and economic opportunities for Métis women and girls. This funding will support the transportation, communication and skill building costs for all of the MNO chartered community

council Women's Representatives across the province, and help them to build their networks, resources and collaboration opportunities. The first such opportunity to benefit from this project occurred August 16th and 17th in Kenora (see page B12) and already we are seeing movement toward outcomes that will have a tremendous positive impact for Métis women and the MNO community as a whole. The Women's Representatives have begun to strengthen their leadership abilities and have stated that this will impact their community engagement and commitment as a whole to their role in the political environments they connect with now and in future. The importance and desire for building their relationships and networks within the MNO and in their communities to support reconciliation and to raise the understanding of the realities and significance of Métis women and girls through Métis culture and history, is palpable. The women are proud of the work they have done to date, and are in the process of planning the evolution of the project over the next three years. ∞



## Via Rail now offers MNO citizens a discount on fares

Recently Via Rail started a program that provided discounted fares to Indigenous peoples. Upon investigation, however, it was noticed that within the initial terms of the program there was no provision for Métis inclusion. Concerned about this exclusion, on June 5, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Acting President France Picotte wrote Yves Desjardins-Siciliano, the President and Chief Executive Officer of Via Rail, and

brought this issue to his attention. Acting President Picotte wrote: "As one of Canada's three recognized Aboriginal people we would urge Via Rail to reconsider this approach. The Métis Nation in Canada does have democratically-elected, province-wide governance structures from Ontario westward . . . These governance structures represent the needs and interests of their citizenship and maintain a registry of citizenship upon registration criteria." President Desjardins-Siciliano responded to Acting

President Picotte on September 11 and informed her that Via Rail had reviewed its criteria for the Indigenous discount to better identify passengers who are eligible including those who are citizens of the MNO. President Desjardins-Siciliano wrote: " . . . we sincerely thank you for raising these important points. In the spirit of reconciliation, VIA Rail aims to foster stronger and more meaningful relationships with Indigenous Peoples in Canada by welcoming them on board our trains."



## MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL

# MNO veteran meets Joseph Boyden and Les Stroud

submitted by  
**R.M. (Rob) Baskey**  
MNO citizen & veteran

On February 23, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) veteran and Staff Sergeant R.M. (Rob) Baskey of the Moosonee Office in the James Bay Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) Detachment met with renowned Canadian author Joseph Boyden and Les Stroud the *Survivorman* at the home of Pam and William Tozer in Moosonee.

The Tozers run a camp called Onakawana on the Abitibi River just south of Moosonee. Both Joseph Boyden and Les Stroud attend the camp as guests and often bring family and friends. Onakawana does a great deal of youth engagement and provides land-based programs for kids of all ages to learn traditional skills; hunting, fishing, trapping and extreme weather survival. It is also a destination for moose hunters and snowmobilers.

William Tozer is a local celebrity in Moosonee as a hunter, trapper, guide, pilot and all-round outdoorsman. He has worked a life time on establishing the camp



Photo by Antonio Melendez – Heartisan Films.  
▲ (Left-right): Canadian author and Indigenous activist Joseph Boyden, Staff Sergeant of James Bay Detachment in Moosonee R.M. (Rob) Baskey and Survivorman Les Stroud.

at Onakawana. His family and extended family all contribute to teaching, encouraging and fostering a traditional lifestyle.

Baskey presented Boyden and Stroud with the MNO Veterans' Council Métis Veterans Book *Fighting for Canada Before There Was A Canada*. The MNO Veterans' Council promotes and advocates

for Métis Veterans and their families, through awareness programs, education and by attending events important to Métis veterans. The MNO strives to recognize Métis veterans and their unique role in shaping Canadian history and their role in peacekeeping and non-peacekeeping missions. ∞



▲ MNO Veteran Paul Pirie and MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette.

## MNO veteran receives Louis Riel certificate

submitted by  
**Jospeh Paquette**, MNO Veterans' Council President

This year at the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA) in Kenora, MNO veteran Paul Pirie received his Louis Riel certificate.

Paul was presented with the Louis Riel medal in 2016, when he resided in Fort Frances. Paul and his family recently moved from Fort Frances to Barrie.

The MNO Veterans' Council wishes Paul and his family the best in the recent move. ∞

# The financier of Choice for Métis Entrepreneurs in Ontario

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## NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

# MNO plays a big role in 2017 North American Indigenous Games

by  
MNO Staff

On July 16 and 22, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau and MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council (TRYMC) Senator Constance Simmonds, along with other Canadian leaders, participated in the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2017 North American Indigenous Game (NAIG) in the Aviva Centre in Toronto.

The NAIG opening ceremony was a spectacular event, showcasing the diversity of Indigenous communities across Ontario, with Indigenous musical performances from across Turtle Island. Leaders from all levels of government, Indigenous leadership and honoured guests, welcomed over 5000 athletes, 2000 volunteers and thousands of spectators, to what was a colourful and exciting fusion of sport and culture.

**MNO SYCP Facilitators ... gave their time to educate students about Métis culture through traditional voyageur games, jigging and dot art workshops.**

The open ceremony featured choreography and world renowned dancer Santee Smith, in addition to a number of award winning Indigenous musical artists, representing Métis communities.

The ceremony, which marked the beginning of the eight-day international, multi-sport and cultural event, also featured a parade of athletes, uniting individuals and communities in a celebration of past, present and future.

The 2017 NAIG took place from July 16-23, 2017, with 14 sport categories being held within world-class venues located across the Greater Toronto Area (GTA), including the Region of Hamilton and Six Nations of the Grand River.

The closing ceremony was an opportunity for athletes to celebrate their achievements through cultural performances, remarks spoken from leadership, activities and a music dance party. The Toronto 2017 NAIG closing ceremony was a celebration of athlete success. ∞



▲ MNO Chief Operating Officer Joanne Meyer, MNO Vice-Chair Sharon Cadeau, Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer, and Elder Gary Sault with other officials at the opening of the North American Indigenous Games.



▲ MNO Summer Youth Culture Program students lead activities and provide Métis cultural demonstrations as part of the cultural element of the NAIG.

## Métis youth part of silver medal Team Ontario effort at NAIG

submitted by

**Yvonne Jensen**, MNO North Channel Métis Council President

Ty Showan, the son of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Todd Showan of Thessalon, is enjoying great success playing baseball. The MNO North Channel Métis Council was proud to support Ty as part of the Team Ontario at the North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) earlier this year.

Ty, who is only 14, plays middle infield, short stop, second and first base. He played in the Soo Blacksox Baseball program for several seasons and represented the City of Sault Ste. Marie at the Ontario Provincial Baseball Association championships. In 2015, Ty proudly played on Team Canada in the under 13 years of age category in the

annual Mexican Baseball Fiesta in Tucson, Arizona.

This year Ty was named to Team Ontario for NAIG in the under 17 years of age category. To support Ty's participation in the Games the MNO North Channel Council provided him with \$500.00. The Council was very proud to support Ty being part of this special event.

NAIG took place in Toronto from July 16-23 and Team Ontario's baseball team won all but two of its games and finished with the silver medal. Ty was an excellent representative of the Métis Nation and everyone at the MNO North Channel Métis Council is very proud of him. ∞



Ty Showan playing first base. ▶



## NORTH AMERICAN INDIGENOUS GAMES

# Inspiration was all around us

## Métis athlete reflects on the North American Indigenous Games

*Isaac Callaghan competed and won medals in 13 swimming events at the North American Indigenous Games, making him one of the most medaled athletes at the games. The following article represents the perspective of Isaac Callaghan and does not necessarily reflect the policies or positions of the Métis Nation of Ontario.*

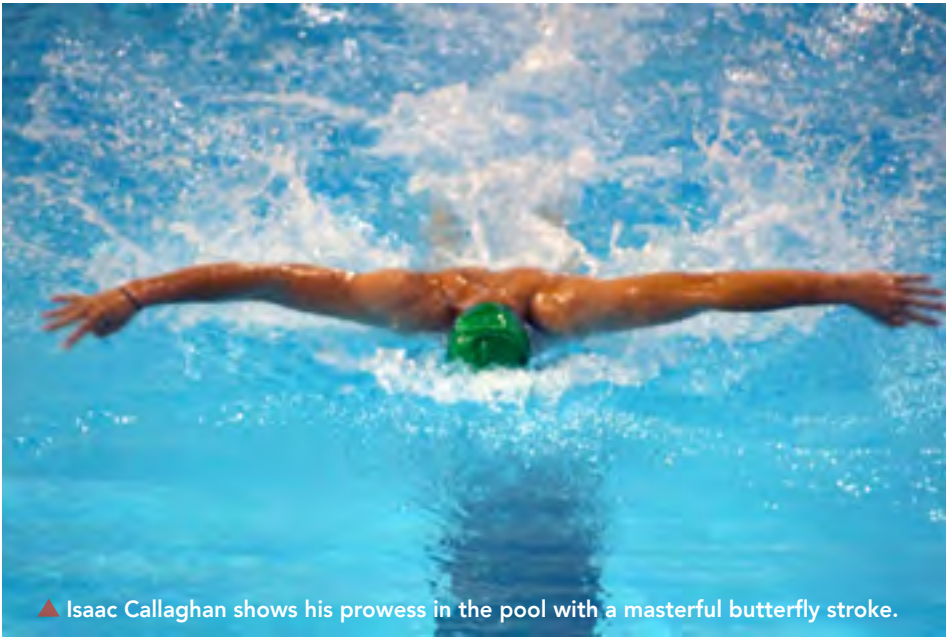
submitted by  
**Isaac Callaghan**  
MNO Citizen

The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) took place July 15-22 in Toronto and was the largest sporting and cultural gathering of Indigenous Peoples in North America. NAIG hosted more than 5,000 participants, 2,000 volunteers and countless spectators for 14 sport categories held in world-class venues located across the Greater Toronto Area, including the Region of Hamilton and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

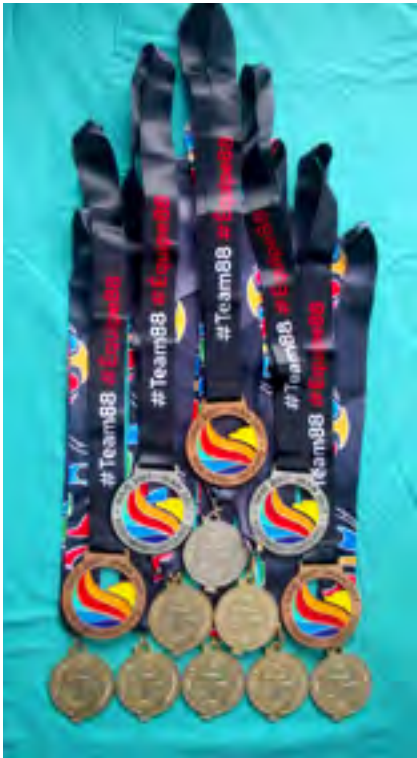
NAIG was a wonderful cultural and sporting event where all athletes had an opportunity to make friendships with many others from around Turtle Island. Teams from nine different American states joined with teams from all ten Canadian provinces and three territories. Each athlete, coach and chaperone brought their own story and added to the spirit and culture that permeated the games. Many dignitaries and elders gave stirring speeches and offered prayers for the athletes. I can only imagine how much time, effort, and money must have gone into the organization of NAIG and all the cultural events. When I think about this, all I can do is be grateful and say my quiet thank you to people like: Marc Laliberte, Chair of the NAIG Bid Committee and President of ASWCO; Marcia Trudeau, CEO of NAIG; all the organizing teams of people involved; as well as the host nations that welcomed us; and of course the sponsors that footed the bill for the games. All these efforts were huge!

Inspiration was all around us at NAIG. Right from the Opening Ceremony where we heard from all the dignitaries that continue to work so hard for us, the young people from their communities; for some this might seem like just more dull speeches, but if you were there you could tell they were genuine people and sincerely concerned about us. Performers like Taboo from Black Eyed Peas, Jennifer Kriesberg from Ulali, and A Tribe Called Red, serve as role models to all Indigenous youth. Though these performers all come from different styles of music the sound of the drum could be heard throughout. The Ka'wahi Dancers truly moved and amazed us with their interpretation of all the different music genres. Perhaps most moving was when one of our own, a NAIG soccer player, Mary Nahwegahbow sang the national anthems in English, French, and Ojibwe.

I've been a competitive swimmer for almost a decade now and I think it is true of any athlete that a major motivator in any sport is a desire to win your event. To reach the higher levels in your sport requires three things: practice, practice, practice. The five and six practices per week, year upon year, allowed me some insight. Certainly, success is nice. Winning medals is nice! It's impossible for me to know for certain (records of early Games are



▲ Isaac Callaghan shows his prowess in the pool with a masterful butterfly stroke.



▲ Isaac won a total of 13 medals at the North American Indigenous Games.



▲ Isaac meets MNO Toronto York Métis Council Senator Constance Simmonds at a reception hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario.

incomplete or unavailable), but the 13 medals I've won at NAIG (seven gold, three silver, three bronze) puts me at or near the top of the individual medal count. So, perhaps all this allows me to speak with some authority.

The real "three things" required to reach the higher levels in your sport are: opportunity, instruction, and dedication. Without a venue to practice at, one will never get to those high levels or even just to the basic levels for that matter. So a venue for sport is an important part of opportunity. There was a line in the movie, *Field of Dreams*: "If you build it, they will come." Building the venue is a requirement, which in turn requires a willingness to build the venue and the funds to construct and maintain the venue. Simply the venue's presence will create interest in the sport it houses.

The next thing required in sport is good instruction. A good coach can make all the difference in the world for a young person just getting into a sport. A good coach not only teaches skills and rules but also fosters interest within the athlete.

Thirdly, dedication is required to improve in sport. Dedication in the athlete is also known as

heart. Commitment, perseverance and enjoyment of the sport are also part of heart. Dedication is also required of the coach and from the family members who will provide the ride, the time and the funds for their young athlete.

At NAIG 2014 in Regina, I was one of the young athletes and I was lucky enough to have my Dad as a chaperone and to have my home team coach, Sharon Leger, as the coach for Ontario swimming team. I credit Sharon with helping me stay interested and teaching me the finer skills of swimming. This year, at NAIG 2017 I must give many thanks to the coaching staff of Laura McPhie and Maria del Carmen Escobar. At the Pan Am Pool, I was one of the senior swimmers and a NAIG veteran. I naturally took to cheering on and encouraging the younger swimmers on the team as I had learned from my coaches. Back at the dorms, the boys on the team hung out and took our meals together. We bonded like cousins. Cousins who haven't seen much of each other, but they share a familial history and now have a bonding event like NAIG to bring them closer together.

This perhaps is the biggest difference



**At other competitions the "other" is an opponent and someone who stands in the way of your goal. At NAIG the other athletes are your 'relations,' and though you still would like to win the event, these 'others' are your cousins; and you're likely to cheer on your cousins just as they cheer for you."**

— Isaac Callaghan

between competing at NAIG and competing in other competitions. At other competitions the "other" is an opponent and someone who stands in the way of your goal. At NAIG the other athletes are your 'relations,' and though you still would like to win the event, these 'others' are your cousins; and you're likely to cheer on your cousins just as they cheer for you. It's like playing a game of cards at a family reunion. Winning the hand is cool, but playing the game with family members is the real prize.

The theme for this NAIG was "WE ARE ALL #TEAM 88". This theme taken from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action section 88, which calls for continued support of Indigenous sport. I had the opportunity to meet Her Honour, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, the Honourable David Zimmer, the Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and NAIG Chief Executive Officer Marcia Trudeau during the games. I heard from these people and others that support of Indigenous athletes is important. I hope this support from all levels of Government and also of Corporations will continue. There are too many stories of Indigenous youth with poor outcomes. I believe those outcomes could have been different if those young people had sport in their lives.

I was one of the lucky ones who received support from my local [MNO community council in Sudbury] council (Special thanks to Maurice Sarrazin) to attend the North American Indigenous Games. Now it is up to all of us from #TEAM 88 to speak up in support of sport for Indigenous youth. We now must tell all of our cousins on Turtle Island of the power of sport and help them to get to the next NAIG family gathering. ∞

# COMMUNITY



▲ Members of the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program who provided workshops for students of St. Christopher's Catholic School. (Left to right) Liam Blore, Megan Southwell, Courtney Donavon-McCarthy, Eleni Pappas, Taylor Muloin.

## MNO Summer Youth Cultural program staff visit Oshawa school

submitted by  
**Christine Curran, MNO Citizen**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) staff and citizens of the MNO Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) were invited to St. Christopher Catholic School to educate students about Métis culture and heritage on June 7, 2017.

Wanting to educate and honour Indigenous culture, the Principal Mrs. Bartlett and organizing committee invited MNO staff and citizens to educate students about Métis culture and heritage. The educational event was held at the Camp Samac location just North of Oshawa where the students could learn while enjoying the outdoors surrounded by forests and nature.

During the two day event the MNO SYCP Facilitators led by Eleni Pappas, gave their time to educate students about Métis culture through traditional voyageur games, jigging and dot art workshops. Students had fun learning the jigging steps and proudly showed off their dot art skills while also being educated about who the Métis people are.

MNO Senator Cecile Wagar and

Métis drummers from the MNO ODRMC gave their time to teach students drumming techniques. Senator Wagar welcomed students and MNO citizens Kathy Bazley and Christine Bazley educated students on different Métis artifacts through a fascinating hands on display that included furs, feathers, Métis flag, Métis sash and other items. This hands-on approach of

learning helped the students gain more of an understanding of Métis culture and heritage.

To ensure that students experienced each Métis workshop, they were divided into small groups and rotated through the different stations set up by the MNO SYCP leaders. These groups of students were sectioned throughout the outdoor camp grounds, while the drumming group was inside a historic log cabin on the Camp

Samac grounds. School volunteers also led an outdoor scavenger hunt, fire pit and in building a shelter in the forest.

St. Christopher Catholic School staff and students had a fun and successful learning experience thanks to the MNO and the MNO SYCP. ∞

**MNO SYCP  
Facilitators  
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Métis culture  
through  
traditional  
voyageur  
games, jigging  
and dot art  
workshops.**



▲ MNO Oshawa and Durham Métis Council Senator Cecile Wagar (above) worked with the MNO Summer Youth Culture Program students to provide cultural workshops and demonstrations including those featured in these pictures.

# Métis art and dance workshop in Renfrew

submitted by  
**Annik McBride**  
MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

On July 13, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff from MNO Renfrew office offered a Dot Painting and Métis Jigging Workshop to 64 children ranging from age 2 to 12 years old. The workshop took place at Garderie Les Petites Mains in Pembroke as part of its summer culture program. The children were taught the history behind dot painting and they all had the opportunity to create their own dot painting masterpieces.

The children were then taught the traditional Rabbit Dance. They were first instructed in individual steps before putting all the steps together and participating in a full traditional Rabbit Dance at the end of the workshop.

The young people were able to learn a little about the Métis Culture while also having a lot of fun! ∞



▲ Participants in the Dot Painting and Jigging Workshop proudly show off their creations.



▲ (Left-right): Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) chair Sandy Annunziata thanks MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont, after the NPCA Board of Directors approved the addition of a member of the Council to the NPCA Community Liaison Advisory Committee

## MNO representative added to Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority

submitted by  
**Glen Lipinski**, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is adding an Indigenous voice to its Community Liaison Advisory Committee.

On May 17, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM) had a member appointed to the Community Liaison Advisory Committee (CLAC) alongside two members from the public at large. The change comes as part of an amendment to the committee's terms of reference.

The CLAC was formed as part of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA)'s 2014-2017 strategic plan with the goal of expanding public participation to support NPCA governance and to provide a collaborative local perspective, guidance and expert

advice on the implementation of the strategic plan and any other issues the Board requests. The change in membership adds another voice to the committee, which represents a mix of stakeholders, including the environment, agriculture, land-owners, development, industry and volunteer sectors.

MNO NRMCM President Derrick Pont, said the agency and the Council have similar objectives. He said they are looking forward to adding their voice to the CLAC.

"We share a lot of common values. A lot of our way of life revolves around harvesting. For us it's also medicine plants and wild berries and other foods we can harvest," President Pont told Board members during the meeting. "We look out for protecting the waters and we watch to make sure there is no damage done to the lands."

President Pont said the Council wants to ensure due diligence on Indigenous issues takes place during any large projects being developed and added the Council

wants to ensure there is no harm to the environment, way of life or impact to waters.

"The Métis Nation is honoured to be moving forward with a relationship with the NPCA," said President Pont, who presented the Board of Directors with a sash, which will be displayed at the NPCA's headquarters in Welland to signify their partnership with the MNO.

NPCA Chair Sandy Annunziata said the relationship with the MNO Council comes as a result of meeting with partners over the last several months. He said expanding the representation to include the Métis "allows for continuous dialogue and creates opportunities that will help strengthen our relationship."

"The NPCA is committed to hearing from all of our partners' voices," Annunziata said during the meeting, adding the goal is to build further partnerships and maintain dialogue with all stakeholders. "We look forward to hearing your voice around the table." ∞



▲ (Left-right): MNO Great Lakes Métis Council members Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle and Office Coordinator Susan Schank, addition of a member of the Council to the NPCA Community Liaison Advisory Committee

## MNO Senator speaks at Indigenous 150+ event in Owen Sound

submitted by  
**Susan Schank**, MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Office Coordinator

Adapted from a story by  
**Scott Dunn** that appeared at  
[owensoundtimes.com](http://owensoundtimes.com)

On June 22, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC) Senator Ralph Wolf Thistle and Office Coordinator Susan Schank participated in the Indigenous 150+ event in Owen Sound. The event was launched to help non-Indigenous people gain a better understanding of their Indigenous neighbours.

Senator Thistle provided a brief history of the Métis history and culture and also answered questions from attendees.

Indigenous 150+ was at the Roxy Theatre and included prayers, drumming, Métis teaching and the screening of two short films.

Indigenous 150+ was described as honouring a movement to "put Indigenous voices at the centre of the commemoration and Canada's 150th anniversary."

The Indigenous 150+ event addressed two of the 94 Calls to Action made in 2015 by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada by fostering co-operation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people and creating ways to work together.

"I want other Canadians to know that this is Métis and First Nations land that we stand on," said Senator Thistle. "And the Métis and the First Nations were a big part of the building of this nation."

The founding partners of Indigenous 150+ included the M'Wikwedong Native Cultural Centre, the MNO GLMC, First Peoples Group, City of Owen Sound, City of Niagara Falls, Ontario Power Generation, NationTalk and the Ontario Arts Council. ∞



▲ Members of the Original Voices Youth Circle.

# Original Voices Indigenous Youth Circle

submitted by  
**Christina McNeill**  
MNO Family Wellbeing Coordinator

After feeling culturally isolated and misunderstood in their local high schools across Ottawa, several Métis, First Nations and Inuit youth banded together to improve the educational experiences of Indigenous youth in Ottawa. Along with the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO's) Ottawa Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator and other Indigenous service providers, these youth created a biweekly meeting space and platform to share their collective experiences that they

decided to call the Original Voices Youth Circle. The name Original Voices was created as the youth felt that they wanted to represent how their ancestors, the original people and voices of Turtle Island, would have wanted to see this country flourish and carry on traditions passed down from the generations before them. These youth activists and champions of culture have created their own agenda of cultural activities and events they would like to see implemented in education system to create a culturally-safe and welcoming experience for all Indigenous children and youth in Ottawa. The group also has a direct line of communication to the Ottawa

school board's First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) education team so they are able to voice their concerns and individual experiences to make schools a more pleasant cultural experience for all. On June 1, 2017 The Original Voices, helped organize and host the first ever Indigenous Youth Symposium in collaboration with the local school board's FNMI education team. This event allowed Indigenous students from across the greater Ottawa area to voice their concerns, suggestions and improvements for Indigenous cultural support and curriculum for students. The students gathered in the morning sessions to listen to elders Thomas Louttit (First

Nations), Lois McCallum (Métis) and Meeka Kakudluk (Inuit) discuss their cultural views on Indigenous education in schools as well as hear from Métis keynote speaker Mélanie-Rose Frappier. Mélanie-Rose is well-known within the Métis Nation of Ontario because of her involvement in the annual MNO Infinite Reach March Break Camp and for the recognition she has received for her cultural and community leadership. Mélanie-Rose is a champion for change and a Métis youth activist who provides inspiring messages and workshops to youth across Ontario. Mélanie-Rose is a founder of the non-profit organization "It's Cool to be Healthy."

