

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

ISSUE NO. 63, FALL 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Métis Gather at Fort William

By Rebekah Wilson

The excitement has barely died down following the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) 17th Annual General Assembly (AGA). Several attendees have said it was one of the best assemblies to date. This year's AGA was held in Thunder Bay at the Fort William Historical Park (FWHP), one of the most recognized cultural and historical landmarks of the Métis Nation in Ontario. It was at Old Fort William in 1816 that the Métis declared themselves a "nation" and were presented with their flag by Alexander McDonnell of the Northwest Company. The infinity symbol emblazoned on the flag symbolized the eternal joining of First Nations' and European cultures.

The AGA, which ran from August 21st to the 23rd, attracted over 300 Métis citizens from across the province to participate in two days of business meetings and a day of cultural exploration and celebration. This year's assembly was especially memorable because of the Province of Ontario's and the federal government's declaration of 2010 as "the Year of the Métis Nation."

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Delegates arrive by canoe at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay for the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

PHOTO: Ralph Brown, Waterfront Productions



MNO AGA

Full coverage of the MNO's 17th Annual General Assembly of in Thunder Bay.

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ISPAYIN

NAHO's Métis Centre project to build awareness about Métis youth identity, health and well-being

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BATOCHÉ

Métis mark the 125th anniversary of the Battle of Batoche in Saskatchewan.

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HOUSING

MNO's Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program is accepting applications

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Announcements

THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

FALL 2010, No. 63

editor

Linda Lord

design & production

Marc St. Germain

contributors

Barbaranne Wright
Barbara Rusk
Bradley Rusk
Bonny Cann
Brian Cockburn
Chris Paci
Chris McLeod
David I.M. Clark
Don McDonald
Donn Fowler
Gary Lipinski
Hank Rowlinson
Heather Moss
Janet Leader
Jessica Cameron
Joanne Meyer
Jo-Anne Parent
Leafy Shaw
Leora Wilson
Lianne Dumais
Marley Hodges
Mike Fedyk
Natalie Bertin
Ralph Brown
Raymond Tremblay
Rick Paquette
Rebekah Wilson
Reta Gordon
Rod Pilon
Scott Carpenter
TerryLynn Longpre
Tracy Bald

contact

Linda Lord, editor
RRI Hartington, ON
K0H 1W0
llord@kingston.net
Tel: **613-374-2305**

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

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Announcements



A New Métis in Sudbury

Jett Frattin was born in Sudbury on August 9, 2010, weighing in at 9lbs 7oz. Congratulations to mother Natalie Lemieux and grandpa, Gaston also of Sudbury.



Happy Birthday! Maxime Tremblay who turned three on July 26th. He is the grandson of Raymond Tremblay.



We wish you success

Congratulations to Nicole Taylor for successfully becoming a certified yoga teacher. She is starting her own yoga business near Barrie Ontario. Nicole is a Métis citizen and the daughter of the Captain of the Hunt in region 2.

Way to go Nicole!
Love Mom and Dad

New Arrival

Congratulations to Kathy and John McKinnon on the birth of their first child, Ava Katherin, born June 14th, 2010, weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz. Proud grandparents are Bob and Carol Ann McKinnon of Uxbridge ON.

CAPOT FOR SALE made from new (red with black stripe) Hudson's Bay Blanket, hand sewn in old voyageur-style with hood; unisex size large (or generous medium) shows well and very warm \$220.
Call Carole Anne, tel: 705-322-1040, carpet1953@netscape.ca

New Staff

Changes for Education & Training branch

Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training, is pleased to introduce Jo-Anne Parent as the "Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator" for Region Seven. Jo-Anne has been working with the Métis Nation of Ontario Education and Training (MNOET) Branch since June, 2008, and has gained a vast knowledge of employment and training. She has extensive experience in working with the community and continues to be a valuable member of the MNOET team.

Jo-Anne Parent / *Acting Regional Employment and Training Co-ordinator (Region 7)*
355 Cranston Crescent, Box 621
Midland, ON L4R 4L3
Tel: 705-527-1228
jo-annep2@metisnation.org

Many of you have had the pleasure of working with Tammy Webb in her capacity as "Branch Supervisor". Tammy has been with MNO for many years and has continually proven herself to be a valuable asset in policy development and program management. We are very pleased to announce that Tammy has accepted the permanent position as the Manager of Labour Market.

Tammy Webb / *Manager of Labour Market*
26 Queen St. East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1Y3
Tel: 705-254-1768
tammyw@metisnation.org

MNOET is pleased to announce two contract positions that will be working on developing and implementing the new "Employment in Energy" initiative established in collaboration with Georgian College.