Mélanie-Rose is also involved with "Carriers of Youth Wisdom: Enhancing Indigenous Education Through Co-Creation" which helped motivate youth to provide feedback through breakout sessions in the afternoon with the Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator. After such a successful symposium, which highlighted huge gaps in the education system impacting Indigenous students, the Original Voices hope to begin to advocate for change and address these gaps in the education system over the course of the next year. ∞

# MNO participates in Jesuit canoe pilgrimage event

Opinions expressed in this article reflect those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

submitted by  
**Bridget Brown**  
MNO Citizen

A group of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff and citizens participated in events around a Canoe Pilgrimage when the paddlers from this group reached Sault Ste. Marie this summer. The Canoe Pilgrimage was part of reconciliation efforts by Jesuits, an order of Roman Catholic priests, who once operated a residential school.

In 1967, in honour of Canada's one hundredth anniversary and with the intention of promoting ecumenical dialogue among all faiths, 24 Jesuits and other priests completed a canoe pilgrimage following the historic fur trading route that starts in Midland and ends in Montreal. This route had been in use since the 1600's; around the time of the first contact between Europeans and Indigenous people began. People like St. Jean de Brebouf, a Jesuit priest, and others like Samuel de Champlain began to travel an already established trading route from Montreal to Midland with Indigenous guides leading the way. This passage has historical significance as one of the main trading routes connecting the St. Lawrence River to Lake Huron before colonization.



Photo by Trevor Scott, canoePilgrimage.com

▲ The participants in the Canoe Pilgrimage paddling together.

In the summer of 2017, inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report and Canada's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, 30 Indigenous, English, French and Jesuit canoeists set out on a similar pilgrimage with the intention of encouraging learning between cultures and acknowledging the role of Jesuits in residential schools. The tragic history of the residential schools is well known and according to research conducted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, one of those schools was operated by the Jesuits. During their trek, the Canoe Pilgrimage participants would stop at

communities along the way, many of which were impacted by residential schools. Many of the paddlers have said the trip would not be possible without the support and

encouragement the different communities they've stopped at along the way. One of the scheduled stops for the canoeists was the Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault Ste. Marie, commonly known as the Motherhouse. The canoeists arrived on July 30, pitched their tents and stayed for two nights. People from the local community were on hand to meet the paddlers and there was an opportunity to learn about each other through the many sharing circles that took place that day. Among those present at the sharing circles were MNO Community Support Services Coordinator

Mary-Kelly McCormick, MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program Lead Laura Lamore and MNO citizen Bridget Brown. They were on hand to encourage the paddlers and share knowledge of the Métis culture. Among the residential schools that operated in this district was an all-boys school located in the town of Spanish that operated for about 45 years. Around the same time the boy's school was running, an all-girl residential school was operating close by. Nuns belonging to the Roman Catholic teaching order, the Daughters of the Heart of Mary, ran this school. Both schools were originally located in Wikwemikong First Nation on Manitoulin Island and relocated to Spanish in the early 1900's.

Indigenous children from Manitoulin Island, the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Superior, Parry Sound, Ottawa Valley, Chapleau, Temagami, New Liskeard and from Northern Quebec were forced to leave their families and attend. Together, both schools formed largest residential school in Ontario. Efforts like the Canadian Canoe Pilgrimage remind us that it is never too late to work towards reconciliation and rebuild broken bonds. When the Canoe Pilgrimage was in Sault Ste. Marie, Erik Sorensen, the Project Manager of the 2017 pilgrimage, was asked how things were going. He said: "We've had good days and challenging days and there is always a new challenge around the corner." ∞

For more information about the Canadian Canoe Pilgrimage visit [canoePilgrimage.com](http://canoePilgrimage.com)

For research about residential schools in Spanish conducted by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation please visit [nctr.ca](http://nctr.ca)



▲ Métis youth on Beausoleil Island at Camp Kitchikewana

# Métis youth enjoy Camp Kitchikewana

submitted by  
**Larry J. Ferris**  
*MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council  
Chair*

This summer twenty-three Métis youth attended Camp Kitchikewana thanks to the support from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council (GBMC).  
Camp Kitchikewana is located on Beausoleil Island National Park in

Georgian Bay and it is one of the first places Métis settlers stayed when they came to the area. Beausoleil Island is named after Louis Beausoleil who was a Métis settler. Beausoleil Island is the second largest freshwater Island in the world making up the largest part of Georgian Bay Islands National Parks as well as two YMCA camps.  
Camp Kitchikewana youth stayed on the Island. The camp is staffed by very positive and upbeat Councilors. The Councilors ensured each child

was included and had a wonderful camp experience. This year the children participated in traditional fire starting using bow and drill, flints, stone and steel. It was amazing how well some of the youth could get the fires started using these methods. They also had the opportunity to canoe and kayak, which was a big hit for the kids. The children hiked in the woods learning about medicinal plants from Parks Canada Employee Shawn Corbiere. Corbiere also performed moose calling and led the

children in two rattlesnake captures (and releases) and one bear sighting.  
This year the camp had a mixture of first time and returning campers. A lot of the youth have never met each other before but they soon became friends. The youth had the opportunity to meet and develop bonds with each other and find out who else is Métis in their home communities. Some of the youth attended the camp from the MNO GBMC's communities of Barrie and Orillia. There were also some

returning campers from Kitchener.  
Camp youth councillor Dalton Latondress led the campers during the trip. Latondress handled the leadership role gaining the respect of the younger campers and several other older youth also took on leadership roles; assisting the camp and providing great leadership for the youth.  
The MNO GBMC thanks April Bellingier and Ontario Power Generation for providing the funding for the trip. ∞

# Métis trapping display at Maple Syrup festival in Orangeville

submitted by  
**Darlene Lent**, *MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer*

From March 11th to 19th, 2017, the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC) held its annual Sugar bush Maple Syrup Festival at Island Lake in Orangeville and extended an invitation to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) to be involved.  
Jim Tolles and Darlene Lent, both licensed trappers, offered a display which included furs, traps, snow shoes, an assortment of fur and leather mitts, coats and hats, and an RCMP muskrat hat. Visitors were educated about the Métis way-of-life, harvesting and how trapping is an integral part of the Métis culture and tradition. Taxidermy beaver mounts, skull specimens, beaver teeth and an interactive display

board engaged and educated both children and adults.  
The CVC Maple Syrup Festival offered tours of their maple bush which included the process of collecting sap and making maple syrup, also a deep rooted tradition in the Métis way-of-life. Included at the event was a chainsaw wood carver, many outdoor games, face painting and a display on spinning wool.  
Over the years, the MNO CRMC has developed a positive relationship with the CVC and they welcome what the Métis community offers to the education of the CVC visitors. This was the fifth year the MNO CRMC has participated in the Festival. The popular event attracted over 2000 visitors this year. ∞



▲ Left-right: MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and Jim Tolles.  
◀ One young attendee of the Maple Syrup Festival took a particular interest in the Métis display.

# Cultural Knowledge workshops offered in Bancroft

submitted by  
**Rose Boyle**, *MNO Community Support Services Coordinator*

During March break 2017, The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Support Services (CSS) program at the Bancroft office offered a cultural mentoring workshop series led by Judy Simpson,

Lisa Eagles and Rose Boyle. The workshops brought together 15 participants including Métis children, seniors and elders and gave them the opportunity to focus on teachings of the four stages of life. The workshop series

allowed elders and seniors to share their knowledge with the children. In this children gained an understanding of Métis culture and the importance of promoting cultural knowledge through generations.  
Together the group engaged in several traditional activities during the workshops. The elders and seniors with the assistance of Judy Simpson, Lisa Eagles and Rose Boyle, led

the fun-filled workshop series. The children enjoyed making dream catchers, birch bark canoes, moccasins and medicine bags. The elders and seniors shared stories and taught the children how to make bannock, three sisters' soup and hamburger soup.  
Thank you to Judy and Lisa for sharing their knowledge and stories and engaging the children in the teachings. ∞

# MNO Credit River Métis Council part of Brampton's first National Aboriginal Day celebration

submitted by  
**Kyl Morrison**  
MNO Credit River Métis Council  
Outreach and Education  
Coordinator

On June 21, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) had the opportunity to participate in the City of Brampton's first National Aboriginal Day celebration. Brampton implemented its National Aboriginal Day celebration to educate the local school children on Indigenous issues. In addition to MNO CRMC display other activities included Indigenous drummers, storytellers and dancers. A major portion of the participants were from the local elementary schools, local residents and people who work in the city core where all the National Aboriginal Day events took place.

Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles and MNO Veterans'

Council President Joseph Paquette contributed to the MNO CRMC display by loaning Métis artifacts and President Paquette also loaned various taxidermy specimens such as skunks, deer, beaver, bear and fox. However, the true highlights for the children were the stick and ring games with the bone or leather rings; and the fire starting instruments such as the fire-wheel.

The MNO CRMC display provided a tactile educational experience and the teachers expressed great appreciation on behalf of the students. Another exciting element of the display was MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent's workshop on making birch bark water cups and bowels. Other MNO CRMC members who helped out at the display included MNO CRMC President Karen Derocher, former MNO CRMC Senator Bill Morrison and Métis youth Matilda Morrison.

It was a great day for students, teachers, participants and exhibitors who all enjoyed the opportunity to learn about Métis culture. ∞



▲ (Left-right): MNO CRMC Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles, MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent, Métis youth Matilda Morrison and former MNO Senator Bill Morrison take part in National Aboriginal Day celebrations.

# MNO citizens and staff attend National Aboriginal Day events in Thunder Bay

submitted by  
**John Connor**, MNO Forestry Coordinator

On June 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC) Senator Ken Simard and MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) members Marie Chalykoff, Cassidy Houston and Casandra Gravel manned the MNO booth at the National Aboriginal Day (NAD) celebrations at Prince Arthur's Landing on the northwestern Ontario city's waterfront of Thunder Bay.

The NAD celebration in Thunder Bay this year brought nearly 8,000 people to the event. ∞



▲ (Left-right) SYCP Facilitator Marie Chalykoff, SYCP Facilitator Cassidy Houston, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council Senator Ken Simard and SYCP Lead Casandra Gravel.

# Community Legal Services of Ottawa closes for National Aboriginal Day

submitted by  
**Jaime Lefebvre**  
Community Legal  
Services of Ottawa

On the morning of June 21, 2017, the Community Legal Services of Ottawa offices were closed in honour and recognition of National Aboriginal Day.

The office had drafted a letter which was sent to the Prime Minister and various Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament. The letter urges the government and the Ottawa-based Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Parliament to act upon the Calls to Action recommended by The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The letter stated: We are writing to inform you that the offices of Community Legal Services of Ottawa (West, South and Downtown) will

be closed on June 21st from 8:30am to 1:00pm in honour and recognition of National Aboriginal Day. In 2016, our community legal clinic began taking action to improve our support for the Indigenous Communities of Ottawa. This year, as a further demonstration of support, we are closing our doors for the first time to celebrate this important day. We call on you and the Government of Canada, to support the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's work and formally recognize Canada's First Nations peoples by taking steps to declare June 21st a National holiday as part of your implementation strategy. We are guided by the words of Senator Murray Sinclair, Chief Commissioner of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, in recognizing that 'reconciliation is not an Aboriginal problem, it is a Canadian one.' The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's final report, based on input from over

6,750 residential school survivors, outlined 94 Calls to Action. Many of the Calls speak to the work we do as legal advocates for Ottawa's low-income communities. Community Legal Services of Ottawa confirms its commitment to take concrete steps to fulfill the 94 Calls to Action made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, in order to promote healing and move towards substantive equality for Canada's Indigenous people. The closing of our doors will encourage and facilitate the ability of staff to participate in reconciliation activities. At this time, we also wish to recognize and acknowledge that our clinics are located on traditional and unceded territory of the Algonquin peoples. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. "We have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing." – Senator Murray



▲ Employees of Community Legal Services with Mayor Jim Watson of Ottawa showing their support for Indigenous rights.

Sinclair, Chief Commissioner of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

In 2016, the community legal clinic began taking action to improve the support for the

Indigenous communities of Ottawa. On June 21, 2017, they closed the doors for the first time on National Aboriginal Day. ∞

# MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council welcomes Lieutenant Governor

submitted by  
**Marlene Davidson**  
*MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President*

On July 26, 2017, Her Honour, the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario participated in a round table with municipal officials in the Atikokan area. Among the officials present was Marlene Davidson who sits on the local council but who is also the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Atikokan and Area Métis Council. President Davidson received permission from the Mayor of Atikokan to officially welcome Her Honour to the area. She also presented Her Honour with a Friendship Ball created by local Métis Artist , Kristy Cameron. At a reception that followed the round table, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council Senator Brian Gouliquer and President Davidson spoke with Her Honour and provided background on Métis history including the Métis role in



▲ The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, autographs copies of the book *150 Stories for MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council* Senator Brian Gouliquer and President Marlene Davidson.

the fur trade and the importance of Crown's duty to consult and accommodate with rights-bearing Métis communities. Her Honour also graciously signed copies of the book *150 Stories*, which her office produced to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ontario. One of the stories in the book was written by past MNO President Gary Lipinski. Her Honour also visited the

local Atikokan Museum and then made a trip out to Quetico Park where she saw the Paul Kane exhibit. Her Honour is very much all about the people and their stories. The MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council is grateful to Chief Operating Officer Joanne Meyer for her help in making this all happen. ∞



▲ Children having fun at the Railroad Daze Summer Festival in Rainy Rive.



# MNO participates in Railroad Daze Festival in Rainy River

submitted by  
**Brittany Bowman**  
*MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator*

Railroad Daze is an annual summer festival that occurs in Rainy River every July. This year, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was invited to participate by providing some cultural entertainment for children and other community members. Originally centred around Rainy River's train station, the purpose of the event is now to gather all surrounding areas and celebrate families of all cultural backgrounds and to create a fun family day.

MNO staff went to Hannam Park in Rainy River where they provided Métis inspired music as a backdrop for a number of other activities. MNO staff invited festival attendees to join in jigging and answered questions about Métis culture and history and anything else Métis related that the public wanted to know about. MNO staff also had spoons available for anyone who wanted to learn to play. Children started out feeling shy but once they saw other community members laughing and having fun they quickly joined in and participated. The event went over very well and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was great to see cultures coming together and families

enjoying time with their children. Bridging the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people was amazing and hopefully we will be able to continue the trend with more inter-cultural events like this in the near future. Railroad Daze also included bouncy houses, a dunk tank, a water balloon game, face painting, balloon hand outs and various children themed activities. Rainy River Recreation Centre put on a mixed slow pitch baseball tournament and volunteers offered a vendor show, fun fly event, boat rides, duck races and a cardboard boat race. Overall it was a great event for the whole community. ∞



▲ A baby in a traditional moss bag.

# Moss bag for babies

submitted by  
**Tammy Hoover**  
*MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator*

On June 29, 2017, in Bancroft, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinators Tammy Hoover and Robin Simpson partnered with the Hastings Prince Edward Health Unit - Food for Two program to host a traditional gathering for pre and post-natal women. The gathering included a workshop on how to create moss bags for their babies. The women were taught how to fashion moss bags with their hands and learned traditional teachings about the moss bag. These teachings include that moss

bags sooth colic and dramatically decrease crying, provide longer more contented sleep, sharpen vision, hearing and awareness and enhance stimulations provided by a child's environment and family. The moss bag keeps the baby and the mother close; allowing babies to see the world as their mothers see it and listen to their mothers' conversations. This allows the babies to recognize the rhythm of their mothers' breathing, walking and touch, which stimulates the baby's speech and emotional development and fosters a sense of safety and security. Upon completion of moss bag workshop, the women gathered to honour the moss bag teachings with a smudge and a beautiful hand-drum song delivered by the MNO Victims Services Coordinator Marsha Depotier. ∞



▲ MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council members (left-right): Senator Terry Bloom, Dorothy Bloom, Councillor Brad Hodgson, Women's Representative Taryn Blackstock, President Andy Dufrane, Councillor Barbara Card, Chair Christa Lemelin and Councillor Luke Thompson.

# MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council tours Snowy Ridge Wind Park

submitted by  
**Christa Lemelin**  
*MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair*

On June 2, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) had the opportunity to visit the Snowy Ridge Wind Park near Bethany. The tour was part of their ongoing learning, education and a continuation from the renewable energy workshop that the MNO PDWMC hosted in 2016. Snowy Ridge Wind Park is a ten megawatt (MW) wind energy project, consisting of five wind turbines. The MNO PDWMC was joined by Erin Jaggard and Steve Rankin of Capstone Infrastructure. Capstone Infrastructure commenced construction of the wind park in July 2016 and it has been operating since October 2016. Erin and Steve facilitated the tour and provided the Council with a wonderful educational experience. The MNO PDWMC wishes to thank Capstone Infrastructure for the great tour. ∞

# MNO Grand River Métis Council part of National Aboriginal Day in Guelph and Kitchener

submitted by  
**Jennifer Parkinson**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council  
President

June 21, 2017, National Aboriginal Day, was another busy day in the life of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC). For Council members, the day started at the Waterloo Region Museum in Kitchener where they shared Métis 101 with students from across the Waterloo Region. The day was broken into four workshops with 30 students at each session. The students had fun learning about Métis culture and history while guessing, which furs came from which animal. They also learned about the Métis sash, Michif, beading and finger weaving. To finish off, students from grades three to five tried Métis jigging. At the end of the day, the Council members rushed off to Guelph to set up for their National Aboriginal Day celebration.

This was the third year that MNO GRMC partnered with the City of Guelph to organize their National Aboriginal Day celebration. Over the last three years, the celebration has grown from 300 participants to over 1000 this year, requiring the city to close Carden Street to accommodate the crowd.

MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson was one of the dignitaries participating in the opening ceremony. She welcomed everyone on behalf of the Métis Nation and talked about how important the day was to the Métis. Other dignitaries and performers included: Adrian Harjo, a First Nations singer, dancer and storyteller; Elder Lois MacDonald who provided the opening prayer; Elder Jan Sherman who talked about the importance

of the day; and Guelph Mayor Cameron Guthrie, who welcomed the crowd on behalf of the City and did a Territorial Acknowledgement. Guelph City Council worked with Elders and Aboriginal community leaders (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) over the last year to write a territorial acknowledgement for the City of Guelph that is now read before every Council meeting and event in the city.

There was a lot to do and see during the three hour celebration and the Métis were a big part of it. MNO staff set up an information booth for visitors where Senator Carol Lévis taught people how to do Métis Dot Art on rocks; Mathew Carpenter and Councilor Alicia Hamilton taught people how to make Woodland beaded bracelets using kits and teachings courtesy of First Nations artist Naomi Smith. Grassroots Catering fed the crowd tacos, bannock and strawberry juice. The MNO GRMC also had a vending table where it sold lots of Métis crafts, sashes, spoons and swag. Métis jigging with Sterling Laverne from Woodstock and Elizabeth from Hamilton and Fiddling with Cassandra Swan from Niagara Region were also big hits.

Other activities during the celebration included drumming from the Guelph Women's Drum Circle; Wiji Numgumook Kwe (In Unity Singers); Inuit drumming with Ame Papatsie; a round dance with the Big Drum courtesy of Graham Paradis from Fort Erie; Women's Jingle dance with Jennifer Martin from Six Nations; and Hoop Dancing from National Champion Hoop Dancer, Ascension Harjo from Six Nations.

Many were still talking about the event in the community weeks later and looking forward to next year. ∞



▲ 1) MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson speaking during the opening ceremonies. 2) The MNO GRMC Vendor table. 3) MNO GRMC Womens' Representative Colleen Brunelle with her daughter Stella Booth and MNO GRMC Treasurer Leslie Muma. 4) Mayor Cameron Guthrie with MC Adrian Harjo. 5) Métis fiddler Cassandra Swan.

# MNO leaders take part in National Aboriginal Day Rendezvous at River Mill Park

by  
**Dawn Huddlestone**  
From a story that originally  
appeared at [dopperonline.ca](http://dopperonline.ca)

On June 21, 2017, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens, First Nations and Inuit leaders and citizens were in Huntsville attending its annual National Aboriginal Day Celebration (NAD) that included a focus on Métis culture and heritage.

Students from Huntsville, Spruce Glen and St. Mary's schools, as well as members of the public, gathered in River Mill Park to learn more about Métis culture. Dignitaries arrived at the town docks using canoes and then took part in a procession of musicians to the River Mill Park bandshell for a brief presentation.

Huntsville Mayor Scott Aitchison and the Provisional Council of the

Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Verna Porter-Brunelle spoke during the opening ceremony.

"It's important to celebrate the people who were here first and how they share this land with us," said Huntsville Mayor Scott Aitchison. PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle followed with a Métis prayer written by MNO Honourary Senator Ruth Wagner. Senator Porter-Brunelle also noted that the spirit of a Rendezvous is similar to a First Nations pow-wow, but they are not the same thing. "On June 21, National Aboriginal Day, we honour the three Aboriginal peoples: Métis, First Nations and Inuit. It's important to distinguish the Métis from the First Nations and from the Inuit, which each have their own culture and traditions," she said.

Following opening remarks, the students participated in Métis activities and games, including dot art and bannock making. ∞



▲ (Left-right): Victor Brunelle, MNO Moon River Métis Council Senator Larry Duval, Honourary Senator Ruth Wagner, Town of Huntsville Manager of Arts, Culture and Heritage Teri Souter, MNO Councilor Pauline Richardson, MNO Moon River Métis Council President Tony Muscat, Member of the Provincial Parliament Norm Miller, Mayor Scott Aitchison, PCMNO Senator Verna Porter-Brunelle and MNO Moon River Métis Council Chair Bonny Cann.

# MNO office officially opens in Brampton

submitted by  
**Catherine Corbett**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Brampton was officially opened on May 24, 2017. The office will serve as the headquarters of the MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) and the new MNO Family Wellbeing program.

Over 60 people attended the event including MNO CRMC Councillor Jean-Marc Maheu and MNO CRMC past Senator Bill Morrison. Brampton Ward 3 and 4 Councillors Martin Medeiros and Jeff Bowman attended the event and both were gifted with Métis sashes. Honourary sashes were also presented to: MNO citizen Meredith Erochko and her three sons Gianpaolo, Danilo and Niccolo; MNO citizen Natalie Snow; Rubina Leahy from Victim Services of Peel; and Ed Castro, Elizabeth Molinaro and Dieufert Bellot from the Mississauga Halton Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs) for their support of the Brampton MNO office. It was also great to have MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette on hand, his spirit and stories were a treat for the other guests.

MNO staff and council members had opportunity to connect with representatives of several local service providers including: Family Services of Peel; Habitat for Humanity; Victim Services of Peel; the Unitarian Congregation of Mississauga; Region of Peel; Child Development Resource Connection; Ecosource; Peel District School Board and Mississauga Halton LHINs. MNO Métis Family Wellbeing staff Rose Colacci-Fines and Catherine Corbett were able to meet them all and offer information on the new MFWB program as well as the existing CWC program.

Guests had the opportunity to take part in a traditional medicine pouch activity facilitated by MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and Nycolla Buisson. The event featured light refreshments of bean salad, coleslaw and cranberry salsa prepared by Darlene and homemade bannock made by her sister, Karen Stewart. Fiddle music played throughout the day to get everyone in the Métis mood. The day was a great success thanks in no small part to dedicated volunteers Barbara Balla, Michelle Pellegrino and Nycolla Buisson. All the guests gave positive reviews of the new office space! ∞



▲ 1) left-right: MNO Credit River Métis Council Outreach Coordinator Kyl Morrison, MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent, MNO CRMC President Karen Derocher, Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles and MNO Veterans Council President Joseph Paquette. 2) left-right: High Risk Support Counsellor Victim Services of Peel Natalie Snow, MNO Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) President Karen Derocher, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Catherine Corbett and MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent. 3) left-right: Brampton Wards 3 and 4 Councillor Martin Medeiros and MNO Veterans Council President Joseph Paquette. 4) left-right: Volunteer Michelle Pellegrino and MNO citizen Meredith Erochko and her three young boys Gianpaolo, Danilo and Niccolo. 5) left-right: MNO Credit River Métis Council President Karen Derocher.

# Métis Family Wellbeing program launched in Mattawa

submitted by  
**Christi Lewin**  
MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On June 7, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Mattawa Métis Council (MMC), MNO staff from the Mattawa and North Bay offices, MNO citizens and community guests came together for the launch of the new Métis Family Wellbeing Program in Mattawa.

Twenty-four people attended along with the Mayors of Calvin and Bonfield as well as town council members from Bonfield. Also in attendance was President and CEO of the Mattawa Hospital and Administrator of the Algonquin Nursing Home Jeremy Stevenson and staff from several MNO programs.

Many local citizens visited the office to show their support for the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program. Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator Lisa Poulin offered balloons to kids and networked with people outside the office providing information on MNO

programs. MNO Education and Training Employment Developer Mark Burns was in the office answering questions. Amanda Benedict from the North Bay office was available to assist in any way needed, often engaging in conversation with people regarding finger weaving.

Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Christi Lewin in Mattawa was thankful for the support from the MNO North Bay staff and MNO MMC. Although, there have been many challenges to setting up the new office, the support from the Council, staff, supervisors and the John Dixon Public Library, have allowed for programming to start in February. The MNO MMC was a great help in assembly office furniture.

Special thanks go out to Roger Rose, Joyceline Rose, Melanie Rose, Austin Rose and Eddie Doucette for all the help in setting up the office space. ∞



▲ Back row (left to right): MNO Employment Developer Mark Burns, Region 5 Councilor Dan Boulard, MNO Mattawa Métis Council President Nelson Montreuil, Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator Lisa Poulin, Mattawa Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Christi Lewin, Mattawa Métis Council Senator Joyceline Rose and Mattawa Métis Council Chair Roger Rose. Front row (left to right): North Bay Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Amanda Benedict, Mattawa Métis Council Women's Representative Annik Doucette, baby Addison and Mattawa Métis Council Secretary-Treasurer Melanie Rose.

# Portage: A Youth Journey

submitted by  
**Danielle Morin**  
*Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator*  
Sault Ste Marie

Between July 17-21, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council (HSMC) worked with MNO staff in the MNO Sault Ste Marie office to stage a one week youth summer camp called Portage: A Youth Journey.

Portage: A Youth Journey was open to 12 participants between the ages of 9 to 14. The camp ran from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Each day during the camp, the young people were divided into focus groups to discuss important topics such as healthy relationships, self-awareness, dealing with emotions and self-acceptance.

During these focus groups the

youth also engaged in several different activities.

The activities included: kids in the kitchen, where youth participants were equipped with the necessary tools and resources for proper food handling, exploring healthy food options and meal preparation and planning.

After the youth made their own lunches and snacks for the day, they were engaged in cultural activities such as archery, medicine walk, medicine bags, swimming, loom weaving, voyageur games and the making of a mini drum.

The medicine walk took place on White Fish Island where the young people found the water was so high that their paths were covered and they had to take off their shoes and walk through the water. It was really refreshing on such a hot day!

Overall, the youth all worked well together, made friends and had a great week at summer camp! ∞



▲ Participants in the Youth Journey Summer Camp enjoy a medicine walk on White Fish Island.



# Powley Day

September 19

This Powley Day message from Acting MNO President France Picotte was released on September 14, 2017

Every year on September 19th, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Métis communities across the province mark Powley Day to remember the decade long fight led by the MNO with Steve and Roddy Powley for recognition of Métis harvesting rights in the *R. v. Powley* case.

In its landmark, unanimous decision issued on September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada declared that Steve and Roddy Powley, as members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community, had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of The *Constitution Act*, 1982. This was the first decision

from Canada's highest court that recognized and affirmed Métis Section 35 rights and it is this groundbreaking decision that ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. This year's celebration of Powley Day is special in that it comes on the heels of the recent joint announcement between Ontario and the MNO identifying six additional historic communities located throughout Ontario. Now Rainy River/Lake of the Woods; Northern Lake Superior; Abitibi Inland; Mattawa/Ottawa River; Killarney and the Georgian Bay Historic Métis Communities join the historic Sault Ste. Marie as being recognized for their own distinctive collective identities, customs, practices and traditions. More information about these historic Métis communities can be found on the MNO website.

Especially important at this time of the year are Métis harvesting rights, which are accommodated by the Province of Ontario through our Harvesting

Agreement. This fall, as our citizens participate in the harvest or in MNO community council events celebrating the harvest season, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Indigenous peoples within Canada. The affirmation of the Métis right to harvest is a component critical to the rich fabric that defines Métis culture. Our commitment to conservation and our responsibilities

as stewards of the lands and waters is another key component of our Métis culture and the exercise of those rights.

Powley Day also provides MNO citizens with the opportunity to reflect with pride on the many momentous and historic achievements we have made -- working together -- through the MNO. The Powley decision was a crucial victory for Métis rights, and since then we have seen many other successes such as those noted above including the Harvesting

Agreement, the Daniels decision, the Isaac Report, the *MNO Secretariat Act*, the renewed *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* and most recently the *MNO-Canada Memorandum of Understanding on Advancing Reconciliation* as well as numerous other agreements with government and industry.

We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs; however, each of us must continue to work together to advance reconciliation and the MNO's Métis rights agenda. The work ahead of us is great and the journey will be long and hard fought, but on September 19, please take a moment to celebrate your Métis culture and heritage, and remember Steve, Roddy and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing fight for Métis rights. ∞

Powley Day ...  
provides MNO citizens with the opportunity to reflect with pride on the many momentous and historic achievements we have made -- working together -- through the MNO

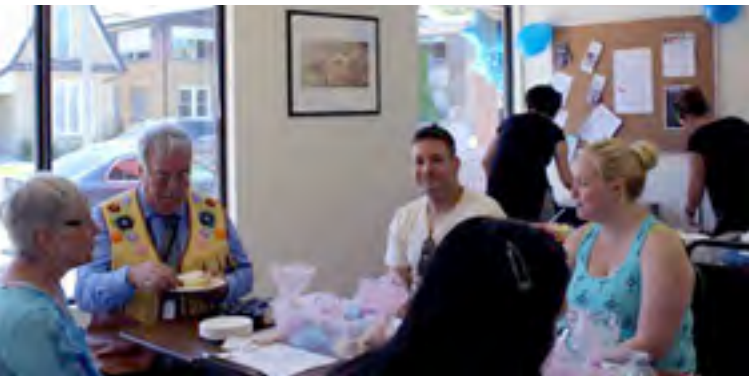
# MNO office officially opens in Blind River

submitted by  
**Yvonne Jensen**  
MNO North Channel Métis Council, President

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Blind River was officially opened On June 27, 2017. The office will serve as the headquarters for the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program and for the MNO North Channel Métis Council (NCMC). Forty-two guests including MNO citizens, staff and community guests came together for the grand opening. Among the dignitaries present was Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatién who also spoke at the ceremony along with MNO NCMC Women's Representative June Smart. Renee Jensen played the violin before the speeches and at lunch, which contributed to the celebratory atmosphere at the opening. Among the guest speakers were: Member of Parliament for the Algoma-Manitoulin-Kapuskasing Carol Hughes; Member of Provincial Parliament for the Algoma-Manitoulin Michael Mantha; Elliot Lake Mayor Dan Marchisella; Huron Shores Mayor Gil Reeves; Blind River Mayor Sue Jensen; and Ontario Provincial Police Liaison Officer Todd Showan. ∞



▲ MNO staff, citizens and community guests attending the grand opening ceremony.



▲ 1) MNO PDWMC President Andy Dufrane with citizens and well-wishers at the MNO office opening in Peterborough. 2) A very distinctly Métis cake was part of the celebrations of the opening of the new MNO office in Peterborough..

## MNO office officially opens in Peterborough

submitted by  
**Christa Lemelin**  
MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair

The new Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) office in Peterborough was officially opened on June 3, 2017. The office will serve as the headquarters of the MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) and the new MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program. The event was hosted by MNO Family Wellbeing Program Coordinator Brittany MacLeod with the help from fellow MNO staff members. MNO citizens were also in

attendance for the exciting grand opening. The MNO staff are happy to have a new office in Peterborough and are pleased that citizens and members of the community can now have access to the services provided by the MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Program. The MNO PDWMC and community members expressed that the location is perfect and will help with their outreach and visibility to the community. ∞



▲ MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley and Secretary Nina Henley were the BBQ pit masters during the Meet, Greet and Eat.

## Meet, Greet and Eat event welcomes community to new MNO office in Kenora

submitted by  
**Leanne Rush**  
Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator

On June 29, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora office staff and the MNO Kenora Métis Council invited the community for a Meet, Greet and Eat event at the new MNO office in Kenora. The new MNO office is a lovely space that now includes the MNO Métis Wellbeing program, which is allowing the MNO to grow in the community and improve access to its family friendly programming. The new location also permits staff to offer workshops and activities that will raise awareness of the MNO's presence and services. The Meet, Greet and Eat event introduced the community to the new office and 225 MNO citizens and community members attended.

Participants enjoyed a free BBQ lunch as well as popcorn, snow cones and bannock shortcake, which was served up by Métis youth volunteers. MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley and Secretary Nina Henley worked hard and served up more than 180 burgers. Senator Karen Cederwall and Councilor Martin Camire along with Métis youth volunteers also assisted MNO staff with cultural activities. Senator Cederwall blessed the new office with a Métis prayer circle and gifted the staff with cedar. The staff provided tours and information on the programs offered. It was a great opportunity for the community to learn more about the MNO and the services provided in the community. The turnout was great and the

feedback was extremely positive. Local MNO partners, Women's Place Kenora, Ontario Native Women's Association and the Sexual Assault Centre, joined with MNO staff in offering cultural games, finger weaving and making of medicine bags, which demonstrated how partnerships are extremely important in the community. The MNO staff and local citizens cannot wait for their next community event! ∞

To learn more about programming at the MNO office in Kenora please contact:  
**Leanne Rush**  
807-468-3596  
leanner@metisnation.org.

# MNO Credit River Métis Council community garden helps alleviate hunger in Peel Region

submitted by  
**Kyl Morrison**  
MNO Credit River Métis Council  
Outreach and Education Coordinator

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Credit River Métis Council (CRMC) community garden raised hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables this year that will help alleviate hunger throughout the Peel region. The community garden is one of the major projects of the MNO CRMC and in 2016, the council was able to donate almost five hundred pounds of fresh produce to the local Knights Table in Credit River. The Knights Table is a charity that works to alleviate hunger in the Peel region (find out more about the Knights table at [knightstable.org](http://knightstable.org)).

This year the council started their community garden on May 17. On that day a nesting killdeer reminded the MNO CRMC staff and citizens to move gently as they prepared the ground for their annual gardening awakening ceremony.

The MNO CRMC celebrated its Sixth Annual Gardening Awakening Ceremony at the Creditview Community Garden Centre. The Awakening Ceremony brought local volunteers from within the community and included a smudging and tobacco offering led by MNO CRMC Treasurer Darlene Lent and a prayer by Nycolla Buisson. During the smudging, a prayer and tobacco offering was presented to acknowledge the awakening of the six plots in the garden.

Volunteers who participated in the planting operations for the Awakening Ceremony this year were Sarah Bale and Jessica Kowalski from Ecosource, MNO Métis Family Wellbeing Coordinator Catherine Corbett, Beth Boros and husband Brian Boros, local



▲ (Left-right): Métis Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles, MNO Credit River Métis Council Education and Community Outreach Coordinator Kyl Morrison, Brycen Boros, Nycolla Buisson, Jessica Kowalski and Sarah Bale from Ecosource, Local Health Integration Network Representative Dieufert Bellot, MNO Credit River Métis Council Treasurer Darlene Lent, Beth Boros and Local Health Integration Network Representative Damiola Toki.

volunteers Nycolla Buisson, Kyl Morrison, Jon and Jim Tolles and one self-seeded parsley plant.

The garden grew substantially after the Awakening Ceremony and on June 1 the number of volunteers working on the garden had also grown. New volunteers included Brycen Boros who shared his passion and knowledge of animals and tracking and MNO CRMC Traditional Knowledge Keeper Jim Tolles.

With rows and rows of onions, beans, tomatoes, cabbage, kale, romaine lettuce,

Swiss chard and herbs, the garden became a real reminder of the potential power of community support. The six plots were organized differently this year with the inclusion of a Three Sisters Garden. A variety of significant seeds were planted in the traditional Three Sisters Garden configuration. Treasurer Lent was able to receive donated seeds from Stefania Ruffolo. The beans, squash and corn seeds included an open pollinated corn variety that has thrived through thousands of years of farming by Indigenous peoples throughout North America; Cherokee Trail of

Tears beans; Rattlesnake runner beans; and Canadian Crookneck squash. A donation of heirloom tomato plants was also provided from the volunteers.

The Three Sisters Garden is new in 2017 and reminds the community of the incredible power of the Métis traditional knowledge and the opportunities they have had to continue to treat the earth in the spirit of a giving community. The MNO CRMC is optimistic that come harvest time they will be able to again make a strong contribution to the effort to alleviate hunger in the Peel region. ∞

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An agency of the Métis Nation of Ontario

# MNO citizens and staff take part in River Canard Heritage Canoe Tour

submitted by  
**Donna Grayer**  
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis  
Council President

On July 16 and 23, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) and MNO staff from the Windsor office organized a Historic Canoe Tour of the Canard (French for duck) River near the hamlet of River Canard, Ontario. They rented canoes and hired guides from the River Canard Canoe Company and undertook the tour to encourage healthy living, demonstrate the importance of the canoe to Métis culture and learn about the local history in the River Canard area.

Participants enjoyed two sunny mornings full of family fun, history and fresh air. Lunch was included and there were many good conversations about the beautiful country setting full of wild flowers, bull rushes, birds, butterflies, deer and of course les canards as well as the very interesting local history that included the original French settlement in the area and the Battle of River Canard during the War of 1812.

It was a fairly dry event with only one canoe overturning; fortunately the water was not that deep and the skilled tour guides were able to assist so no one suffered anything but embarrassment. Participants also had the opportunity for a little shopping in the country store and all-in-all everyone enjoyed both days and there was discussion about potential future canoe tours so some participants could improve their paddling. ∞



▲ The MNO WEKMC Heritage Canoe Tour crew on the water and inset they prepare for their adventure with the help of the River Canard Canoe Company.

# MNO Niagara Region Métis Council participates in Celebration of Nations

submitted by  
**Derrick Pont**  
MNO Niagara Region President

written by  
**Grant LaFleche,**  
[stcatharinesstandard.ca](#)

The significance of the two small fires, mere feet from each other at the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre, was easy for many to miss. To the uninformed eye, they were just fires. But to others, they were a proud and unique display of First Nations culture. “This doesn’t happen. I don’t remember this happening before,” said Derrick Pont, President of the Métis Nation Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council. “This is bringing us all together. It’s very special.” Pont’s fire was a simple camp fire used for cooking and keeping warm — part of the Métis camp erected in the backyard area of the arts

centre for the weekend-long Celebration of Nations event. A few feet from his fire, ringed in leaves, was a smaller, ceremonial First Nations fire. Pont said historic tension between Métis and First Nations groups meant they typically did not share communal space in this fashion. But at this event — a gathering of Indigenous arts, culture and traditions — the fires standing side-by-side was a powerful, if subtle, symbol of unity, Pont said. “It says we’re cousins. That we’ve always been related, which we are,” said Pont. “For Métis and First Nations to be able to share space like this is amazing.” For Celeste Smith, Executive Director of the Three Fires Community Justice program at the Niagara Regional Native Centre, the display of the variety of Indigenous identities was unique as it was important. “If you look at what is happening here, we have a Métis camp beside a sacred fire, which is traditional, and

“*For Métis and First Nations to be able to share space like this is amazing.*”  
– Derrick Pont

a few feet away we have a pow wow going on. These are completely different things, completely different expressions of Indigenous culture,” Smith said. The Celebration of Nations featured dozens of events, from workshops and film screenings to discussion groups and dances. The event was first of its kind in Niagara, highlighting the traditions of Métis and of several First Nations including art and music. ∞



▲ Brian Kon, Chair of the MNO Niagara Region Métis council watches the performances at the Celebration of Nations Saturday at the Performing Arts Centre. Behind him Derrick Pont, president of the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council, sews a blanket.



# Métis youth trains with the Montreal Canadiens

submitted by  
**Christa Lemelin**  
*MNO Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council Chair*

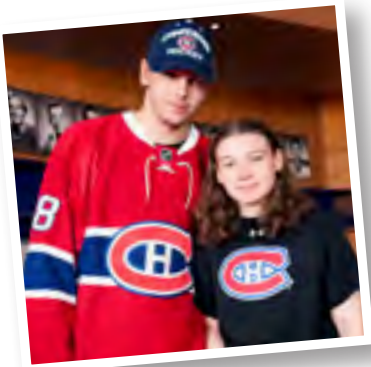
This summer Métis youth Hannah Lemelin, had the once in a lifetime opportunity to train with the world renowned Montreal Canadiens hockey club. Hannah, the daughter of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council (PDWMC) Chair Christa

Lemelin, was in Montreal this August for an amazing week-long Canadiens Girls Hockey School program.

The program is in its second year and provides girls with the opportunity to receive the same training as members of the Montreal Canadiens. The program included on-ice training with Montreal Canadiens staff and players, off-ice physical conditioning and a visit of the Montreal Canadiens dressing room. Hannah met and trained with such players as Paul Byron, Nikita Scherbak and Canadiens General Manager Marc Bergevin.

The program also offered an additional off-ice physical training and a meet and greet with the Canadian Football League's Montreal Alouettes and Major League Baseball's former Expos pitcher Derek Aucoin.

Hannah has been playing hockey for several years now and was very happy to have such an amazing experience. Although exhausted from the week, she thoroughly enjoyed the program and is proud to say that she was taught by the Montreal Canadiens! ∞



- ▲ Métis youth Hannah Lemelin from Peterborough puck handling while training with the Montreal Canadiens.
- ▶ Hannah with Paul Byron of the Montreal Canadiens.



▲ MNO Temiskaming Métis Council Trapper camp cultural display

## MNO Temiskaming Métis Council set up Métis trapper's camp display

submitted by  
**Liz Morland**  
*MNO Temiskaming Métis Council  
Office Manager*

On August 19, 2017, in the City of Temiskaming Shores, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Temiskaming Métis Council (TMC) and the Temiskaming Native Women's Support

Group took part in the "Wabi River Kayak Challenge" event that was hosted by the New Liskeard Lions Club. The MNO TMC and the Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group participated by setting up a Trapper's tent and a Métis cultural display. The display included local animal furs such as marten, mink, otter, fisher, rabbit, wolf, coyote, racoon, lynx and fox. As a hands-on activity, craft foam canoe

templates were provided for the children. They were able to sew them together with sinew and decorate them with markers. The MNO TMC also provided Iced lemon Chaga tea and Cedar tea samples, which were very well received and gave MNO TMC the opportunity to chat with local community visitors about all aspects of Métis culture. ∞

## Métis flag raising ceremony

Join the MNO North Bay Métis Council on **November 16, Louis Riel Day**, for a Métis flag raising ceremony at **11am at North Bay City Hall.**



For more information please contact MNO North Bay Métis Council President **Marc Laurin** at **m.laurin@hotmail.com** or **705-493-0196** (cell).





# A busy spring and summer for the MNO Grand River Métis Council

▲ Participants in the Moccasin-making Workshop in Guelph.

*To say that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) was very busy between May and August, 2017; would plain and simply be an understatement! Besides welcoming the MNO Canoe Expedition (see special section page C8) and celebrating National Aboriginal Day in two cities (see page 14) council members somehow found time to hold not one but two different moccasin-making workshops, celebrate Canada 150, host a Family Fun Night, tour the head office of the North American Fur Auction and hold their own Annual General Meeting.*

## MNO Grand River Métis Council takes part in Canada 150 in Kitchener

submitted by  
**Jennifer Parkinson**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council  
President

The MNO GRMC participated in the City of Kitchener's Canada 150 celebration. As part of the festivities Senator Carol Lévis led a crowd of children in playing "Pin the Sash on the Moose." For four hours blindfolded children kept trying to get the sash on the moose. They all

succeeded (with the help of Senator Lévis). President Jennifer Parkinson and Councilor Alicia Hamilton kept the adventurous teens competing in a game of "Poison Circle." These young competitors kept sending their friends over to learn the traditional game and challenge one another. Treasurer Leslie Muma, Youth Representative. Rebecca Leitch, and Councilor Pat St. John joined the fun at the Council's cultural table where they provided information about Métis culture and history. They

showed visitors furs, traps and sashes along with other items. Great questions were asked and many stories were told. To help celebrate Canada 150, the MNO GRMC also gave out 175 small Métis flags while sharing the flag's history. It was great to see Métis flags carried around with the Canadian flags. The wonderful day finished off with an exciting fireworks show. Happy Canada 150! ∞



▲ (Left to Right) MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson, Youth Representative. Rebecca Leitch, Councilor Pat St. John, Senator Carol Lévis and Councilor Alicia Hamilton.

## MNO Grand River Métis Council hosts baby moccasin workshop

submitted by  
**Diane Kilby**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council  
Councilor

As part of the national Da-giiewewa campaign, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) recently hosted a Baby Moccasins Workshop by Nancy Rowe and Colinda Clyne. Rowe is a member of the Mississaugas of the Credit River First Nation and is one of the founders of the Da-giiewewa and Clyne is with the Upper Grand District School Board. They provided the workshop at the MNO office in Kitchener. The purpose of Da-giiewewa, which means "so they can go home" is to raise awareness about the large number of Indigenous children who are put in care by child protection agencies. One element of the campaign

is to encourage communities and individuals to produce baby moccasins. The baby moccasins are produced to give to Indigenous children who have been placed in care as a way of helping to keep them connected to their Indigenous heritage and communities. The moccasins are a cultural link for each baby – a gift of love and caring and resistance. Making the moccasins also raises awareness of the issue and creates links between Indigenous communities. The MNO GRMC committed to making 150 moccasins to deliver to babies being taken into care. The Council invited members of the community and its allies to participate in the workshop and were delighted to welcome about two dozen participants of all ages. Together they learned and shared as they made moccasins. The evening was a good start and the Council easily met its target. ∞



▲ Some of the baby moccasins produced by MNO Grand River Métis Council citizens.

# Family Fun Night

submitted by  
**Diane Kilby**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council  
Councillor

To celebrate the launch of the MNO Métis Family Well-being program, MNO staff and the MNO GRMC co-hosted a very successful Family Fun Night on May 29, 2017. The MNO Métis Family Wellbeing program now serves the Kitchener, Waterloo and Wellington regions

The Family Fun Night took place at the Round Table and Royal Garrison in Guelph and brought together about five dozen citizens and their families from throughout the region. There was something for everyone - from toddlers, to youth and young adults, to parents and grandparents.

Activities ranged from board games for the more sedate, to, and under strict supervision, the throwing sharp objects such as hatchets and knives for those who



◀ A young participant demonstrates his skills with a bow and arrow.

wanted a bit more spice in their evening. There was even the chance to hone one's bow and arrow skills.

Of course, it was a Métis Family Fun Night which meant that there was lots of good food and general

good company. Everyone enjoyed the chance to come together and socialize. This event was so universally popular that the Council is considering making it an annual event. ∞



▲ With the three bears (left to right) MNO GRMC President Jennifer Parkinson, Region 9 PCMNO Councilor & Captain of the Hunt Peter Rivers, MNO GRMC Women's Representative Colleen Brunelle

## MNO GRMC tours North American Fur Auctions head office

submitted by  
**Colleen Brunelle**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council  
Women's Representative

On May 10, members of the MNO GRMC toured the North America Fur Auctions (NAFA) head office in Toronto. NAFA is a Canadian company that auctions on consignment fur pelts harvested in Canada and the United States. Its services are used by both large fur farms and small-time trappers. Its auctions are held three to four times a year in Toronto. It is the largest fur auction house in North America, and the second largest in the world.