Scott Carpenter has been hired as the "Employment in Energy Project Director" and Bart Caughey as the "Job Developer" for the project. Scott has been with the MNOET Branch for many years. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience on labour market issues and project management and is passionate about the culture and history of Métis in Ontario. Scott has much to offer in this new role and we are thrilled to have him on board.

Scott Carpenter / *Project Director - Employment in Energy*
355 Cranston Crescent, Box 621
Midland, ON L4R 4L3
Tel: 705-527-1228
scottc@metisnation.org

Bart Caughey brings with him a valuable background in working with Aboriginal people and a solid network within the local community. Bart will be a great asset to the Technology Foundation's Employment in Energy Project.

Bart Caughey / *Job Developer - Employment in Energy*
355 Cranston Crescent, Box 621
Midland, ON L4R 4L3
Tel: 705-527-1228
bartc@metisnation.org

New Staff

New well-qualified MNO staff members

by Doug Wilson
Chief Operating Officer

Hi All, Please join me in welcoming two new well qualified staff members to the Métis Nation of Ontario.

As of July 19, **Mike Fedyk** is replacing Janet Leader as Director of Registry/Communications. Janet has relocated to Toronto and recently accepted the position of Senior Policy Analyst for the First Nations & Métis, Policy & Partnerships Office Regulatory Affairs & Strategic Policy Division in the Ministry of Energy.

As of August 9, **Erin Tomkins** is replacing Katie-Sue Derejko who was MNO's Senior Policy Analyst. Katie-Sue is off to New York University where she has accepted an unsolicited scholarship in Health Research.

We are blessed to have found such talented replacements but we will certainly miss both Janet and Katie-Sue's dedication and talents which they shared so freely with us over the last couple of years. We wish them all the success in the world in their future endeavours.

∞



CORRECTION (sort of) --- Alright you aviation buffs, the picture on page 13 of the last *Voyageur* of Métis aviatrix, Michelle Goodeve, and an airplane was not a picture of the plane in the story. I'm sorry! The picture was of Michelle's own Pietenpol, not the Jackaroo. This is the Jackaroo. (Cheers, Linda)

Farewells

Knowledge & kindness will not be forgotten

I would like to take this time to announce my departure from the Métis Nation of Ontario. I have accepted new employment and will be leaving the MNO shortly.

During my employment with the MNO, I have met very wonderful people and feel like we're all part of one big family. We have grown so much throughout the years and I can honestly say we have gone through a lot of good times and trying times together. I have learned so much from all of you. It makes me sad that I can't just take you all with me. At this time, I realize it is time to move on and will miss all of you deeply.

I am very proud of our workers who dedicate so much of

their time and hearts to what they do, and without them, some people would have no one to care for them. It was a privilege working with you all.

Thank you to all our special Senators and Elders who have mentored me throughout the years. Your knowledge and kindness will not be forgotten.

For now, I must say "goodbye" and look forward to seeing you again soon. Take good care of yourselves and each other.

Your friend and citizen,
Monique Raymond-Lefebvre

Monique was formerly the Manager of Family and Child Services in Timmins.

Fight the good fight

Hello Everyone,
As some of you may have heard, I will be leaving the MNO on July 30th, 2010 to further pursue my career aspirations and education in the area of Global Public Health. This announcement is bitter sweet because I have truly enjoyed my time at the MNO, the people I have been privileged to work with and the opportunities this organization has afforded me; in short I am not ready to leave.

With that said however, I have been offered what family and friends keep telling me is a "once in a lifetime opportunity" that I cannot let pass. Thus, after much

agonizing deliberation, I have decided to seize this opportunity and say a premature good bye to the MNO and the wonderful people who work tirelessly day in and day out for the Métis community.

I hope to remain closely tied to the Métis community in Ontario and wish the organization only the greatest success in the future; perhaps one day you will let me come back?

I thank all of you, my co-workers, for making my time here so enjoyable. I will truly miss you all. Keep fighting the good fight.

Katie-Sue Derejko



On October 22, 1993, father and son, Steve (above) and Roddy Powley killed a bull moose just outside Sault Ste Marie. They tagged their catch with a Métis card and a note that read “harvesting my meat for winter”. This act lead to a 10-year legal battle that ended at the Supreme Court.

September 19th • Powley Day

Remember Powley

by **GARY LIPINSKI**
Métis Nation of Ontario
PRESIDENT

Sunday, September 19, 2010, marked the seventh anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *R. v. Powley*. This ground breaking decision ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. Especially important at this time of the year are the Métis Harvesting Rights which are now recognized by the Province of Ontario through our harvesting agreement.