NAFA is the successor to the Hudson's Bay Company's Canadian and American fur auction businesses, which were spun off in 1987

and 1989, respectively.

NAFA's annual spring sale took place between May 8 and 14 this year. Spring sale dates focus largely on a vast array of wild-trapped fur from all across Canada and North America. The tour was able to showcase over 690,000 wild pelt lots. This included timber wolves, wolverines, bears, cougars, wild fox, beaver, fishers, lynx, otter and wild mink. It is reasonable to believe that many of these were trapped by MNO citizens. Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 9 Councilor, Peter Rivers, was astounded to learn of the value placed on two particularly handsome timber wolf pelts.

Also on auction during this week, were more than 3,081,000 lots of various ranched mink and ranched silver and red fox pelts. The mink colour variations ranged

over 17 mutations with numerous grading levels within each color. Senior grading expert, Murray Parkinson explained techniques used in grading fur as well as desirable and flawed differences between pelts.

Members of the MNO GRMC were able to learn of pelting techniques and fur processing through to auction consignment. It was an experience where one could appreciate fur at a professional level and value it as a green, renewable product that is good for the environment. Wild trapped fur still remains a source of income and economic stability for many MNO citizens.

The MNO GRMC would like to thank Senior Grader- Murray Parkinson and Director of Rancher Relations for Canada Wayne Booth for facilitating this excellent learning opportunity. ∞

## MNO GRMC holds Annual General Meeting

submitted by  
**Jennifer Parkinson**  
MNO Grand River Métis Council  
President

On Saturday, May 27, 2017, the MNO GRMC held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Family Centre in Kitchener. Senator Carol Lévis opened the meeting with a prayer. President Jennifer Parkinson recapped Council's many activities and achievements over the past year and thanked the dedicated MNO GRMC members and citizen volunteers. Treasurer Leslie Muma provided an update on the MNO GRMC's finances.

MNO citizen and University of Waterloo Professor, Dr. John Lewis provided a presentation on the grant he is working on with the Ontario Government that will look at the need for an age-friendly, community-planning framework that will enhance the quality of life for Métis and First Nations elders.



▲ (Left to right) MNO GRMC Councilor Diane Kilby and Chair Dave Skene.

After enjoying lunch together, everyone tried their hand at decorating rocks with Métis dot art. Participants aged from two to 70 all tried their hand at creating these beautiful decorative rocks.

After a very successful AGM, everyone is looking forward to next year. ∞

## MNO GRMC reaches out to Métis community through moccasin workshops

submitted by  
**Diane Kilby**, MNO Grand River Métis Council Councillor

Like other MNO chartered councils across Ontario, the MNO GRMC is firmly committed to building cultural awareness and skills for MNO citizens and their families. Accordingly, the Council held Moccasin Making Workshops both in Kitchener on June 3 and in Guelph on June 4. Holding workshops in two centres made participation more accessible for citizens from around the region.

Prior to the workshop, the instructor, Kathryn Edgecombe, had asked all participants to send her their foot measurements so she could cut pattern pieces for

all attendees. At each workshop, she guided participants gently through the process of making their own moccasins.

Participants ranged in age from six to 70 and together they punched holes, threaded needles and sewed their moccasins together. There was such pride and joy at the end of each workshop when each person put on their new moccasins. One young participant refused to take her moccasins off and proudly announced that she had made them herself! A sentiment widely shared by everyone present. ∞



▲ Instructor Kathryn Edgecombe helps a young Moccasin Workshop participant with her sewing.

# Protecting our waters - sharing our stories

submitted by  
**Michael V. Smith**  
MNO Employment Developer

written by  
**Susan Staves**  
MNO Great Lakes Métis Council  
Member

Water is sacred and is an important element that has influenced the very history of the Métis peoples of Ontario. As stated in the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) *Statement of Prime Purpose* Métis are as a people intimately connected to the land and waterways surrounding the Great Lakes:

“We, the Métis are a people of the lands, which gave rise to our history and tradition and culture. We call those lands the Métis Homelands. The Homelands stretch from the lakes and rivers of Ontario; cross the wide prairies, traverse the mountains into British Columbia...”

A strong connection to this history and a desire to protect the lands and waters still exists among Métis peoples in Ontario as evidenced by two events that recently took place in the Owen Sound area.

On Tuesday September 19, 2017, MNO citizens from the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council (GLMC), Pauline Richardson, the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 7 Councillor and Chair of the Georgian Bay Consultation Committee as well as other Consultation Committee members joined with representatives from Saugeen Ojibway Nation and



▲ MNO citizens with the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council and dignitaries gather during the Métis of Mudtown plaque dedication ceremony, held on Friday September 22, 2017.

all three levels of government to participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the City of Owen Sound’s upgraded Secondary Level Wastewater Treatment Plant. Speaking at the ceremony, MNO GLMC Councillor Jim Stranks said: “I wish to thank the City of Owen Sound, the Province of Ontario, and the Government of Canada for their diligence and effort in the renovation and upgrading of this waste water treatment facility. It is and will continue to be a symbol to the Métis community, of the respect which is held by these several levels of government, for the natural resources of land, water and wildlife.”

*The treatment plant sits on an historic Métis settlement called “Mudtown,” that was settled by many of the Métis who came as a result of the Drummond Island migration of 1828*

Work to upgrade the wastewater plant from a primary to secondary level treatment facility – the largest infrastructure project ever undertaken by the City of Owen Sound – began in the summer of 2014, with Ottawa and Queen’s Park both contributing \$15 million toward the final cost of the project through the Green Infrastructure Fund. Since the city has upgraded to a secondary level wastewater treatment facility, the quality of the effluent being re-introduced into the Great Lakes has significantly improved. A primary level of sewage treatment, which Owen Sound used to have, did nothing to eliminate ammonia from

wastewater. “Ammonia is the parameter with the biggest impact on the environment”, says Owen Sound’s Manager of Water and Wastewater, Matt Prentice. Now, “there’s almost no ammonia in the effluent” being released into our waterways.

The MNO was involved in the consultation process, which was undertaken during the strategic planning stage of development. The treatment plant sits on an historic Métis settlement called “Mudtown,” that was settled by many of the Métis who came as a result of the Drummond Island migration of 1828. A plaque ceremony to dedicate a plaque honouring that community took place on Friday, September 22, 2017, with MNO citizens and council representatives present including members of the historic families who can trace their ancestry back to Mudtown.

The impressive plaque provides a significant amount of the history of Mudtown and some of its earliest Métis families and states:

“Through the twentieth century many Métis families continued to live in Mudtown including names such as Coture, Hillyer, Sylvest, Desjardins, Edmonstone, Hamilton, Angel, Robinson and Jones. Mudtown falls within the area represented by the Great Lakes Métis Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, and remains an indivisible part of the Métis Nation within Ontario as well as the larger Métis Nation. Today, the Métis of Mudtown proudly stand with others across the province who share the same history, goals and vision for the future of the Métis in Ontario.” ∞

## MNO Clear Waters Métis Council’s Voyageur Canoe Run a success

submitted by  
**Tobias Clarke**  
MNO Clear Waters Métis Council  
Women’s Representative

On September 16, 2017, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Clear Waters Métis Council (CWMC) held a Voyageur Canoe Run down the Grand River Oxbow, which is near Brantford. It was a day to remember for a group of the MNO CWMC citizens who participated including MNO CWMC Youth Representatives Jarred and Morgan Clarke, who were kept very busy

organizing the launch on that day.

All participants met bright and early and ready to paddle at 8:00 am on the shore of the historic river. Their route was 17 kilometres and would lead them to the Six Nations Reserve. With life jackets on and paddles in hand, the group was split between two voyageur canoes.

After their long paddle, the voyageurs were

very hungry, so, the MNO CWMC was very grateful when Mother’s Pizza Parlour in Brantford generously gifted them with free pizza.

It was a day that could not have happened without the efforts of the MNO CWMC’s determined organizers and everyone else that helped make it an amazing experience.

It was truly a great day! ∞



▲ Participants in the MNO Clear Waters Métis Council Voyageur Canoe Run

# MNO Highland Waters Métis Council to receive Trillium grant to support Traditional Knowledge Study

submitted by  
**Candace Lloyd**  
*MNO High Land Waters Métis Council  
Secretary/Treasurer*

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) High Land Waters Métis Council (HLWMC) was recently pleased to announce that it has been awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant to gather traditional knowledge about the Métis culture and way of life in its community. The Council will work to collect

this knowledge from Métis elders, traditional knowledge holders, Michif speakers, harvesters and artists through written survey questions, oral interviews, audio/video recordings and document research.

Once completed, this project will have documented stories of its knowledge holders that can be shared with the Métis community, especially the youth. This knowledge will be preserved and protected for future generations. This project will also help the Métis community in sharing its stories and perspectives with its First Nations neighbours, government and

the broader non-Indigenous community.

The Council celebrated the grant during its Annual Harvest Dinner that was held on October 14 at Flinton Township Hall in Flinton. ∞

Questions can be directed to HLWMC Secretary/Treasurer Candace Lloyd at: 14 Bosley Road, Northbrook, ON  
**Office Phone:** 613-336-1732  
**Cell Phone:** 613-848-1466  
**Email:** candacelloyd@live.ca

▼ **Participants in MNO High Land Waters Métis Council Traditional Knowledge and Land Use workshop January 21 in Flinton.** (Back row left-right) **Nicolas Delbaeer-Sawchuck, Ford VanNess, Scott Lloyd, Markus Tuohimaa, Steven Gautreau, James Grand, Alfred Veley (front l-r) Ashley Lloyd, Darlene Loft, Candace Lloyd, Carol Belanger, Trudy Conner and Jim Conner.**



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# ACHIEVEMENTS

## Song of Batoche

New novel looks at North West  
Resistance from a feminine perspective

submitted by  
**Ronsdale Press**

Métis Nation of Ontario citizen Maia Caron is the author of *Song of Batoche*, a historical novel that will be published by Ronsdale Press on September 30, 2017. *Song of Batoche* is an epic retelling of the North-West Resistance of 1885, where the women are key players in Louis Riel's prophetic mission.

The story is told in the perspectives of Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont, Madeleine Dumont, Marguerite Riel; Father Moulin, Batoche Catholic priest; and Lawrence Clarke, Chief Factor for the Hudson's Bay Company. At the heart of the novel is Josette Lavoie, a Métis woman whose kinship with Chief Big Bear inspires Riel

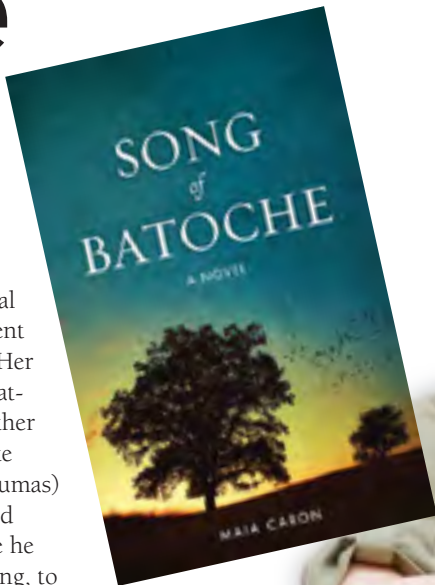
to make her his confidante. The part played by the Métis women, the subversive role of the church, Riel's growing religious fervour and Dumont's guerrilla tactics are explored in vivid detail until the final moment when Middleton's troops overrun the Métis rifle pits.

Caron's book launch was held on September 30 at her great, great-grandfather, Jean Caron Senior's house, which is now a museum at the Batoche National Historic site in Saskatchewan. At the launch, Caron will read a scene from her book that recounts the Dominion army's opening salvo on Batoche from the perspective of Gabriel Dumont in a rifle pit behind the church and rectory.

Caron's ancestors were Red River Métis who moved to Batoche in the 1870's. Caron's great, great, great-grandfather, Pierre Parenteau was Chairman

of Riel's provisional government in 1885. Her great, great-grandmother Marguerite Caron (Dumas) confronted Riel while he was praying, to demand that he send ammunition and reinforcements to the Métis fighting at Tourond's Coulee.

*Song of Batoche* is Caron's first novel. ∞



Métis author Maia Caron. ►

## Tyrone Pile helps pilot new course at Pearson College

The brother of MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile brings his unique perspective to historic international school

submitted by  
**Brian Geary**  
Director of Communications  
Pearson College

Tyrone (Ty) Pile is accustomed to leading, having served in the Royal Canadian Navy for more than 35 years in various capacities, up to and including Rear-Admiral and Commander of Canada's Pacific Navy.

Originally from Geraldton, Ty is tackling a new civilian role as part of the leadership team for one of Canada's most respected international schools, Pearson College near Victoria, British Columbia. As Vice-President Operations and Administration for the historic West Coast campus, located on the traditional territory of the Scia'new (Beecher Bay) First Nation, Pile is experiencing a homecoming of sorts.

"Coming to Pearson is like coming home," says Pile, whose wife of more than 37 years, Debra, was raised in the area, "but it's also like reaching out to the world. With up to 200 students from 75 countries at any one time, and with young people from every province and territory, Pearson is a unique pre-university school (grade 12 and 'gap year') that wears its commitment to peace, global understanding and sustainability proudly.

"And that," says the ex-military officer who believes strongly in the strength of education, discussion and diplomacy, "is a commitment needed now more than ever."

Pile sees Pearson's diversity as an unparalleled opportunity for Métis youth and all Indigenous students and their families, as well as for young people from around the world who are attracted to a

scholarship-driven United World College (uwc) education.

"We regard everyone as both a learner and an educator and that our approach to a wholistic, experiential education is very much in line with Indigenous ways of teaching and learning. Imagine the story sharing possible when you bring together bright, young people from an Indigenous community together with fellow students from Palestine, Norway and Zimbabwe. At Pearson, that happens every day!"

Pile says the 44-year-old school, named after the country's premier peacemaker and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Lester B. Pearson, welcomes Indigenous scholars from around the world including, last year alone, young leaders from communities in Canada, Greenland and Australia.

"Today, in the spirit of Reconciliation, we have a renewed emphasis on reaching out to neighbouring First Nations and Métis peoples across the country and around the world," adds Pile. "I think we've come a long way to establish Pearson as a campus of cultural safety and respect for Indigenous people and communities.

"As a boarding school for 16-to-19-year-old students, we have a special responsibility to reach out from a place of humility and willingness to listen."

Pearson, one of 17 UWC schools around the world, selects students on merit -- based on qualities like intellectual curiosity, leadership potential, resilience, integrity and academic achievement -- to ensure cultural and socioeconomic diversity. Students apply through UWC "national committees" (in Canada, [ca.uwc.org](http://ca.uwc.org)) to attend Pearson or other UWC schools from Swaziland to Japan.

"I've been fortunate enough to have



**Imagine the story sharing possible when you bring together bright, young people from an Indigenous community together with fellow students from Palestine, Norway and Zimbabwe."**

– Ty Pile

spent most of my adult life in the military – seeing many parts of the world and experiencing a wide variety of cultures – and that has instilled in me a determination to promote Lester B. Pearson's vision of tolerance, understanding and acceptance," says Pile.

"It's an honour to work with educators who teach these values and inspire young people of all cultures to understand that they have the ability to make positive changes in their communities and organizations." ∞



◀ Tyrone Pile.

# MNO citizen carries Canada Games Torch

submitted by  
**Theresa Stenlund**  
PCMNO Region 1 Councilor

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Katelyne Stenlund carried the Roly McLenahan torch in the Canada Summer Games Torch Relay on its route near Kenora on June 24, 2017. Katelyne is the daughter of Theresa Stenlund, the Region 1 Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Councilor.

Winnipeg hosted the Canada Summer Games July 28 to August 13, this year. Featuring 16 sports, over 250 events and a major cultural festival, the 2017 Canada Summer Games welcomed over 4,000 athletes and coaches and more than 20,000 visitors. Celebrating the Games' 50th anniversary and acknowledging Canada's 150th anniversary, the Canada Games are this country's largest multisport event for young athletes.

This year's torch relay started on June 23 in Steinbach, and continued through Kenora, Morden, Gillam-Fox Lake Cree Nation, Thompson, The Pas-Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Dauphin, Gimli, Sagkeeng-Great Falls and Brandon.

The Canada Summer Games Torch Relay is designed to carry the excitement of the Games to different locations around Manitoba as well as Kenora in Ontario. Kenora was included because it is the site for the rowing event, which is part of the Canada Summer Games. The torch followed a unique journey starting with the official lighting ceremony in Ottawa on June 6, 2017 and then traveled to ten communities. In Kenora, the Canada Summer Games Torch Relay made its way along Lakeview Drive from the Lake of the Woods Discovery Centre to the Whitecap Pavillion.



▲ Katelyne Stenlund carrying the torch during the Canada Summer Games Torch Relay near Kenora.

The Canada Games Torch was renamed the Roly McLenahan Torch in 1985, in honour of the late Roly McLenahan, who was an original member of the Canada Games Council and who demonstrated a life-long commitment to youth and their participation in sport.

Communities across Manitoba and Kenora had the opportunity to nominate individuals to carry the torch when it reached their communities and in Kenora, Katelyne Stenlund was one of the nominees.

A big part of her nomination was due to Katelyne's involvement in her Métis culture. Katelyne is a proud Métis youth and has participated in many regional community engagements by opening meetings with welcoming remarks, assisting with fundraising, attending elder and senator visits and also playing her fiddle at local events. Katelyne puts forth her best effort and dedication



*Katelyne is an active youth member of the Kenora Métis Council and Métis Community. She has a strong sense of identity and has assisted younger youth in learning the Métis Culture by demonstrating jigging, talking about the Métis sash and Métis way of life to many young children at local schools."*

– Karen Cederwall, MNO  
Kenora Métis Council Senator

to each sport she participates and is a team player. She encourages and offers praise to those around her.

Among the other factors that made Katelyne an excellent nominee for being a torch runner is her outstanding involvement in sports including hockey, soccer, volleyball, basketball, track and field and cross-country running. She plays for two Kenora hockey teams as well as one from Winnipeg. All three of these teams fared very well this year with one team winning three of three tournaments; another placing ninth in the Ontario Women's Hockey Association Provincial Championship and another winning the city championship for 2017. More importantly, Katelyne has been repeatedly acknowledged by her teammates and coaches for her good sportsmanship. She was selected Miss Congeniality or recognized as the best sportsman on her

teams in the last three seasons.

That much hockey would be enough sports for most people but Katelyne is also an avid volleyball player, enthusiastic cross country runner and she also enjoys basketball and soccer. She has been part of provincial volleyball championships, has ran in the top five runners in several cross country meets and received the most sportsman-like award from her basketball team. Katelyne's soccer team participated in the Winnipeg Slurpee Cup in June 2017 and placed first with Katelyne scoring the winning goal.

Among those who nominated Katelyne was MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case who wrote: "Katelyne shows her commitment to her community through her participation in Michif classes, through learning and teaching traditional Métis dancing. Katelyne is truly an inspiration to all young people, but particularly to Métis youth for her commitment to both sports and to her culture and community. For these reasons and many more, I am happy to support her application."

MNO Kenora Métis Council (KMC) Senator Karen Cederwall also nominated Katelyne. She wrote: "Katelyne is an active youth member of the Kenora Métis Council and Métis Community. She has a strong sense of identity and has assisted younger youth in learning the Métis Culture by demonstrating jigging, talking about the Métis sash and Métis way of life to many young children at local schools."

Another nomination came from St.Thomas Aquinas High School Principal Michelle Sawa, who said: "Please accept this letter as an indication of my support of Katelyne to be a torch bearer in the 2017 Summer Games.

Katelyne's Métis pride and community spirit made her an excellent representative of Kenora and of the Métis Nation of Ontario. ∞

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) North Bay Métis Council  
invites you to our annual...

## Métis Family Winterfest

**2-7 pm, Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Callander Community Centre - 1984 Swale Street - Callander

Traditional Christmas style dinner provided along with horse drawn rides, cultural games and workshops, roasting on open fire, live entertainment and more.

Please RSVP by December 11

For more information and to RSVP please contact:

**MNO North Bay Métis Council President Marc Laurin**  
at [m.laurin@hotmail.com](mailto:m.laurin@hotmail.com) or **705-493-0196** (cell).

Please indicate how many children and their ages with your RSVP in order that we may have sufficient gifts for all.

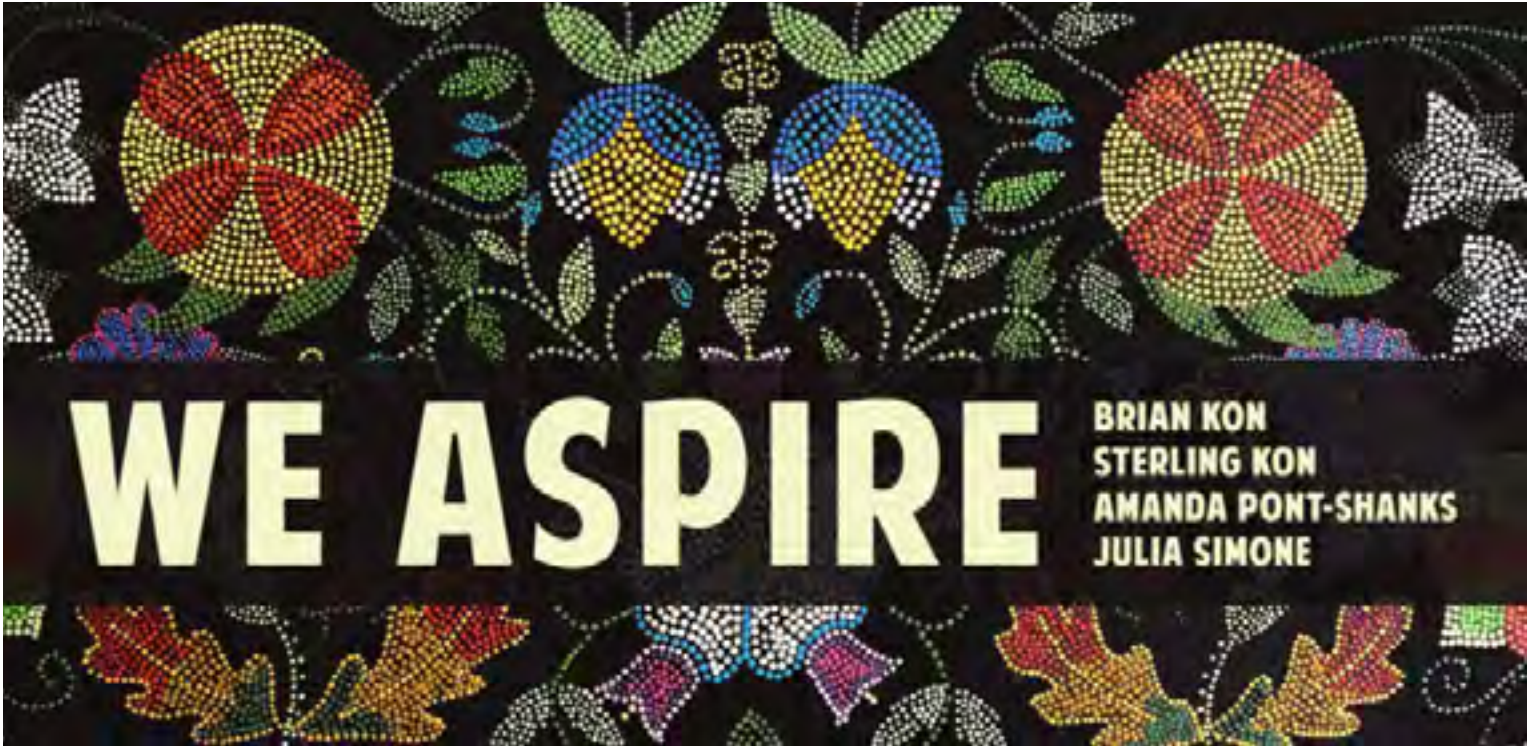
# We Aspire: an exhibit of work by Métis artists in Niagara

submitted by  
**Derrick Pont**  
MNO Niagara Region President  
with files from [nac.org](http://nac.org)

Four Métis artists including three Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizens had their work exhibited at the Niagara Artists Centre in Niagara from September 9 to 22 this year. The Exhibit entitled *We Aspire* honoured the tradition of Métis dot art and bead work; the custom of bead patterning was traditionally used by the Métis to adorn their clothing.

“The Métis were known as the ‘flower bead people;’ my art is intended to honour the skills and artistry of my ancestors by using traditional and historic bead patterns as the inspiration for my work,” stated Brian Kon, MNO citizen and one of the artists featured in the exhibit. Brian has a passion for preserving the culture and history of Métis people by creating modern versions of historic bead patterns traditionally used by Métis.

Sterling Kon is another MNO citizen and artist whose work was featured in *We Aspire*. Sterling is a proud Métis artist and entrepreneur who grew up in the Niagara region. In 2017, his work was displayed internationally at festivals in Canada and as far away as



▲ Promotional artwork from the Niagara Artists Centre advertising *We Aspire*.

Ethiopia. Sterling finds inspiration from both the traditions of the Métis and modern works.

*We Aspire* also featured the work of Amanda Pont-Shanks, an MNO citizen and graduate of Niagara College in Art and Design. Her art is inspired by Métis traditions and memories of her great-grandfather's garden in Beamsville. She works in several mediums including painting, beadwork, drawing and paper art.

Julia Simone was the fourth artist featured in *We Aspire*. She is an emerging artist from École Notre Dame de la Jeunesse in Niagara Falls and is currently the Artist-in-Residence for a not-for-profit organization called Seedling for Change. She collaborated on a logo design, featured in the show, for one of their current projects, *Share Peace, Discover Niagara River*.

*We Aspire* opened in conjunction with *Where the Weather*

*Happens: An Exhibit of Contemporary Métis Art*, which also featured Métis artists including MNO citizen Jason Baerg. Jason's work along with that of Jaime Koebel and Sheri Nault activate the land and sky, and all that is within, through their intimate and delicate expression of deep connection to this space of energetic flux. *Where The Weather Happens* is an expression of the relationship and interactions between the land and sky as beings

who live within this space.

*We Aspire* is presented by the Niagara Artists Centre with support from the MNO Niagara Region Métis Council and in partnership with Celebration of Nations and the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre. ∞

## MNO citizen pursues career in teaching

submitted by  
**Jo-Ann Parent**  
MNO Regional Employment and Training Coordinator

Recently, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Tina Buttineau completed her Bachelor of Education at Nipissing University and Bachelor of Arts at Western University.

Tina has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she could remember because her dream is to make a positive difference in the lives of others. This once seemed like an impossible journey because of the cost of post-secondary education and the fact that there are no universities within a 200 kilometre radius of her home.

Tina sought assistance from the MNO to turn her lifelong dream of teaching into reality and the MNO was able to provide financial support.

Throughout her studies she learned various teaching and classroom management strategies, educational pedagogy as well as how to teach a wide variety of subjects effectively. Tina gained a deeper understanding of the curriculum documents and the assessment and evaluation practices. Tina has also learned the importance of making learning meaningful, relevant and accessible to all learners. “There is no better feeling after a long day of teaching than realizing that today was the day you were able to help make a positive difference in the lives of one of



▲ Tina Buttineau.

your students. I think teaching is the most rewarding job there is,” said Tina.

“I would not have been able to pursue my dream of being a teacher without the help and support of the MNO. Thank you for helping make my dreams a reality,” said Tina.

Through hard work, perseverance, and the help and support of the MNO she can now say that she is officially a teacher. Tina is currently employed with the Bluewater District School Board as a French teacher and is also working at Nipissing University as a Teaching Assistant.

Tina hopes to teach French Immersion in the near future and is also considering continuing her studies by pursuing a Masters degree in Education. ∞

## MNO citizen continues leadership in security field

submitted by  
**Gran Lecky**, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada Administration, Security and Accommodation  
with files from [ifsecglobal.com](http://ifsecglobal.com)

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Bonnie Butlin continues to be recognized for excellence in the field of International Security Leadership. On June 22, 2017, Bonnie was ranked #1 in her category of Security management, education and thought leadership international for the Top 50 influencers in security and fire 2017. This recognition adds to Bonnie's already impressive achievements across Canada and the globe.

Butlin is the co-founder and executive director of the Security Partners' Forum (SPF), a platform for professionals in the security resilience, public safety, defence, intelligence and law enforcement domains across Canada and internationally.

In 2016, Butlin helped launch the Canadian Cybersecurity Alliance (CCA), a network of more than 100 professional associations with a vested interest or affected by cybersecurity and confirmed to be the first of its kind globally, providing unparalleled understanding of the cyber landscape in Canada and internationally. Also in 2016, Bonnie was on the development team that helped launch the International Council of Security and Resilience Educators (ICSRE), which seeks to enhance the global body of



▲ MNO Citizen Bonnie Butlin.

knowledge in security and resilience through the creation of a sharing platform for educators from the community college through PhD levels. The development team is comprised of the top-tier educators in security and resilience body of knowledge development from around the world.

Named ‘Canada's First Lady of Security’, Butlin is a champion of women and is the International Coordinator of the Women in Security and Resilience Alliance (WISECRA), a global organization.

Butlin is a thought leader too, penning articles for security and defence publications not just in Canada but also in the UK, US and Australia. She continues to be an impressive leader in all aspects of security. ∞

# EDITORIALS

All opinions represent the views of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the positions and policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario.



▲ Youth forum participants take part in a KAIROS blanket exercise, simulating the loss of land, isolation and trauma experienced by Canada's Indigenous peoples over the course of colonization.

## Reconciliation starts with dialogue – youth forum indigenizes the Senate

By **Emily Gjos**

Submitted by  
MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council  
President **Benny Michaud**

As we mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, Canadians are celebrating the history and achievements of this young country. But for many Indigenous people in Canada, there is little to celebrate. It's in moments of reflection like these that we have the chance to chart a brighter path forward—but it's going to take dialogue, fresh ideas and a hint of youthful energy.

To some, 150 years might seem like a long time, but Indigenous peoples have been leaving footprints on this land we call Canada for much longer than that. Indigenous peoples grow up learning that their ancestors lived on this land for time immemorial — since the Great Turtle offered his back to the woman that fell through the hole in the sky. As a young person from the Métis community, that was how I was raised.

Non-Indigenous Canadians are not taught this in detail. Nor were they taught the rest of our shared history in my grade-school and secondary-school classrooms. As a result, I was not formally taught about the residential schools, the “Sixties Scoop,” or how these traumas will affect our people for seven generations until I was in my second year of university.

Parliament, and the chambers that dwell within it, are places that have embodied colonial rule over Indigenous peoples—a rule which designed, created and carried out many of the roots of these traumas. But these structures don't have to be symbolic of the suffering of Indigenous peoples anymore.

On June 7, the Senate of Canada hosted a two-part event (called Youth Indigenize the Senate) proving this exactly—that charting a new relationship between Canada and its First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples starts with retaking the political space. I was fortunate enough to have participated in one part of this event, which was a forum co-hosted

by local, not-for-profit Youth Ottawa where more than 50 Indigenous and non-Indigenous youths from the Ottawa area had the chance to engage collectively in reconciliation-themed workshops.

By inviting Indigenous youth into Parliament, the Senate showed how eager it is to open the doors to our youth to participate in the public life of this country. For one day, we filled the Senate foyer with Indigenous ceremonies and the Senate seats with Indigenous youth. By “indigenizing” the Senate on June 7, I hope we showed what Parliament in a reconciled Canada might look like. It was a powerful sight to behold.

But one day isn't enough. We're ready to make use of what we learned that day and to start building that future.

Youth forum participants have put together a report in the Senate style, outlining our findings and compiling our recommendations, to paint the clearest of pictures of how youth see the path forward. We presented this report to the Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples on June 20, 2017.

The recommendations include concrete steps that the Senate can take, including advocating for a curriculum for school boards that will help future generations understand how the lived realities of Indigenous peoples in Canada have come to pass.

We also looked at ways to meaningfully engage First Nations, Métis and Inuit in government, business, education and media.

We are committed to seeing this change through by bringing with us the determination and energy that can only come from youth.

Canada 150 cannot just be about celebrating the past—it must have at its core honest introspection. Only then can Canadians find in themselves the will to do better going forward.

The stepping stones are in place: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, the memorandums of understanding between the federal government and Indigenous governments, Canada's commitment to the United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's mandate letters to ministers reaffirming that nation-to-nation relationships between Canada and Indigenous peoples are of paramount importance.

Together, we can make the next 150 years a source of pride for all Canadians. ∞

## A Statement from the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council regarding Canada 150

Submitted by  
**Mitch Case**, MNO Youth Council President

Throughout this year, and particularly in the coming weeks, Canadians everywhere will be celebrating Canada 150; the anniversary of the formation of the independent Canadian state. We recognize that for non-Indigenous people living in what is now known as Canada, there is much to celebrate. However, we call on Canadians to recognize and understand that for us, there is much less to celebrate.

We do not take the position that Canadians should not celebrate their history, we do however call on Canadians to understand that for many Metis youth, and other Indigenous people, it is difficult to celebrate Canada and its history. For us, it is much more appropriate to celebrate that we have survived the past 150 years, as opposed to celebrating the events of this past century and a half.

The building of the Canadian state was largely at the expense of Indigenous people and was largely for the benefit of others. As Canada expanded across the Métis Homeland, Métis people were forced to flee their homes and communities to avoid the violence, intimidation and racism that came along with it.

In Ontario, our people have built, over centuries, strong and vibrant communities. Our historic, rights-bearing communities wrap around Lake Huron and along the shores of the rivers that our ancestors used as highways. These traditional highways sit upon the shores of Lake Superior and extend through the forests of North-Western Ontario, connected through kinship and story to our Métis relatives on the prairies.

In our historic communities, the land speculation, illegal sales, intimidation and use of physical force drove us out of our villages; forcing us to hide our heads, to remain silent and to hide our identity. The result was a decimation of our culture and way of life.

Outside of our historic communities, Metis people have founded and maintained contemporary communities in Ontario's urban centers; bound together by our common history, culture, way of life, and a common desire to build a future for our people in spite of our traumatic history with the colonial state.

Our historic experiences with Canada have largely been negative; dispossession from land, loss



▲ Paintings from the series “I forgot who I was, but now I remember” by Métis artist and Region One MNO Youth Council Representative Kelly Duquette. The series speaks to the history of Métis people having to hide their identity and the modern reemergence of Métis pride and reclamation of culture.

of resources, residential and day schools and cultural genocide. Today we suffer the traumatic effects of these historical injustices while simultaneously combating today's current injustices that seem to continue. These injustices include, but are not limited to, the crisis of the missing and murdered Indigenous women, lack of equitable funding, deforestation, a total lack of a land base in Ontario, pollution, environmental degradation on our traditional territories and more often than not, a

complete ignorance of our history and rights as a Nation.

Today, many Métis youth still struggle daily with the effects of colonialism and Canada's 150. Métis youth struggle with inter-generational trauma and trying to reclaim their identity.

The Métis as a people and a Nation are much older than Canada and it is perverse to think that we should be expected to celebrate 150 years of Canada's history while we continue to struggle daily with the effects of our experiences with Canada.

Furthermore, we also find it particularly troubling that Canada has set aside half a billion dollars to celebrate Canada 150 while our communities remain chronically underfunded with lack of access to health care, education services, culturally relevant programming, and again, without any land. From our perspective it is as if Canada is a tenant who is 150+ years late in rent payments, while watching those same tenants spend money on new lawn ornaments.

We recognize that there are Métis citizens and Métis youth who will feel comfortable celebrating Canada 150 and we encourage those who do, to celebrate in whatever way they feel comfortable. We ask though, that our own citizens who do choose to celebrate, be understanding and respectful of those who do not feel they can participate.

In addition, we ask that those who celebrate Canada 150 take some time to research Ontario Métis history and Métis history in general. Take time to research Indigenous history in relation to the Canadian state, and approach this research with an open mind and understand that for us, the past 150 years have been traumatic.

We recognize that there are positive steps being taken to build new relationships between the Métis Nation and Canada as well as between Métis citizens and Canadians. We believe that a better future is possible and that it is something we can all work towards. However, we also believe that this future must be built on a true Nation to Nation relationship, where Métis people, history and rights are respected and valued. We look forward to the return of our lands and full recognition of our right to self-government and self-determination. ∞

The Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Youth Council is the official voice of Ontario Métis Youth. The MNO Youth Council works collectively, to advocate for the interests and concerns of Ontario Métis youth at the local, regional, national and international levels. The MNO Youth Council consists of nine regional representatives and a President that are elected in province wide, ballot box elections every four years. For additional information, contact MNO Youth Council President Mitch Case at [mitch.case@hotmail.com](mailto:mitch.case@hotmail.com)

## EDITORIALS

All opinions represent the views of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the positions and policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

Last month [the previous issue of the *Métis Voyageur*] I submitted a short story of what it was like for our ancestors, our families and us to be Métis. I used the analogy that everyone's life is a book. Actually, some could be best sellers, but mine, unfortunately would be just a book.

Being Métis is just a small part of our lives. It is to our advantage to be blessed with a mixed culture, and we can live it to its fullest or we can just go through the motions. I prefer to live it large. There is an interesting mix in our blood, whether it is French, German, Dutch Scotch, English, Danish or a mixture of many First Nations and Caucasian people to make us what we are. Some, sadly, never get to investigate their "Indian" side, so they celebrate the euro blood, which is wonderful in its own right. When I think that we have our own culture and language and are recognized by the government as Indigenous, it warms my heart knowing we are special.

I don't exactly know how the Aboriginal blood that is flowing through our veins can have such an impact on the way we think of ourselves.

When we were children, we played cowboys and "Indians," as most kids did. I always wanted to be the "Indian" and of course I got tied to a tree and shot a thousand times. I was always Tonto, my pals always argued over who would be the Lone Ranger. I thought on this for a while and came to the conclusion it wasn't such a good idea being the "Indian" all the time, so I became a cowboy. There was just one small problem, no one wanted to be the "Indian", [and] so we drew straws. As I look back now, there was a parallel then as there is now.

I recall another incident when we were kids. Because we were country boys, we knew how to make slingshots, slings, and bows and arrows out of hickory. None of it was very fancy, but they did work. We mooched some old broken down arrows from a neighbor that was into archery. He gave us seven arrows, but only two were any good. They had all their feathers and were straight. The bow I made was fairly strong for its size [so] you could shoot one of those good arrows up into the sky and they would go quite high. You had to keep your eye on it so you wouldn't lose track of it before it turned to come down. That's the time you started to take cover under a tree or the overhang of the house.

One time my dad bought me my first pair of rubber boots. The neighbor kids who came from a family of nine and were as poor as church mice, was at our house. He thought we were rich because we had clothes that just about fit and didn't have to drink out of cups that were converted from peanut butter jars like they did. The boy had to try on my new boots, and to look at him with his pants legs tucked in you'd have thought he had just won the lottery. Well, it was his turn to shoot the arrow up into the



Seven year old Senator Jim Turner

sky. He let it fly and we all strained our eyes to keep track of it. Then, all of a sudden we lost track of it in the sun. Time to run! We were in a rather large yard, and no safe place to hide, so the boy with my boots threw down the bow and started to run in circles. There's an old adage called Murphy's Law. If something can go wrong, it will. The arrow came down, and as he was running it hit him in the foot, and went right into the heel of my brand new boots. Miraculously, it didn't hit him in the foot too hard, but put a nice round hole in the boot. I guess there is a lesson to be learned from this as well. Always help your friends and neighbors, even if it means getting a hole in your new boots.

Growing up in the country was real freedom. You could fish, catch tadpoles and bullfrogs with a piece of red cloth on a string, bring home snakes in our shirts and let them go in the kitchen and watch my mother scream and run. Baby squirrels and raccoons were a novelty. Painted turtles were fun to have. We drilled a small hole in the overhang of the shell above the tail and put 100 yards of fishing string on it. We kept them for a few days like that before letting them go. There was one, a real friendly turtle, which I snuck into my bedroom. He had the run of the room, but in the morning that turtle was nowhere to be found. It never did turn up.

There were no cell phones, televisions, computers or anything like

## A Personal Statement

By Senator Jim Turner  
MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council

that in those days, [so] you had to make your own fun outdoors, We didn't know it at the time, but this is as close to the life that a Métis kid should be blessed to live. We were outside all the time and at peace with the animals and nature. There was always that connection.

I must admit that when we went to school, the teacher always said I was a dreamer. I stared out the window all the time, and didn't do as well as I should have on my studies. I always thought I should be outside not cooped up in that classroom, I believe there is a powerful gene in our bloodstream from our First Nations grandmothers that is overpowering at times.

We didn't have a lot of money, but my parents made do. We had a small, but cozy house, near the water, with plenty of marsh around the area. Of course it's all developed now, but back then, no one wanted this low land and swamp. This was about the time I started pressuring my mother for information about our First Nation relatives. As with last month's story, that didn't bode well and so we went along through our daily lives living and thinking

like "Indians," but not knowing why. We just did what came natural to us.

It was a real good experience not to have the best back then, because we appreciated things more as we matured. Now my wife gets mad at me when I go out and buy things because it has to be the best. We always believed that if you

owned something and you took good care of it, it would last forever, and generally it did. Today, unfortunately it's a throwaway society!

I don't harvest or hunt anymore. I somehow saw that all living creatures have feelings, and now my granddaughter uses the shotguns for trap and skeet.

My neighbor across the street has a large pond. They have the usual things like bullfrogs, small ducks and a lot of gold fish. There is one in particular that always wants his belly and head rubbed. He's a large coy, about sixteen inches long. He loves to be petted and rubbed. If you stick your hand in the water it swims over, nuzzles your hand with its head and then moves up and kind of rolls to the side and wants his belly rubbed. I suggested to them that I couldn't go fishing again as I am sure they have feelings and need love. Well, I like to fish so I will have to set those feelings aside for a while.

We have a lot of large Fox snakes in our area and they live all along the shoreline. Some of them are about four or five feet long. Instinctively as their defense, they

try to act like a rattlesnake when you approach them. They coil up, rattle their tail and strike at you. My wonderful wife hates snakes, so she insists that when we see one on the property, I have to catch it, put it in a large pail, and cart it off to the marsh to let it go. Well, this one time a few years ago, there was one of the most colorful fox snakes I have ever seen. It was basking in the sun on the dock. It was a big one, close to six feet long. I walked up to it slowly and knelt down quietly. In a few minutes it got curious and crawled over to me and stretched out by my knees. I waited a few minutes and then slid my hand under its belly and picked it up. I have never seen a wild reptile this friendly and unafraid.

The lady across the street was terrified of snakes, so I wanted to show her that they all aren't going to do us harm. After a lot of coaxing, she agreed to touch it, and after that she held it and it cuddled up on her arm and around her neck. Unfortunately, that was the extent of her bravado, and she asked me to take it. I was just about to let it go when I noticed my other neighbor was sitting on a low stool polishing his Harley Davidson in his driveway. I knew he didn't like snakes, and was afraid of them.

I decided to let the snake go beside our house so it could go back down to the water, but instead it turned and headed right through the chain link fence toward him. He was facing away from me and didn't see the snake crawling toward him. It was too late for me to grab it as it was already through the fence and on his side. As luck would have it, I think the snake wanted to make friends with him to as it crawled right over his foot and laid there between him and his bike. He was startled, and jumped up to get away from it. I had to explain that there was nothing to worry about but he didn't seem to be receptive to this explanation. I apologized, grabbed the snake, put it around my neck and took it back to the dock, where it immediately jumped in the water, and swam away, never to be seen again.

Since then there have been a lot of snakes around the property, but there has never been a snake as friendly as that one. That fox snake was one of a kind, like the coy fish in the pond across the street.

Why am I telling you all this? I believe that the Creator gave us all the ability to connect with Mother Earth, nature and all she has to give us. We must learn to listen to nature, don't question it, and it will become more important and sacred to our inner self.

As we age, we lose some of the ability to see what was given to us. We take things for granted. We have to remember our connection to Mother Earth, as she supplies everything we will ever need in life.

To quote a First Nations elder, he says about children and adults alike: *Listen to the wind, we hear it talk. Listen to the silence, we hear it speak. Listen to your heart, it knows!*

Anecdotes and stories are what spark the imagination. My hope is that mine aren't too boring, and you can get a laugh or two from them. May the creator show us the way. ∞

# FAMILY & MILESTONES

## Birth Announcement

eva katherine lynn BLANCHETTE

Steven and Katie Blanchette are happy to announce the safe arrival of Eva Katherine Lynn. She was born on July 6, 2017, weighing 6.12 pounds and 19.7 inches long. Eva is going to make another beautiful addition to our Métis family. Steve is a MNO citizen and Harvester in Region 4. ∞

Submitted by: Roly Blanchette



## Obituary



**Winnifred Maude  
Tyrer (Louttit)**

April 19, 1922 –  
September 18, 2017

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Winifred Maude Tyrer passed away on September 18, 2017. Maude was a sixth generation Métis whose ancestry can be traced back to the Historic Abitibi Inland Métis community. Her ancestry on her father's side can be traced back to Eeyou Istchee/Scottish fur traders and on her mother's side to Mushkegowuk/English/Scottish fur traders.

Maude was born on April 19, 1922 in Eastmain Quebec. She was the fourth child to Alexander and Marion Louttit. Her older brothers were Reg and Jim Louttit and her older sister was Iris Rose – her sister died at the early age of five and is buried in Eastmain. She is survived by her younger sister Stella Hand of Alberta as well as eight nephews and seven nieces.

Maude grew up in Eastmain until the age of nine when her family moved to Cochrane where her father worked on completing the railway to Moosonee. The family moved to Moosonee in 1933.

Maude attended the first school in Moosonee in a boxcar; she recalled that

in the cold mornings their ink would be frozen and they would have to make a fire in the woodstove.

She enjoyed her youth and had many close friends; she and her friend Mabel trapped muskrats and enjoyed fishing and many other activities. She loved to stepdance.

She met her husband, Tom Tyrer, when she was a young girl on Charleton Island and they became friends. They maintained their friendship throughout their years; they married on April 22, 1944 in Elmvale, Ontario - just 25 days before he left for service in World War II.

Upon Tom's return from the war they lived in various places including Barrie and Hearst but eventually settled in Moosonee. They had four children Lorne, Kathy, Carol Anne and Robert who provided them with 14 grandchildren 24 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

Maude was a long-term employee of Hudson's Bay Company/Northern Stores. She worked for them for 31 years and retired on two separate occasions.

She loved sports and enjoyed playing baseball and bowling; she especially

loved curling and attended many of Briers.

She was very active in the community and served on various boards. She was a founding board member of Payukotayno and Sagashtao Healing Lodge and served 28 consecutive years as a councillor/board member for the Town of Moosonee. She was a member of the Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association for 13 years and served 10 years with the Moosonee Friendship Centre, 11 years with Keewaytinook Legal Services, six years with Living Skills and five years with Timmins Housing and Moosonee Non-Profit Housing. She also helped out in the Anglican Church and with running the Tea Room.

Maude always had a positive attitude and was always willing to help; we never heard her complain. She loved life and had a wonderful sense of humour. She always took the time to stop and talk to people, no matter who it was.

Most important to her was her family and she treasured spending time with them. ∞

- Submitted by Lorne Tyrer

## Sailor's Compass

by Anne Huguenin

Port to starboard  
Your heart was meant to sail  
Drifting from this quiet harbour  
And through life's roughest gales

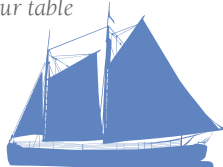
A skilful sailor, as the day is long  
A smiling face from the very start  
For the land you set your feet upon  
Has left an imprint in our heart

Guided by the stars, the moon  
The winds have carried you  
To a peaceful place beyond  
Above the skies so blue

A true Captain of the seas  
One we are all so glad we knew  
We'll sing you those old sea shanties  
From your friends, the DH crew

A skillful sailor, as the day is long  
A smiling face from the very start  
The land you set your feet upon  
Has left an imprint in our heart

Andrew, you will be missed around our table



## Mighty Stance

by Anne Huguenin

We stand our ground  
Roots dug deep  
Others stand around  
Some just weep  
Come Fall our tops change to bright  
Like waving flames without a sound  
Against the shortened blue sky light  
We fall gently to the ground  
Fear not the green of Spring  
When all comes alive again  
And the birds do sing  
Perch upon us our good friends  
We bend and reach towards the sun  
Seeking Summer's warmth to help us grow  
Each and every one  
Not forgetting Winter winds that blow  
Stand your ground  
Roots dug deep  
Leaps and bounds  
Sky's tears we keep  
Feed our spirit  
Feed our soul  
Shade come near it  
Our mighty bole  
Mother Earth, born to the land  
From her bosom free  
Father Sky above, from where we stand  
Once tiny seedling to wise old tree



## Breaking Through

by Robert J McDonald

Getting to know my dad wasn't all that easy,  
It was like hitting a brick wall.  
Made my stomach queasy,  
Ya, he worked hard to put a roof over our heads  
and food on the table,  
But drawing his attention became  
nothing but a fable,  
It's hard to explain. Difficult to tell,  
You see, he grew up a victim of  
residential day school hell,  
He refused to talk about it but in his eyes I could see,  
There were many hidden secrets he wanted to let be,  
Still, he lost his language,  
he said he spoke Michif my son,  
Forced to give it up for English  
or suffer another lash from the nun,  
To be clear, he rarely spoke, yet his silence was loud,  
He never told me he loved me or said he was proud,  
He seldom showed emotion, he never offered a hug,  
It made me feel sad. It gave my heart a tug,  
Even as he lay dying in his hospital bed,  
I thought he'd finally speak,  
Or at least turn the other cheek,  
However, it wasn't meant to be,  
Because you see,  
There was no one by his side. He passed away alone,  
I heard it through Facebook and a call on the phone,  
And while questions remain unanswered,  
it finally dawned,  
For now I understand that all the pain is gone.



CELEBRATE WITH THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO

# AGA 2017



THE 24<sup>TH</sup> MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – AUGUST 19-21, KENORA, ONTARIO

## We Are Thriving

Métis culture, growth and progress on self-government celebrated at MNO Annual General Assembly see pages 2-5



### Governance & Leadership

pages 7-13



### AGA Resolutions

pages 14-15



### Volunteer of the Year Award

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### Métis Culture



• AGA 2017 Overview •



Métis fiddler Alicia Blore leads the procession of MNO leaders and other dignitaries following the landing of traditional Voyageur canoes.

Photo by Vanessa Galpin

# We Are Thriving

The 24<sup>th</sup> Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly (AGA) was one of the most successful to date, attracting over 400 MNO citizens and guests to events throughout Kenora and area.

As is tradition, events started the evening of Friday, August 18, when an excited crowd met Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Acting President France Picotte and other MNO leaders as they landed in three voyageur canoes at Anicinabe Park in Kenora. Acting President Picotte was joined by a number of dignitaries and supporters of the MNO including federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett, provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer and Kenora Member of Parliament Robert Nault.

Following the canoe landings, the MNO leaders and dignitaries led a procession to a nearby stage where welcoming remarks were made to the enthusiastic crowd. “The AGA is Métis self-government in action,” commented Acting President Picotte, “decisions made at the AGA make a difference in the lives of Métis across the province for generations to come.”

Kenora is one of the MNO communities in Region 1, which is represented by Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund. “We are very pleased to welcome MNO citizens from across the province to beautiful Kenora,” commented Councilor Stenlund,



***The AGA is Métis self-government in action. Decisions made at the AGA the province for generations to come.”***

MNO Acting President  
**FRANCE PICOTTE**

“and are looking forward to a productive and exciting AGA.”

Shortly after the arrival of the dignitaries another canoe arrived; this time containing the members of the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition. Kenora was the final stop in their 2200 kilometre trek across Ontario that started in Ottawa on May 23. “It was a tremendous effort for our young voyageurs,” stated Acting President Picotte, “they paddled and portaged the historic fur trade routes of their

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The first traditional voyageur canoe prepares to dock after arriving at Anicinabe Park.



The second traditional voyageur canoe salutes the cheering crowd at it arrives at Anicinabe Park.



The third traditional voyageur canoe paddles its way towards the docks at Anicinabe Park.

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▲ Crowds of well-wishers greet the MNO Canoe Expedition members after they land at Anicinabe Park near Kenora.



(Left to right) Member of Parliament Robert Nault, MNO Acting President France Picotte, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Acting MNO Chair Sharon Cadeau and PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund.



MNO veterans stand at attention during the opening ceremony on Saturday, August 19.

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Métis ancestors and made stops in communities all along the way to talk about and teach Métis culture and heritage.” The MNO Canoe Expedition members were part of a group of over 50 Métis youth who participated in the AGA. (For more information on the Canoe Expedition see our Special Section)

Following the landing of the Canoe Expedition MNO Acting Chair Sharon Cadeau gave the assembled crowd a chance to ask questions to the young voyageurs in an impromptu question and answer period. This was followed by great Métis entertainment from Sierra Noble and the Winnipeg Infinity Métis Jiggers with musical accompaniment by Clint Dutiaume.

The official AGA got underway early Saturday morning, August 19, with a procession led by a MNO Veterans’ Council colour party followed by MNO Senators and women. Acting MNO Chair Sharon Cadeau called the meeting to order and kept the meeting ahead of schedule with aplomb and diplomacy. Acting MNO Vice-Chair, Executive Senator Joseph Poitras aided Acting Chair Cadeau throughout the AGA and provided important updates, information and clarifications on procedures.

The Opening Ceremonies then proceeded with greetings for special guests and MNO leaders. Minister Zimmer introduced a video

from Premier Kathleen Wynne that featured footage from when she joined the MNO Canoe Expedition for four days when they were in the Fort Frances area (see the full story in the MNO Canoe Expedition section). Premier Wynne stated: “Together [the MNO and Ontario] we are taking real steps towards reconciliation and healing. Let me commend the leadership of the MNO of their signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with the Government of Canada earlier this year. It is a historic step forward in advancing the MNO’s relationship of respect and recognition with the Crown and that is supported by everything the MNO and Ontario have accomplished together since formalizing our working relationship in 2008.” In his own remarks, Minister Zimmer, who was attending his fifth consecutive AGA, stressed how significant it was that the Premier spent four full days of her incredibly hectic schedule with the MNO Canoe Expedition. “It [her participation in the Canoe Expedition] demonstrates, and it was intended to demonstrate, and it does demonstrate her very sincere efforts, my very sincere efforts, the province’s very sincere efforts to continue to build a rock solid relationship with the Métis Nation of Ontario.”

Minister Zimmer was one of the first to be presented with one of the two special gifts given out at this year’s AGA. The one that



**Let me commend the leadership of the MNO of their signing of the Memorandum of Understanding to Advance Reconciliation with the Government of Canada earlier this year. It is a historic step forward in advancing the MNO’s relationship of respect and recognition with the Crown.”**

Ontario Premier  
**KATHLEEN WYNNE**

Minister Zimmer received was a framed picture of the MNO Canoe Expedition route with a stylized picture melding together a famous Voyageur canoe painting by Frances Hopkins and a picture of the 2017 Canoe Expedition. When receiving the print, Minister Zimmer commented on a similar one he had received in 2014 commemorating the Canoe Expedition that year. He indicated that visitors to his office, who are not exclusively Métis or Indigenous but who come from all kinds of backgrounds, are constantly commenting and asking questions about the 2014 map.

When he suggested the map was a very effective promotional tool and recommended the MNO utilize it even more, Acting Chair Cadeau was quick to ask (half-jokingly) if the MNO could count on the government for funding for that purpose.

The second gift was the framing of a print by Métis artist Kelly Duquette, who also attended the AGA in several capacities and who is well-known within the MNO for both her art and her activism. The framed print is part of a series that depict cultural activities that

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1) Métis artist Sierra Noble wows the crowd during the Welcome to the AGA with her amazing talent. 2) The Winnipeg Infinity Métis Jiggers dance up a storm during the Welcome to the AGA. 3) Minister Bennett proudly shows the Métis flag woven into the inside of her jacket. 4) The AGA was hosted by the four Region 1 MNO community councils, who were recognized during the AGA opening ceremony. (Left to right) MNO Northwest Métis Council President Ronald Robinson, MNO Sunset Country Métis Council President Clint Calder, MNO Atikokan and Area Métis Council President Marlene Davidson, MNO Kenora Métis Council President Joel Henley, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund and Acting MNO President France Picotte. 5) Provincial New Democratic Party leader Andrea Horwath spoke near the end of the AGA. (Left to right) PCMNO Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers, Acting MNO President France Picotte, Ms. Horwath, Métis artist and Region 1 MNO Youth Council Representative Kelly Paquette. 6) MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile and his daughter MNO Oshawa Durham Métis Council President Kristin Randall with Kristin's children. 7) Clint Dutiaume (right) and a fiddler with the Winnipeg Infinity Métis Jiggers provide some great jigging music. 8) A young Métis youth gets some fiddling lessons as part of youth activities.

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have united the Métis people and defined Métis identity and nationhood for centuries. The print presented at the AGA is called *Harvesting* and depicts two women gathering medicinal plants. Their silhouettes are located in the centre of the canvas, trapped between layers of paint and glazes.

Kenora Member of Parliament (MP) Nault represented the federal government during the Opening Ceremonies and spoke about how using historic Métis genealogy charts that were on display at the AGA meeting space in the Kenora Recreation Centre he had been able to identify some of his Métis ancestry including someone at the AGA who is his cousin. MP Nault took the opportunity to formally announce on behalf of the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, that the MNO will be receiving more than 2.2 million dollars through the federal Skills and Partnerships Fund. The funding will be supporting a project called MNO Skilled Employment and Energy Stream that will assist up to 72 people from across Ontario overcome barriers to employment in the energy sector. MP Nault said: "The reality is there are very real barriers to employment for many Métis and Indigenous people in our country and want to ensure that everyone who wants to work has the opportunity to do so. [I want to convey] the message that the federal government hears you and listens to what you are saying."

Following the speeches by the dignitaries, Acting President Picotte delivered the annual State of the Nation address. She explained that the number of MNO citizens continues to grow with the total now exceeding 21,000 Ontario residents. She also announced the completion of the Root Ancestors Project that will assist even more of the 84,000 self-identified Métis people in Ontario find their Métis heritage and become citizens (See page 4 in main section).

The MNO also experienced impressive program growth in the most recent fiscal year. The new Métis Family Wellbeing program has allowed the MNO to open seven new offices bringing its total number of of-

fices to 32. This new program will address intergenerational trauma, reduce violence and address the over-representation of Indigenous children and youth in the child welfare and justice systems. Acting President Picotte also reported the MNO provided education and training support to 849 clients and post-secondary education bursaries to 200 students in 42 institutions. The MNO provided healing and wellness services to over 2000 clients through over 20,000 activities and events. The MNO also grew in the area of duty to consult and accommodate. The MNO processed over 5000 proponent and government notices, engaged over 100 industry proponents and managed over 80 agreements including five Impact and Benefit Agreements. "As you can see," said Acting President Picotte, "we are thriving and there are more activities than ever before. This progress is because of all of you [the AGA delegates] it is the accumulation of two decades of working – it is because of strong Métis leaders working together."

The area of Métis rights and self-government was a major focus of the AGA. Métis rights lawyer Jason Madden indicated that after many years of slow progress in this area, key wins at the Supreme Court such as *Daniels v. Canada* and the cooperation of both the federal and provincial government, is now generating real momentum behind Métis rights and self-government. In his presentation, Madden spoke about the upcoming joint announcement between Ontario and the MNO about six new communities joining Sault Ste. Marie as historic communities and the significance of the announcement to Métis in Ontario (see page 5 in main section for details).

While the Canoe Expedition members were definitely the heroes of the AGA, it was also apparent that it was not necessary to paddle across the province to show pride in Métis culture. A large number wore clothing decorated with colourful flower beadwork. The flower beadwork tradition is historically a key element of Métis culture and has seen a strong revival in the last several years; in

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particular among Métis youth. Métis young people such as PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case have become skilled in creating beadwork that has been used to decorate many different kinds of clothing. Just before the AGA, over 60 young people had travelled to Kenora to participate in the MNO's first youth conference. The pride and excitement so many young people have for their Métis heritage and culture was readily apparent throughout the AGA.

The Saturday evening of the AGA featured a delicious fish fry followed by more entertainment from the Winnipeg Infinity Métis Jiggers as well as Clint Dutiaume and his band. The highlight for most, however, was the Open Mic hosted by the charismatic James Wagar who introduced a wide number of very talented MNO citizens who enthusiastically shared some songs and dances with the excited crowd.

On the Sunday afternoon, AGA delegates were able to participate in a number of Métis cultural activities including Métis games and crafts led by the MNO Summer Cultural Students and Canoe Expedition members as well as the world-famous Métis Voyageur games. That evening, some AGA delegates enjoyed a cruise of the incredibly beautiful Lake of the Woods and others kicked up their heels at a Dinner and Dance at the top of the elegant Clarion Inn Lakeside overlooking the Lake of the Woods.

AGAs are never possible without hours of hard work from the regional community councils and the PCMNO Regional Councillor. The Region 1 Community Councils: the MNO Kenora, Sunset Country, Atikokan and Area and Northwest Métis Councils all contributed time and resources to make this AGA successful and PCMNO Region 1 Councillor Theresa Stenlund was involved in all the planning and work from the very beginning. They made sure that everyone at the AGA was well taken care of!

A special youth program was organized by Councillor Stenlund whereby Métis youth attending the AGA participated in workshops around traditional Métis cultural practices such as fiddling, jigging, fishing and finger

weaving. The program was featured in special presentation on Monday morning along with a video about Métis history in Region 1 co-produced by the MNO and Know History. Know History has also been providing individual genealogical workshops with MNO citizens throughout the AGA.

Councillor Stenlund and the Region 1 community councils are excellent examples of the kind of volunteer work that is epitomized by so many MNO citizens. At every AGA, the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award is presented to one outstanding volunteer. This year it went to Greg Garratt who is well-known across the MNO for his work as Secretary-Treasurer for the MNO Veterans' Council and Captain of the Hunt for Region 7. Greg was stunned by the award and while humbly accepting it took the time to recognize the work done by all of the MNO's many volunteers (see page B5).

As always, the last business at the AGA is the resolutions brought forward by citizens through the Resolutions Committee. To view all the resolutions passed at this AGA go to pages B14-B15. During the discussion about the resolutions, the AGA received an unexpected and unscheduled guest. Andrea Horwath, the leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) happened to be in Kenora and stopped by the AGA to observe the proceedings. She was invited to speak and gave an address outlining her support for the MNO. She said: "I want you to know that you can continue to count on New Democrats to build on your many achievements, to celebrate your rich heritage and to work together hand-in-hand to build a better future for the Métis people ... New Democrats share your vision for a better future."

By the time the AGA wrapped up on noon on Monday, the citizens were both exhausted but even more inspired to continue the work of building the Métis Nation. They can be proud of the growth and progress in all areas of the MNO's operations and look optimistically to a brighter future that they are already in the process of building. ∞



9) Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (centre) is presented with stunning Métis artwork by Acting MNO President France Picotte (left). The artwork was created by Kelly Duquette (right). 10) Provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer speaking during the AGA opening ceremonies. 11) Acting MNO Chair Sharon Cadeau kept everything running smoothly throughout all the business sessions. 12) Robert Nault, the Member of Parliament for Kenora speaking during the AGA opening ceremonies. 13) Acting MNO Vice-Chair Senator Joseph Poitras explaining AGA procedures. 14) PCMNO Region 4 Councillor Ernie Gatien was the first act during the Open Mic event on Saturday night. His rendition of Elvis classics set a high standard for the rest for the participants later in the evening. 15) MNO lawyer Jason Madden addresses the AGA. 16) There is always time for some traditional dancing at the MNO AGA. 17) James Wagar leading the fun at Anicinabe Park.

# The 2017 Suzanne Rochon Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award



▶ Acting MNO President France Picotte (left) presents MNO Veterans' Council Secretary-Treasurer and Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt (right) with the 2017 Suzanne Rochon Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award.

During the Saturday evening events of the MNO Annual General Assembly, MNO Acting President France Picotte took the stage at Anicinabe Park to indicate she would be announcing the 2017 recipient of the MNO Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. She opened the envelope with the recipient's name and decided to play a game with the audience to see how long it would take them to figure out who would receive the award. "He volunteered to serve in the Royal Canadian Navy," she started with; and "an active member of the MNO Veterans' Council" she added; by this time a few names were buzzing but when she added Captain of the Hunt for Region 7 and Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO Veterans' Council; enthusiastic applause broke out as those in attendance shouted out "Greg Garratt!"

Greg of course was one of the last people to figure it out because in his typical humble way; he couldn't believe he was the recipient.

Greg was nominated on behalf of the MNO Veterans' Council by MNO Veterans' Council Chair Brian Black who stated:

"Greg is an active volunteer in the MNO Veterans' Council, he also works on the Region 7 Consultation Committee and is the Region 7 Captain of the Hunt. Any one of these volunteer positions would be a full-time job. Greg is doing three of them. He does not complain but only shows enthusiasm and an overwhelming need to contribute.

This pattern of volunteer work is not new for Greg. He has been working this way for years and does not



**[Greg] has been working this way for years and does not ask for acknowledgement or any special consideration. His selfless dedication to his activities is reflective in the quality of his efforts in all positions."**

MNO Veterans' Council Chair  
**BRIAN BLACK**

ask for acknowledgement or any special consideration. His selfless dedication to his activities is reflective in the quality of his efforts in all positions."

Greg was visibly moved by the presentation and when asked to give a few words graciously thanked all of the MNO's many volunteers who contribute so much to the Métis Nation.

Greg Garratt joins the distinguished list of past worthy Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award who all stand as shining examples of the best in the Métis Nation of Ontario. ∞



▶ Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt's involvement in the MNO Veterans' Council, the Region 7 Consultation Committee and the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council provides an excellent example of volunteerism.



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# Governance & Leadership



## Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario

▲ Members of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) during the AGA opening ceremonies. The members of the PCMNO were a visible presence throughout the AGA, providing guidance and leadership but most importantly listening to the voices of MNO citizens.



▲ 1) (Left to right) MNO Acting Chair Sharon Cadeau, Acting President France Picotte and Acting Vice-Chair Joesph Poitras following the landing of the traditional voyageur canoes. 2) PCMNO Region 4 Councilor Ernie Gatien speaking during the AGA business sessions. 3) PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case speaks at the AGA. 4) PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund presents a gift to the President of the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. 5) (Left to right) PCMNO Region 9 Councilor Peter Rivers and PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case. 6) (Left to right) PCMNO Region 7 Councilor Pauline Richardson and Acting PCMNO Executive Senator Ray Bergie. 7) (Left to right) Member of Parliament Robert Nault receives gift from PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund.

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# Presidents of Chartered MNO Community Councils

All 29 MNO chartered Community Councils were represented at the AGA either by their President or by a designate. The Presidents met prior to the AGA to discuss areas of common interest and concern and provided leadership throughout the AGA both at formal meetings and informally at cultural and entertainment events where they are always among the most enthusiastic and involved participants. ∞

▲ **MNO Community Council Presidents and designates who attended the Presidents meeting at the 2017 MNO AGA in Kenora:** **Front (left to right)** Jennifer Parkinson (Grand River), William Gordon (Greenstone), Trent Desaulniers (Superior North Shore), Acting MNO President France Picotte, Marlene Davidson (Atikokan and Area), Yvonne Jensen (North Channel), Liliane Ethier (Temiskaming), Karen Derocher (Credit River). **Middle (left to right)** Benny Michaud (Ottawa Region), Kristin Randall (Oshawa Durham), David Hamilton (Chapleau), Doug Hall (Northern Lights), Andrew Battenham (Clear Waters), David Dusome (Georgian Bay), Scott Lloyd (High Land Waters), Tony Muscat (Moon River), Derrick Pont (Niagara Region). **Back (left to right)** Marc Laurin (North Bay), Richard Sarrazin (Sudbury), Joe Paquette (Veterans), Todd Ross (Toronto York), Peter Couture (Great Lakes), Ronald Robinson (Northwest), Nelson Montreuil (Mattawa), Jean Camirand (Thunder Bay), Joel Henley (Kenora).



▲ MNO Great Lakes Métis Council President Peter Couture participating in the Know History Genealogy Workshop.



▲ MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont and his daughter Amanda Pont-Shanks.



▲ PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council President Trent Desaulniers and Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle.



▲ MNO North Channel Métis Council President Yvonne Jensen and her husband.



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council President Jennifer Parkinson speaking during the AGA business sessions.

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# Metis Nation of Ontario Senators

Highly respected for their knowledge, values and experience, Senators have a special place at the AGA where they provide guidance during important deliberations, spiritual grounding throughout the AGA while also reminding citizens of their connections to Métis heritage. ∞

▲ **MNO Senators who attended the MNO AGA in Kenora in August 2017:**  
**Front (left to right)** Ken Two Dogs Fraser, Ray Bergie Joseph Poitrias, Verna Porter-Brunelle, Rene Gravelle, Patsy Dryden, Maryjane Bутtenham, Constance Simmonds. **Middle (left to right)** Ralph Wolf Thistle, Guy Mandeville, Karen Cederwell, Gary Laframboise, Gerry Bedford, Richard Meilluer, Joyceline Rose, Brenda Powley, Carol Levis. **Back (left to right)** Cecil Wagar, Brian Goulliquer, Larry Duval, Ken Simard, Al Roussin, Robert Lloyd, Christina Acton, Parmallia Burgie.



▲ 1) Senator Robert Lloyd shows he is still a force to be reckoned with during the traditional Métis games. 2) PCMNO Region 1 Councilor prepares to send some Senators off on a pontoon boat adventure. 3) Senator Cecil Wagar. 4) Senator Brian Goulliquer provides the AGA closing prayer. 5) Acting MNO Vice-Chair and Senator Joseph Poitras (left) with Métis artist Kelly Duquette. 6) Senator Karen Cederwell provides the AGA opening prayer during the opening ceremonies.

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Prior to the AGA, the MNO Youth Council organized the first Ontario Métis Youth Leadership Conference that was held at the Seven Generations Education Institute in Kenora. Over 60 Métis youth from across the province attended and participate in plenary and workshop sessions to build their leadership skills and talk about the future of the Métis Nation that they will be building. Speakers included Lindsay Dupré who spoke about deepening relationships with First Nations and Inuit communities; Todd Ross who spoke about media and public relations; Kai Minosh Pyle who spoke about revitalizing Michif; Jaime Koebel who used jigging

to explain the art of leadership; Dr. Chantal Fiola who addressed how to uncover “who you are;” and the MNO Veterans’ Council executive who shared their own vast leadership experience with the youth. This was also the largest youth contingent ever at the AGA. Youth participated in all elements of the AGA. Participating youth included the members of the MNO Youth Council, MNO Infinite Reach Facilitators, Youth Representatives on chartered MNO community councils, the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program members and the members of the MNO Canoe Expedition. ∞

▲ Métis youth who attended the Métis Youth Leadership Conference prior to the 2017 MNO AGA in Kenora.



MNO Youth Representative Mitch Case with his colleagues from other provinces. (Left to right) Métis Nation British Columbia Minister of Youth Cassidy Caron, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Youth Representative Jaycee Bell, Chair of the Manitoba Metis Federation Youth Council Tyler Thomas and Mitch Case.



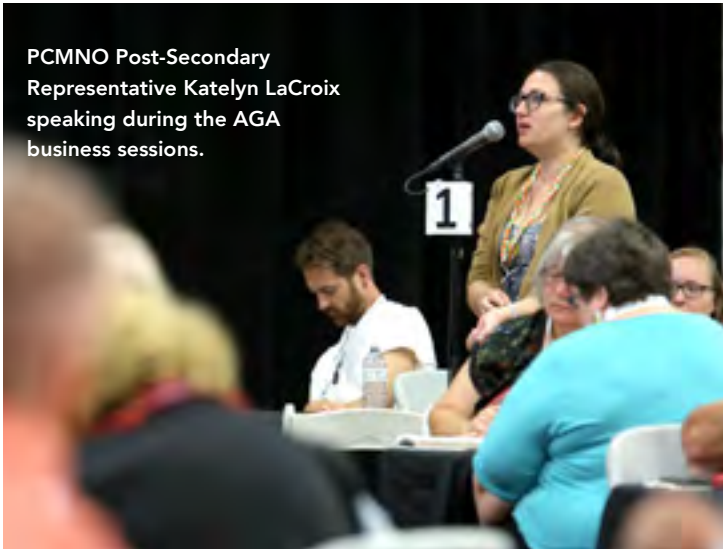
▲ Participants in the MNO Youth Council conference prior to the AGA proudly display their work after one of the conference workshops.



▲ The MNO Youth Council ran a booth throughout the trade show. Here Samantha Case helps out.



PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case speaking during the MNO Youth Council report.



PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative Katelyn LaCroix speaking during the AGA business sessions.

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## Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council

The MNO Veterans' Council is a strong presence at every AGA. They provide the colour party in the procession following the entrance of the canoes during the Welcome to the AGA event and during the Opening and Closing ceremonies. They hold their own meeting and also participate fully in the deliberations of the full AGA. ∞

▲ The MNO Veterans' Council Executive at the 2017 AGA:

(left to right) Chair Brian Black, Sgt-at-Arms Douglas Wood, President Joseph Paquette, Women's Representative Shelly Claus, Veterans' Senator Guy Mandeville C.D., Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt.



▲ The MNO Veterans' Council preparing to give their report during the AGA.



▲ The MNO Veterans' Council presented certificates of appreciation to sponsors who supported their Vimy Ridge Commemoration Project. (Left to right) Devi Shantilal and Matthew Gatién from Hydro One, Wendy Landry from Union Gas, MNO Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette and Ross Holden from the Nuclear Waste Management Organization.



▲ The Colour Party leading the procession into the hall during the AGA opening ceremony. (Left to right) MNO Veterans' Council Women's Representative Shelley Claus, Métis youth Gerald Lavalee, MNO Veterans' Council Chair Brian Black and MNO Veterans' Council Secretary-Treasurer Greg Garratt.



▲ MNO Veterans' Council President Joe Paquette shares his knowledge with Métis youth Joanna Burt.



▲ MNO Veterans' Council Senator Guy Mandeville engages with the youth.



▲ Participants in the MNO Women's Gathering prior to the 2017 Annual General Assembly.

# Métis Women: together and stronger than ever

In the days prior to the Annual General Assembly in Kenora; history was made. Thanks to funding recently received from the Status of Women Canada, the Métis Nation of Ontario Women's Council (formerly Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario) was able to bring together community council Women's Representatives, women Senators and other Métis women leaders for the first time. This funding will allow the MNO Women's Council and the Women's Representatives to meet, learn and plan together for the next three years. For this first meeting, the women undertook an intensive two-day workshop, networking and planning session and incredible momentum was gained from their energy. Over the course of these two days the women bonded, learned, shared and planned for the future of their work in the MNO.

Among the highlights of the session was a workshop from Corporal Cheryle Hayden, Métis Outreach Officer for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Corporal Hayden's approach gently challenged the women to engage with one another and to dig deep on tough topics. This workshop included an improv exercise that helped to open women up to each other right from the beginning. It was a fun activity that gave the women an opportunity to laugh together as they faced improv challenges and built trust. This was an important foundation for another workshop led by Corporal Hayden on lateral violence.

***The MNO can expect to see a lot more of the yellow-shawled women as they move forward to advance women's issues and perspective throughout the community as a whole and in their own home communities.***

Lateral violence can be described as displaced violence directed against one's peers rather than one's true adversaries. Although many disempowered and oppressed people such as women and immigrants experience this, the experience of Indigenous communities with lateral violence is the direct result of colonialism (and the systemic exclusion of the Métis), residential schools, discrimination, and racism. The women found this to be a very valuable workshop, as it included collective problem solving and real-life scenarios to work through together. The women then had an opportunity to shake it off with a fun, physical self-defense activity with Corporal Hayden. In gratitude for her generous and warm contributions to their learning, the women bestowed Corporal Hayden with a Métis woman's shawl.

With a strong foundation formed, the women dove into the business of understanding their roles, identifying their needs and creating solutions together. In a full day facilitated by MNO staff, the women tackled barriers and generated new ideas; a report is being generated to set in motion the action plan. Already, increased communication

between the Women's Representatives is in effect and the MNO can expect to see a lot more of the yellow-shawled women as they move forward to advance women's issues and perspective throughout the community as a whole and in their own home communities.

The sessions ended with traditional Métis crafting opportunities brought to the group by skilled and generous women of the MNO. Susan Jackson walked the group through the challenging task of making baby moccasins and even with her patience and prepped materials, for many, it was still a comedy of errors, which she gladly helped up fix. Each woman spoke about who their creations were for and in the end, we all had beautiful soft baby moccasins to gift. For those of who are less dexterous, Tobias Clarke led the group through a porcupine quill earring workshop while sharing the story of how the porcupine got its quills. It was a relaxing and connecting closure to a perfect two days.

The women would like to extend gratitude to all of the contributors, facilitators, financial supporters, and allies who help to make this journey possible. ∞



▲ The Women's Gathering and MNO Women's Council meetings were wonderful occasions providing many opportunities for fellowship and discussion on issues critical to Métis women.



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## Métis Nation of Ontario Captains of the Hunt

The Captains of the Hunt (COTH) play an integral role in the management of Métis rights. One COTH is assigned to each of the Traditional Harvest Territories within Ontario and is mandated to have full authority over the Métis harvest in their respective region. The COTH act as a direct line of communication between Harvesters and the MNO and MNRF. They help manage the annual harvest in concert with the province of Ontario, support the implementation of the Interim Harvesting Policy and determine the appropriate management of the harvest in their respective regions. Considering the important roles played by the COTH it is important that they attend the AGA so they can discuss pertinent issues with harvesters and citizens. ∞

▲ **MNO Captains of the Hunt at the MNO AGA in Kenora in August 2017:**  
Front row (left to right) Gerry Bedford (Region 8), Greg Garratt (Region 7), Acting Chief Captain of the Hunt France Picotte, Sandy Triskle (Region 1). Back row (left to right) Brain Tucker (Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt), Ken Simard (Region 2), Tom Thompson (Region 6), Peter Rivers (Region 9) Missing Andy Lefebvre (Region 3), Art Bennett (Region 4), Richard Sarrazin (Region 5).



▲ 1) Region 4 Captain of the Hunt Art Bennett relaxes with his friends from the Métis Voyageur Development Fund during the Sunday night dinner and dance. 2) (Left to right) Region 1 Captain of the Hunt Sandy Triskle with MNO Kenora Métis Council Secretary Nina Henley and PCMNO Region 1 Councilor Theresa Stenlund at the Sunday night dinner and dance. 3) Region 7 Captain of the Hunt Greg Garratt receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award. 4) Region 5 Captain of the Hunt Richard Sarrazin danced up a storm at the Sunday night dinner and dance.

# AGA 2017 Resolutions

Resolutions of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario  
held August 19 - 21, 2017, at the Lakeside Inn and Conference Centre, Kenora, Ontario.

Resolution No.: AGA17-06  
Title: **Financial Support for MNO Women’s, Veterans’ and Youth Councils**  
Mover: **Joseph Paquette**  
Seconder: **Mitchell Case**

**WHEREAS** the MNO Veterans’ Council (MNOVC), MNO Women’s Council (MNOWC) and MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) do incredible work for their constituents and for the entire provincial Métis community, yet currently receive no funding from the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat;  
**WHEREAS** the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC are provincial in scope and mandate; and **WHEREAS** the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC play a vital role in promoting Métis community, culture and values—including the Statement of Prime Purpose—and support many of our community members in their personal journeys as Métis people.  
**THEREFORE BE RESOLVED THAT** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hold a preliminary meeting, at the soonest possible date, with representatives from the MNOVC, MNOWC and MNOYC to review annual budgets and determine a base funding for the MNOYC, MNOWC and the MNOVC, pending the attainment of necessary funding and resources; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNO seek to secure funding and resources for both the preliminary meeting as well as the budgets and work plans developed thereat.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-06)**

Resolution No.: AGA17-07  
Title: **Canoe Expedition**  
Mover: **Alexander Young**  
Seconder: **Courtney Vaughan**

**WHEREAS** the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition has officially come to a close at the MNO Annual General Assembly in Kenora;  
**WHEREAS** the MNO Canoe Expedition has in recent years become a semi-annual tradition for Métis citizens and communities across Ontario;  
**WHEREAS** the Canoe Expedition serves as an incredible way to connect our Métis communities across Ontario, and educate both Métis and non-Métis individuals about the rich traditions, culture, and historical significance of the Métis in Ontario and Canada;  
**WHEREAS** the Canoe Expedition additionally provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Métis youth to reconnect with their culture and history, and retrace the footsteps and paddle strokes of their ancestors;  
**WHEREAS** the alignment of the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition with the celebration of Canada 150 and Ontario 150 allowed the MNO to purchase a large amount of Expedition equipment, including but not limited to: two voyageur canoes, a canoe trailer, a number of tents, outdoor stoves and cooking appliances, sleeping bags, paddles, boat safety equipment and technology, dry bags and storage equipment, and a cargo trailer for storage;  
**WHEREAS** this equipment can be better utilized by the MNO each year, in order to provide the cultural experience facilitated by the Canoe Expedition to a greater number of Métis youth; and  
**WHEREAS** each recent Canoe Expedition run

by the MNO has had issues in communicating with Community Councils, planning the logistics surrounding Community Arrivals, and communicating between the Expedition staff, Head Office, and the MNO Executive.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO:**

1. Seeks funding to run and implement a Canoe Expedition in 2020, affording Métis youth in Ontario a new opportunity to retrace the historic route of their ancestors; and
2. Pursues additional funding to implement a program similar in form, function, and length to the Infinite Reach March Break Camp (termed the Canoe Expedition Summer Camp from here on). This summer camp will make use of the large stock of equipment the MNO currently has, allow young Métis secondary school students to gain traditional knowledge and practical outdoor and leadership experience, and prepare youth for longer and more intense Expeditions run on a triennial basis.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-07)**

Resolution No.: AGA17-08  
Title: **Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Minutes**  
Mover: **Yvonne Jensen**  
Seconder: **Kim Powley**

**WHEREAS** Community Councils have requested for some time to have access to Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) minutes; and  
**WHEREAS** it is not feasible to expect everyone to be able to travel to Ottawa to view the minutes.  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PCMNO consider the manner in which the minutes are maintained, distributed and made available to Community Councils.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-08)**

Resolution No.: AGA17-09  
Title: **Métis Nation of Ontario License Plates**  
Mover: **Mitchell Case**  
Seconder: **Dalton Latondress**

**WHEREAS** car owners in Ontario, through the Ministry of Transportation, have the ability to personalize their license plates;  
**WHEREAS** there are currently over 60 graphics available, including service clubs, sports teams, charities and other Indigenous Governments;  
**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has always worked to promote Métis in Ontario; and  
**WHEREAS** the license plate graphic program is seen by millions of Ontarians everyday and the program is open to create new graphics through an application process.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the 2017 Annual General Assembly mandate the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and Senior Administration to consider completing the application process and create a “Métis Nation”, “Métis Nation of

Ontario” and/or “Métis Veterans” license plate graphic; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** this work be completed before the 25th Annual General Assembly of the MNO.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-09)**

Resolution No.: AGA17-10  
Title: **Mental Health for Métis Youth**  
Mover: **Katelyn LaCroix**  
Seconder: **Mitchell Case**

**WHEREAS** it is vital that we give our youth the tools they need in order to be successful;  
**WHEREAS** holistic wellness, including mental, physical, spiritual and emotional health, is central to our identity as Indigenous people;  
**WHEREAS** we are currently experiencing a mental health crisis among Indigenous youth today; and  
**WHEREAS** the youth involved in programs such as Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Council Program (SYCP), as well as our youth representatives from our community and provincial councils are our greatest resource for connecting to our youth.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) be directed to seek funding to train our Métis youth in mental health first aid, and/or other mental health programs and two-spirited awareness such as Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) or SafeTalk, in order to end stigma and ensure the health and safety of our growing youth population.

**RESOLVED (AGA17-10) (149 in favour, 1 opposed; 1 abstention)**

Resolution No.: AGA17-11  
Title: **Louis Riel Day Ceremonies and Monument**  
Mover: **Benny Michaud**  
Seconder: **Iain Best**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) currently organizes and participates in Louis Riel Day ceremonies at a memorial to soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition;  
**WHEREAS** soldiers of the Wolseley Expedition had the express intent of enforcing the removal of Métis from our traditional territories and homesteads;  
**WHEREAS** the removal of Métis from our traditional territories has led to the fracturing of Métis families and communities;  
**WHEREAS** the result of this was that Métis people across the Homeland were labeled as traitors and for generations felt the need to hide their Métis culture and heritage;  
**WHEREAS** our ancestors fought and died to preserve and maintain our distinct Métis culture, traditions and way of life;  
**WHEREAS** the Statement of Prime Purpose reads that, “we are inspired by the values and traditions of our ancestors”;  
**WHEREAS** by celebrating Louis Riel Day at a monument to the Canadian soldiers who fought against the Métis, and which explicitly ignores the struggle of our Métis ancestors, is disrespectful of their legacy; and

**WHEREAS** the government of Ontario has made repeated commitments to establish a monument in recognition of Louis Riel.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** future Louis Riel Day ceremonies no longer be held at the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen’s Park or any monuments commemorating those who were committed to oppressing Métis communities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNO continue to press the Federal and Provincial Governments for the establishment of monuments in Ontario which recognizes the legacy of Louis Riel, Gabriel Dumont and all those who fought, as well as the contributions of all Métis people in Ontario, in both Queen’s Park in Toronto and Ottawa; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNO continue to press the Provincial Government to correct, repurpose or remove the Northwest Rebellion monument at Queen’s Park.

**RESOLVED (AGA17-11) (151 in favour, 3 opposed)**

Resolution No.: AGA17-12  
Title: **Review MNO Youth-Focused Programming**  
Mover: **Paul Robitaille**  
Seconder: **Katelyn LaCroix**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) currently develops and administers many programs and initiatives that are specifically directed toward Métis youth, including Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Cultural Program, Canoe Expeditions, and Métis Family Wellbeing Program;  
**WHEREAS** these programs often represent the initial avenue of exposure to the MNO for many Métis youth and shape their perception of the MNO, the Métis Nation and their personal identity as Métis people;  
**WHEREAS** these programs must remain responsive to the diverse and evolving needs of youth, including their need to feel safe and supported their journeys toward discovering their Métis identity, heritage and culture; and  
**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) is the democratically elected representative of youth within Ontario.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the MNO seek out funding and resources to conduct a review of the MNO’s youth focused programs and initiatives, including Infinite Reach, Summer Youth Cultural Program, Canoe Expeditions, and Métis Family Wellbeing Program;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNOYC be meaningfully involved within the planning and implementation of that program review;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNOYC play an ongoing role within the planning and implementation of youth-focused programs; and  
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNO Secretariat provides a status update on this resolution to the MNOYC by December 31, 2017.

**RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA17-12)**

# AGA 2017 Resolutions

Resolutions of the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario  
held August 19 - 21, 2017, at the Lakeside Inn and Conference Centre, Kenora, Ontario.

Resolution No.: AGA17-13  
Title: **Social Media Policy**  
Mover: **Alexander Young**  
Seconder: **Mitchell Case**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario Statement of Prime Purpose encourages the full participation of all Métis in the Métis Nation and aims to establish effective means of communication for the Métis Nation;  
**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has been using both Facebook and Twitter actively and effectively over the past year;  
**WHEREAS** the past six months has seen a significant online Métis community formed in Ontario through the creation of the MNOYC Instagram account, the MNO Instagram account, the #beadworkrevolution hashtag and the MNO Canoe Expedition 2017;  
**WHEREAS** this online community and effective use of social media has been noticed nationwide, and emulated by other groups including the Métis Nation of Alberta on Instagram; and  
**WHEREAS** the MNO continues to take positive steps in order to better engage and communicate with Métis youth and Community Councils.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the MNO:

1. Works towards the creation and implementation of a comprehensive social media strategy and policy within the next six months;
2. Ensures this policy is informed by organizational standards across Canada, including the tactics and social media platforms

- used by similar Métis, First Nations, and Inuit government bodies;
3. Ensures this strategy builds off of the current social media platforms utilized by the MNO and it's governing bodies; and
  4. Ensures this policy includes comprehensive guidelines for MNO Community Councils in order to work towards consistent, professional, and effective communication at all levels of the MNO.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS  
(AGA17-13)

Resolution No.: AGA17-14  
Title: **Establishment of a Métis Nation Educational Institute in Ontario**  
Mover: **Mitchell Case**  
Seconder: **Katelyn LaCroix**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has, since its creation, always worked to advocate for, and meet the educational needs of Métis people in Ontario;  
**WHEREAS** there is a lack of Ontario based, Métis educational materials available to Ontario Schools; and  
**WHEREAS** the Manitoba Métis Federation, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and Métis Nation of Alberta already have educational institutions of their own.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the 2017 MNO Annual General Assembly (AGA) mandates the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and MNO Senior Administration, to explore the possibility of

creating a Métis controlled, educational and publishing institute, with goals including, but not limited to; renewal and development of Métis culture through research; materials development, and distribution; and the design, development, and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services in French, English and Michif, potentially including the development of a Métis post-secondary institute and professional development for teachers;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the PCMNO and administration be mandated to seek out funds to support the exploration of this concept, and that a report on this work be presented to the 2018 MNO AGA; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** when the educational and publishing institute is created, it is named the "Powley Institute".

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS  
(AGA17-14)

Resolution No.: AGA17-15  
Title: **Provision of Financial Support to Métis Graduate, Post-Graduate and Professional Students**  
Mover: **Katelyn LaCroix**  
Seconder: **Paul Robitaille**

**WHEREAS** the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (ASETS) has very narrow funding criteria that exclude many—if not all—graduate, post-graduate, and

professional school students;  
**WHEREAS** graduate, post-graduate and professional studies are often inaccessible to Métis students who already carry substantial debt accrued during their undergraduate studies;  
**WHEREAS** many career paths require graduate, post-graduate or professional designations; and  
**WHEREAS** many Métis students seek to find ways to give back to the Nation through their future careers.

**THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) be directed to investigate funding opportunities for graduate, post-graduate and professional students;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNO be directed to engage with potential funding agencies to formally express the MNO's need for graduate, post-graduate and professional funding opportunities;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** update reports on this Resolution be provided to the PCMNO Post-Secondary Representative on a quarterly basis; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the MNO provide an update on progress related to this Resolution to the 2018 Annual General Assembly.

RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS  
(AGA17-15)



▲ The MNO AGA Resolutions Committee outlines proposed resolutions at the 2017 Annual General Assembly in Kenora.

AGA2017

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# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

## Paddling in the Wake of Our Ancestors

17 Métis youth on a  
cross-province trip that  
reconnects them to their  
ancestors, their communities  
and the historic waterways  
that helped formed the  
Métis culture.



*Training at Paddlefoot*



*Paddling on the  
Ottawa River*



*On our way to North Bay*



*Will McLean  
in Thunder Bay*



*Landing on the beach at  
North Bay*



*Riley Smith at a community  
event in Mattawa*



*Canoe cake in  
Penetanguishene*

2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



1



2

“The Canadian Voyageur is a man with an *adventurous spirit*, ready and willing, capable of being occasionally, successively, or all at once a discoverer, interpreter, lumberjack, colonist, hunter, fisher, sailor, and warrior. He strongly possesses all of these qualities, even though he does not always have the opportunity to practice them all.”

— Joseph-Charles Tache  
Pioneers et voyageurs (1863)



3



4



5



6



Jacob at Fort William  
during training



Campfire at Jackfish  
Bay on Lake Superior



Making some repairs  
to the sail

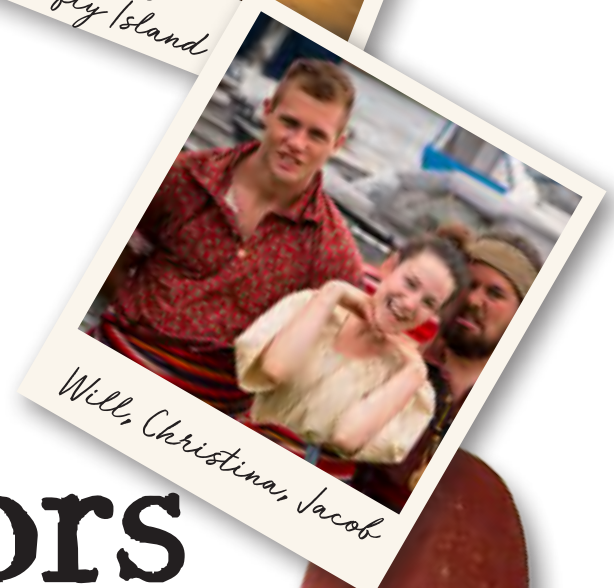


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▲ 1) Preparing for the “portage of death” near Mattawa. 2) Presenting MNO North Bay Métis Council with a paddle signed by all MNO Canoe Expedition members. 3) Sam Cuddy, Justin Moore and Tomas Lucas. 4) Sam Cuddy, Melissa St. Amant and Matthew Bombardier on the North Shore of Lake Superior. 5) Near North Bay. 6) At the Killarney community event. 7) Setting up camp on the shore of Lake Superior.



Sunset over  
Blackfly Island



Will, Christina, Jacob

# Paddling in the Wake of Our Ancestors

BY GERALD LAVALEE

Member of the '14 and '17 MNO Canoe Expeditions

**On the morning of May 23, 2017 a group of modern Métis voyageurs departed from Britannia beach in Ottawa to start a 2200 kilometre journey across the province that would take them into the wilderness for three months. *The mission?* *The adventure of a lifetime!***

Guided by two settler guides in an act of reconciliation, these youth explored our homeland while discovering the importance of water and hard work to our traditional lifestyle. "The water is a very powerful thing for our people. It has such great strength and power to it," crew member Matthew Bombardier said. During the trip Matthew took responsibility of praying for the water and its carriers.

During the course of the 86 day voyage, these Métis youth followed the historic trade routes of their ancestors, making their way from Ottawa to Kenora by paddle and portage. Supported by a communications team and road crew that planned events, supplied photos, video, created a blog and Instagram account that helped the Nation stay in touch with the paddlers on their journey.

On this amazing trip, the youth stopped at 18 Métis communities along their route to celebrate and connect with people and to share the Métis way of life. Dressed in full historic clothing and armed with furs, trade items and a deep knowledge of Métis history they promoted and taught the Métis way of life, talked of Métis contributions to Canada, shared stories of the expedition and gave interviews to the media; helping to spread awareness of Métis culture.

Community visits were a very rewarding part of the experience, one that helped the paddlers keep their morale up. Crew member Andre Nault said every community they visited had "a different memory and story about the interactions we had; and you carry those with you the whole time. You keep getting more and more, until your finally getting

them all together, at the AGA [Annual General Assembly]; you get them all together in one spot. You get to relive those experiences and think of them again"

The MNO Canoe Expedition followed the historic route to rendezvous, one of the most popular routes during the fur trade. From the Ottawa, the route took paddlers to the Mattawa River, through the Lavase portage, then across Lake Nipissing to the French River, down the French and over Georgian Bay, up along the north shore of Lake Huron, through the St. Mary's River and across Lake Superior North West towards Lake of the Woods. The trek ended in Kenora.

**"THE WATER IS A VERY POWERFUL THING FOR OUR PEOPLE. IT HAS SUCH GREAT STRENGTH AND POWER TO IT"**

-- MATTHEW BOMBARDIER

"They are retracing those historic fur trade routes; they are spending the summer learning more and more about their history as Métis people, about their culture, language, and traditions," said MNO President Margaret Froh at an event in Toronto. "As they move from community to community across Ontario they are celebrating our existence as Métis, not just historically but who we are today as strong members of Ontario's society."

continued from page 2



Gerald L.



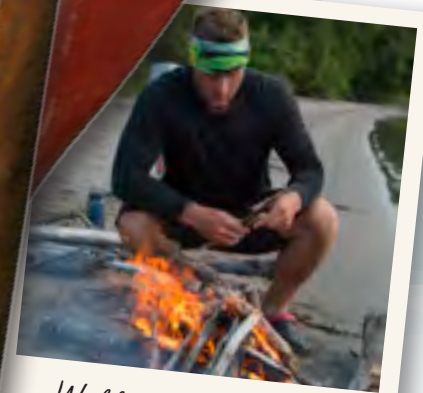
Riley, Sam and Melissa



Plotting our route



Matthew



Will minds the fire

2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



▲ 1) Tomas Lucas strikes a particularly heroic pose on Jackfish Bay in Lake Superior. 2) Sunset on the Ottawa River near Mattawa. 3) Emily Ingram sharing some traditional Métis fiddle music. 4) Being introduced at the community visit in Killarney.



continued from page 3

Facing the daily challenges and rewards of voyageur life, these paddlers were forever changed by the journey. For many, this lifestyle was new, challenging and a completely novel experience filled with physical and mental challenges that pushed them past their former limits. Some of these challenges, like portaging over traditional routes no longer suited to a 5 x 35 foot canoe and having to find ways around dams and highways are ones that come with paddling an expedition in modern times.

However, it's often the mental challenges that are the hardest. Crew member Will Mclean remarked: "The biggest challenge has been being away from home and people." Yet during the expedition the paddlers showed resilience just like the voyageurs of old. "It was pouring rain, it was super cold out, and I remember we portaged 460 metres," said crew member Sam Lavallee, "our spirits were so high...we were sitting in the pouring rain laughing our heads off."

The MNO Canoe Expedition was an experiential learning program where paddlers gained important skills like first aid, team

**"HAVING GROWN UP IN TORONTO, A PLACE FAR REMOVED FROM THE TRADITIONAL MÉTIS WAY OF LIFE, I HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT AT TIMES TO CONNECT TO MY CULTURE.**

-- WILL McLEAN

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Ducking the Kingfisher bridge on the Ottawa R.

► Taking a well-deserved break on the Ottawa River.

## 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



◀ A demonstration of traditional Métis jigging at the Mattawa community event.

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building and safe food preparation. This year college credits, as well as outdoor certifications were introduced as part of the program so that even more knowledge was gained in the process.

Paddler Courtney Vaughan said: “We’re learning navigation skills, were learning outdoor wilderness skills, group functioning, group mediation.” Nault, who is currently taking Microbiology, said that the training was useful to everyone because of the transferable skills it taught. “I feel it’s more valuable to live it, to actually experience it... because, you can read anything - it’s not hands on. Anyone can read anything, but living it you have a true feel for it, you have that direct connection ... You learn and you get those experiences whereas you don’t get that when you read a book, you’re like oh - ok they paddled a lot.”

The expedition, however, was not just about paddling; it was also about reconnecting with the Métis people. It was an exploration of ancestry and heritage—a way to see and comprehend the past from a historic waterway and through experiencing firsthand the hardship and heroism of those that came before; creating youth leaders for the Métis Nation.

McLean spoke to this saying: “Having grown up in Toronto, a place far removed from the traditional Métis way of life, I have found it difficult at times to connect to my culture. A significant motivator for me in joining this expedition was to get in touch with a part of myself that I’ve always recognized, but never really explored.” McLean also acknowledged how powerful the

**“WE WERE WALKING THE SAME PATH, DOING THE EXACT SAME PORTAGES ... WE’RE RISING WITH THE SUN, GOING TO BED EARLIER, SEEING ANIMALS ALONG THE WATERWAYS JUST AS OUR ANCESTORS WOULD HAVE ... WE’RE LEARNING HOW OUR ANCESTORS LIVED AND HOW OUR NATION WAS BUILT.”**

-- COURTNEY VAUGHN



Our Great Ground Crew !!



Camping at “Blackfly Island” near North Bay.



▲ Presenting an autographed paddle to the MNO Ottawa Region Métis Council.

▼ 1) Presenting an autographed paddle to the MNO Superior North Métis Council at the Terrace Bay community event. 2) MNO Senator Ken Simard presents Emily Ingram with a sash during training at Fort William. 3) Presenting an autographed paddle to the MNO Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council.

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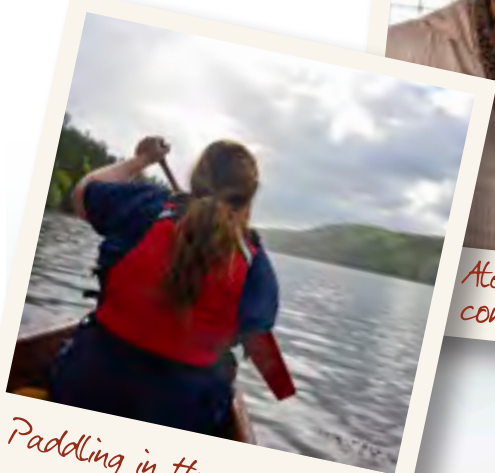
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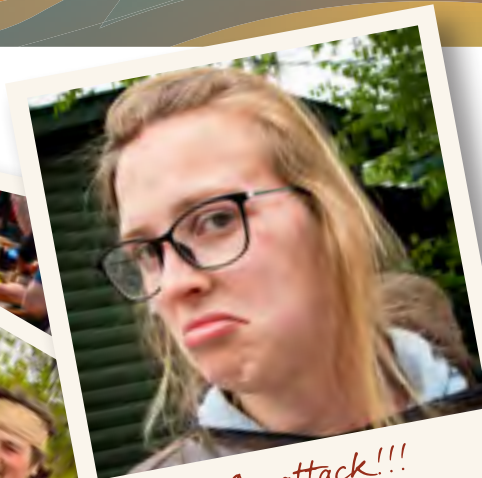
Paddling in the rain



Alex & Melissa, the communications team



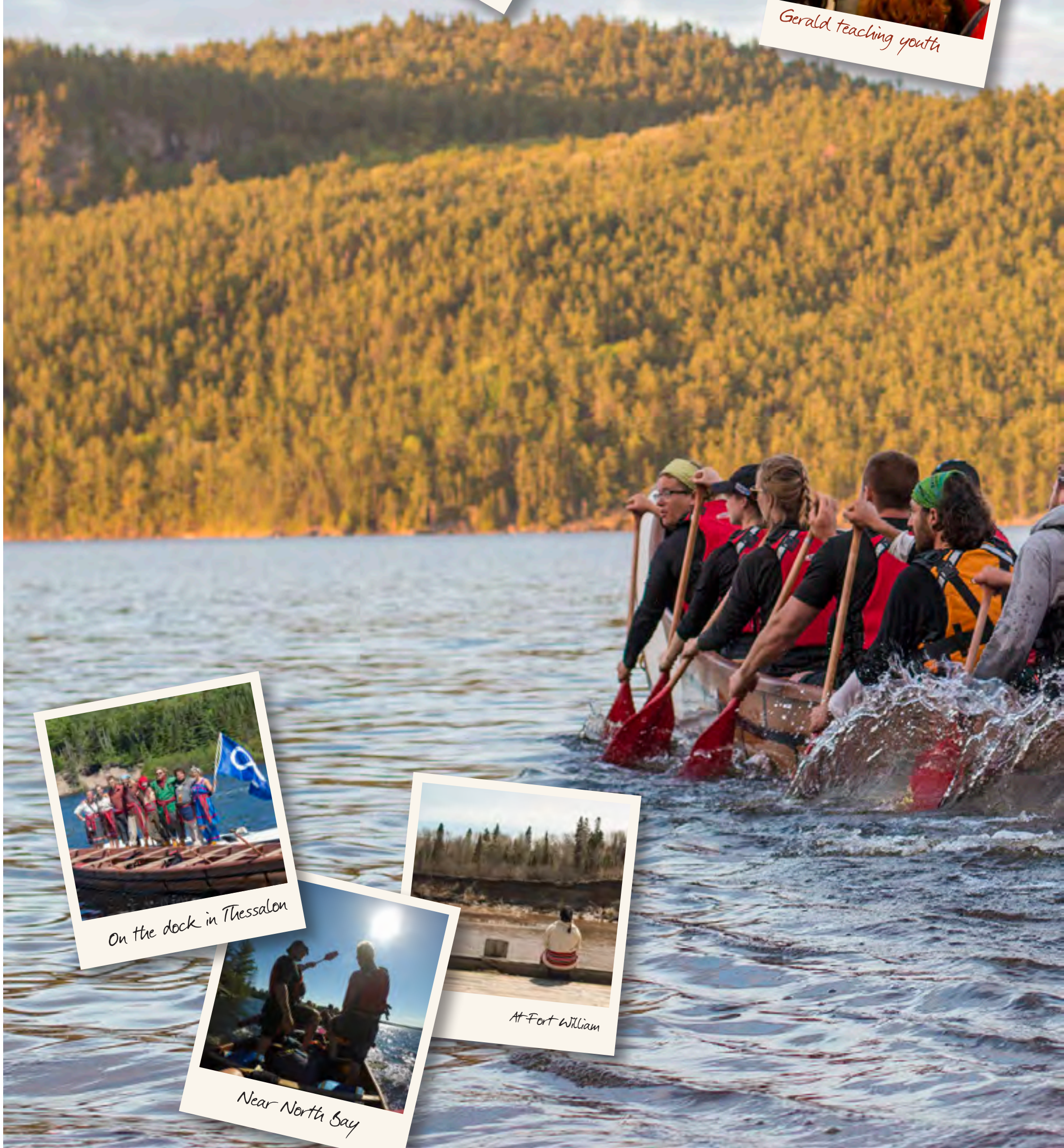
Andre + Matthew



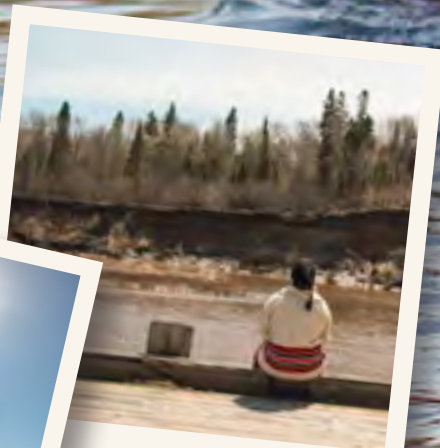
Slackfly attack!!!



Gerald teaching youth



On the dock in Thessalon



At Fort William



Near North Bay

## oe Expedition

continued from page 5

wilderness can be in giving a sense of understanding. “Just to step into the shoes, so accurately of the day-to-day of your ancestors, it’s a cool thing, We can all take a lot of perspective from that and learn a lot from paddling for three months. It sparks a lot of thought about who you are as a Métis person in the world today.”

Vaughn also said each member of the group is on the trip to connect with heritage or identity. “In doing this, were not only connecting with the communities along the way ... but were walking the same path, were doing the exact same portages ... We’re rising with the sun, were going to bed earlier, we’re seeing animals along the waterways just as our ancestors would have ... we’re learning how our ancestors lived and how our Nation was built.”

The Paddlers arrived in Kenora from their long and arduous journey on the evening of August 18. They paddled into a large celebration in Anicinabe Park and as they neared the shore you could hear the excitement building in the crowd as people cheered and yipped louder and louder, running down to the water to catch a glimpse of the voyageurs and the large Montréal canoe. “It was a thrill,” Vaughn said, “as we paddled around the corner we only saw about

eight people, we were thinking oh no ... then all of a sudden this huge flood of people came ... we got this huge swell of excitement and this phenomenal feeling of support and pride ... not only in ourselves for completing the trip but in our nation, in our people. For whom we are and how we came to be. It was a really amazing feeling.”

The arrival of the paddlers to the AGA was a great event with laughter, hugs and tears. It also marked the end of the most eventful summer of their lives. Expedition Communications Assistant Melissa St. Amant remarked: “It’s a bitter sweet ending, it’s heartwarming to see everybody but it’s also really sad because we’re a family now and now that it over we won’t be with each other every day.” “I can’t believe it’s over,” said crew member Justin Moore, “I’m happy it’s over, but then I’m extremely sad because I have to leave all these people and go back to my regular life.”

All of the youth were invited on stage to share their most memorable moments, which ranged from finding four different bush saunas, discovering light houses, dealing with blackflies, paddling with Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne and the beautiful sunsets of Lake Superior.

**“AS THEY MOVE FROM COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY ACROSS ONTARIO THEY ARE CELEBRATING OUR EXISTENCE AS MÉTIS, NOT JUST HISTORICALLY BUT WHO WE ARE TODAY AS STRONG MEMBERS OF ONTARIO’S SOCIETY”**

continued on page 12



Coming ashore in Killarney

Gerald teaching youth

## 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



▲ Members of the MNO Canoe Expedition with members of the MNO WEKMC at the Métis Footprints exhibit in the Chimzuc Museum in Windsor.

## MNO Canoe Expedition visits Windsor

submitted by

**Donna Grayer**, MNO Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council

On June 23, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex-Kent Métis Council (WEKMC) welcomed the 2017 Canoe Expedition to Windsor. The Expedition set up their camp at Vision Park on Riverside Drive where they provided demonstrations on Métis culture and heritage.

The MNO Canoe Expedition presented the Council a paddle that had been carved by one of the paddlers and autographed by the entire crew.

Later, when the MNO Canoe Expedition visited the Chimczuk Museum, the paddle gift was added to the *Métis Footprints*, a display at the Museum that the MNO WEKMC had helped develop. *Métis Footprints* was featured in the last issue of the *Métis Voyageur* and includes local Métis artifacts and a larger Métis history timeline. The gifted paddle was the

perfect addition to *Métis Footprints*, which will be featured at the Museum until January 2018.

The Council held a dinner for the paddlers at the local Legion Hall. Council members and MNO staff gifted the paddlers such essential items as candy, mints and bug repellent. MNO veterans Shelley Claus and Sharlene Lance put together an entertainment bag for the paddlers that included cards, puzzles and books for those rainy days on shore.

There were many good conversations at dinner as everyone got to know one another. The MNO WEKMC is very proud of these young peoples' accomplishments on their journey. ∞



▲ Members of the MNO GRMC being presented with the autographed paddle from the MNO Canoe Expedition.

## MNO Canoe Expedition comes to Guelph

submitted by

**Jennifer Parkinson**, MNO Grand River Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council (GRMC) was honoured and excited to host the 2017 MNO Youth Canoe Expedition in Guelph on June 22. Although the day began cloudy and wet it did not dampen the enthusiasm for the Canoe Expedition's arrival.

The Canoe Expedition was to be met at the Guelph Boating Club on Guelph Lake, a manmade lake that feeds into the Grand River. It is fully stocked with fish and many enjoy boating, canoeing, fishing and swimming in its waters.

The MNO GRMC transformed the Boating Club's crew quarters into a trading post, lovingly named "Lake in the Woods."

Furs, hides and traps were hung. Blankets were laid out and the Métis flag was hung in the window. An assortment of sashes, hats and furs adorned a table. An area was set up for crafts and snacks. MNO staff set up an information table near the door to welcome guests and give out gifts. Outside the post, Fire Keepers George and Ron Parkinson started a fire in preparation for the arrival of the young voyageurs.

MNO GRMC citizens and community members were joined by reporters from Guelph, Kitchener and CTV as well as Guelph Mayor Cameron Guthrie and Member of Parliament Lloyd

Longfield, who wished participants a great celebration and congratulations to the Métis paddlers.

When the canoe arrived there was a lot of cheering from those on the shore. The young canoeists shared stories and answered questions. They presented the MNO GRMC with a beautiful paddle, which had been signed by every member of the Expedition. In return, the MNO GRMC presented the youth with fiddle key chains and Métis Infinity earrings. Guelph Boat Club Commodore, Mark Parkinson, helped President Jennifer Parkinson raise both the Métis blue and red flags. It was exciting to see. The MNO GRMC presented Commodore Parkinson with a Métis sash as a token of appreciation for the Boating Club opening up their property for the MNO GRMC event.

Grassroots Catering provided an awesome meal of bison burgers, salad, fresh fruit and strawberry juice. Thank you Malcom and Christine!

The youth paddlers fiddled and taught some jigging. The day went way too fast and before long the MNO Canoe Expedition had to move on to their next stop.

The MNO GRMC wishes to extend a special "Marsii" to the Guelph Boating Club for the use of their facility; and to the MNO Youth Canoe Expedition for coming to Guelph and sharing their adventure. "Marsii" also goes out to all Council and community members whose hard work and dedication make events like this one so successful. ∞



In the Soo Locks



Timmins community event



North Bay community event



▲ The MNO Canoe Expedition members enjoy a beautiful sunset on Lake Superior.

## 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



▲ Presenting the MNO Toronto York Region Métis Council with an autographed paddle at the Toronto community event.



▲ Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation David Zimmer with the assistance of MNO President Margaret Froh takes down Will McLean in a traditional Métis game that was a part of the Toronto community event.



▲ The 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition crew presenting a paddle to Timmins MNO Youth Representative Brianne Gosselin: (left-right) Tomas Lucas, Jesse Yacubov, Zack Kruzins, Andre Nault, Matthew Bombardier, Justin Moore, Jacob Crawford, Brett Bodnarchuck, Will McLean, Zac Norman (Timmins SYCP), Gerald Lavallee, Christina Smith, Samantha Lavallee, Sam Cuddy, Riley Smith, Courtney Vaughan and Katie Gervais (Timmins SYCP)

## Warm welcome for MNO Canoe Expedition in Timmins

submitted by

**Zac Norman & Katie Gervais**, MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program staff

**M**N O citizens, local MNO staff, community and council members were on hand to welcome the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Canoe Expedition as it arrived in Timmins on June 6, 2017.

The MNO Canoe Expedition brought historical artifacts, games and traditional music and along with local Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP) staff performed traditional dances including the seven step, the red river jig and the heel-toe. Live fiddle music was played by Emily Ingram from the ground support crew. The tempo of Emily's fiddling was a challenge for the local SYCP since they were

used to dancing to music recorded on CD. Local youth especially enjoyed learning dot art, finger-weaving, tug of war, traditional games and the historical interpretation.

The Canoe Expedition crew was invited to dinner at the MNO office where they enjoyed a home-cooked meal prepared by Jaylin Renaud and Jen Frappier from the Timmins MNO office. The Canoe Expedition crew were thankful for the hospitality and happy to have a chance to relax after a long day. The MNO staff were excited to listen to the paddlers' stories and experiences of their journey thus far. ∞



*Tomas Lucas skips a stone right across Lake Ontario (maybe not the whole way).*



*Navigating the locks in Sault Ste Marie*



*Taking a break on the shores of Lake Superior*

2017 MNO Canoe Expedition

▼ The MNO Canoe Expedition at Fort William during training with Region 2 Provincial Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario Councilor Cam Burgess and members of the MNO Thunder Bay and Greenstone Métis Councils.



▼ Presenting an autographed paddle to the MNO North Shore Métis Council at the community event in Blind River.



High fives in North Bay!



Tattoo in the Sault



▲ Presenting an autographed paddle to the MNO Mattawa Métis Council at a community event in Mattawa.

► (Left to right) MNO Region 1 Youth Representative Kelly Duquette, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MNO President Margaret Froh and Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras with the Canoe Expedition on National Indigenous Day in Ottawa.



## 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



▲ Members of the 2017 MNO Canoe Expedition with Premier Wynne and other dignitaries. Premier Wynne is second on the left in the back row; on her right is her spouse Jane Rounthwaite, to her right MNO Chair and Acting President France Picotte; beside her Katelyn Stenlund with the MNO Kenora Métis Council; beside her Theresa Stenlund, PCMNO Region 1 Councilor and beside her Brady Hupet, Secretary-Treasurer of the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council.

# Premier Wynne spends four days with MNO Canoe Expedition

Starting on August 9, 2017, The MNO Canoe Expedition had some extra crew members as they were joined for four days by Premier Kathleen Wynne and a number of other dignitaries. Among those who also joined the Canoe Expedition for the Fort Frances leg of their 2200 kilometre trek were MNO Chair and Acting President France Picotte, Region 1 Provisional Council of the MNO Councilor Theresa Stenlund, MNO Sunset Country Métis Secretary-Treasurer Brady Hupet, Katelyn Stenlund with the MNO Kenora Métis Council and Jane Rounthwaite, Premier Wynne's spouse.

"Jane and I are excited to paddle with youth from the MNO on the Fort Frances leg," the Premier said in a statement Monday August 7. "I am honoured to have this

opportunity to spend time with them and learn more about Métis culture, heritage and the role that Métis have played and continue to play in Ontario and Canada's history," she added.

"In a summer of amazing experiences, paddling with the Premier will definitely be one of the most memorable," stated MNO Acting President France Picotte, "this was an awesome experience for our Métis youth to spend so much time with the Premier. It highlights the positive relationship we have been able to build between the Ontario and MNO in the last number of years." ∞



Matt and the Premier



▲ 1) MNO Canoe Expedition guide Zack Kruzins provides some high seas entertainment. 2) Jacob Crawford with a future voyageur in North Bay. 3) The MNO Canoe Expedition joins in Canada Day celebrations in Sault Ste. Marie. 4) Tomas Lucas and Claire McDowell demonstrate a traditional jig in Killarney. 5) The ground crew with a friend from the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program 6) Campfire near Timmins.



2017 MNO Canoe Expedition



▲ Members of the MNO Canoe Expedition with MNO Acting President Picotte as well as Ministers Bennett and Zimmer and MP Nault at the beginning of the MNO Annual General Assembly In Kenora. (Left to right on the ground) Dr. Carolyn Bennett, federal Minister of Indigenous Affairs, Noles Denhart, Robert Nault, Member of Parliament for Kenora, Chris McLeod, Samantha Cuddy, Alex Young, Matthew Bombardier, MNO Acting President France Picotte, David Zimmer, provincial Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, Samantha Lavallee, Melissa St. Amant, Justin Moore, Will McLean, Andre Nault. (Left to right, in the tree) Riley Smith, Jesse Yacubov, Zack Kruzins, Tomas Lucas, Mike Richardson and Courtney Vaughan.



▲ Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett congratulates the MNO Canoe Expedition members after they land at Anicinabe Park near Kenora.



▲ The MNO Canoe Expedition docks its canoe for the last time at Anicinabe Park near Kenora.



Alex Young hugs Scott Carpenter.



We made it!!!

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“Porphyry Island has this beautiful light house that they’ve managed to maintain,” Vaughn said while on stage, “So we stopped there and climbed to the top of the lighthouse, which was the biggest one we’ve been to. We were watching the sunset going over the sleeping giant ... I’ve been a lot of places and seen a lot of really nice sunsets, but in that moment Superior was still ... which doesn’t often happen. I was just able to take a moment of silence and gratitude ... I felt the water really giving me that peace of mind.”

During the arrival the team was also welcomed and congratulated by David Zimmer, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Dr. Carolyn Bennett.

Throughout the rest of the AGA, the Canoe Expedition members took part in cultural activities while sharing their experiences on the open water with MNO citizens and friends. Even though the three-month journey has come to a close, they will never forget the life lessons, loving friendships, memories and multiple skills they gained that will last a lifetime. ∞



▲ Crowds of well-wishers greet the MNO Canoe Expedition members after they land at Anicinabe Park near Kenora.