Throughout Ontario many MNO Community Councils hold fall harvests or feasts. I, along with many MNO citizens, attended the Sixth Annual Métis Rendezvous on September 18th, held this year at Port Severn. Regardless of where you are, I hope you can attend one of the many harvest celebrations that take place throughout the fall. I also encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis, and con-

tributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people within Canada. The affirmation of the right to harvest is a component critical to the already rich fabric that defines Métis culture.

Remember Steve, Rodney and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights. Take time to reflect on the pride that each of us feels when we look at what has been accomplished. Take time to enjoy and

cially with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in ensuring the acceptance of those rights when they are asserted.

We will continue to push forward on the priority issues that you have raised with your Captains of the Hunt, your PCMNO representatives or me. We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs. However, each of us must do all we can to ensure that the collective rights of Métis to harvest are preserved

“Remember Steve, Rodney and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights.”

participate in organized events, and be proud to be Métis, especially in this, the Year of the Métis!

It is fair to say that in spite of a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice on the part of many Métis, our pursuit of full recognition of Métis rights continues. There is still much work to be done with the province, and espe-

through responsible management of the Métis harvest in Ontario. The work ahead of us is great and the battle will be long and hard fought.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing many of you this fall at our harvest gatherings and observances as we celebrate our culture together.

MNO supports Long-Form Census

by **Gary Lipinski**
MNO President

At our Annual General Assembly, August 21-23, 2010, in Thunder Bay, the Assembly passed the resolution below, opposing the Government of Canada’s plans to eliminate the mandatory long-form census and replace it with a voluntary form.

The long-form census is especially important for Métis because it is used in many ways to make

our voices heard in dealing with government and industry. The article below describes some of the efforts being undertaken to convince the government it should reverse its decision.

We would like to urge you to add your voice to the growing chorus of opposition to the census changes by sending a letter to the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry and/or to your own Member of Parliament. Sample letters are available online at www.metisnation.org.

Minister Clement’s e-mail is: **Clement.T@parl.gc.ca**.

The mailing addresses and e-mail addresses for Members of Parliament can be found at the following site: **<http://webinfo.parl.gc.ca>**

If you are interested in other efforts to oppose changes to the census, more info here: **<http://eaves.ca/save-the-census-coalition/>**

RESOLUTION 4:
Reinstatement of the Statistics-Canada Census Long Form

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2010 MNO Annual General Assembly direct the PCMNO to raise opposition to the Short Form Census documents pending in the fall of 2010, and lobby the federal government to reinstate the Long Form Census document.

Moved by: Ralph Brown Seconded by: Marlene Davidson

Métis-specific plant use study a first in Canada

Study highlights unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis in relation to plants and vegetation in southern Ontario

On September 15th, 2010, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) released the findings from a first-of-its-kind traditional knowledge study titled, “Southern Ontario Métis Traditional Plant Use Study”. The study highlights some of the unique traditional and medicinal practices of Métis in relation to plants and vegetation in southern Ontario, which differ from First Nations. It also documents notable changes to the environment in southern Ontario over the past few decades and the impact those changes have had on Métis plant and vegetation use, as identified by Métis Elders and traditional resource users.

The survey was supported by Ontario Power Generation (OPG), as a part of its engagement of Aboriginal groups who may be potentially impacted by the Darlington New Nuclear Build project. Over the last year, OPG has engaged with the MNO’s Community Councils in Northumberland, Oshawa and Durham Regions, as well as the MNO’s Lands, Resources and



Consultation Branch in order to produce the study and ascertain any potential impact from the Darlington New Nuclear Build project on Métis way of life.

The study was first presented at a Métis community feast held in Whitby on June 5th. It will also

be presented as evidence to the Joint Review Panel that has been created under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act in order to assess the environmental effects of the proposed Darlington New Nuclear Build. A copy of the survey, along with an accompanying video based on the interviews with Métis Elders and Métis traditional resource users is available at www.metisnation.org.

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, commented: “Through studies like this, Ontario Métis are finally being able to tell our story in the province and share our traditional knowledge in order to protect Métis rights, interests and way of life for generations to come. I want to thank all of the Elders, Métis traditional resource users and MNO Community Councils who had a role in making this study a reality. I also want to thank OPG for its willingness to work with our communities. I know this study will be an important resource for our people today and for generations to come.”

Briefs:

MNO
President
lunches with
the Queen

President Gary Lipinski and his wife Dianne at the invitation of the Honourable Dalton McGuinty and Mrs. Teri McGuinty attended a reception and luncheon on Monday, July 5th, 2010, at Toronto's Pinewood Studios, Canada's largest film and television production complex, in the presence of The Queen and His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh.

"It was wonderful to have the Métis Nation of Ontario invited to participate," said President Lipinski. "Dianne and I were honoured to represent all the citizens of the Métis Nation of Ontario at this prestigious event."

MNC
President
congratulates
Chartrand
on re-election

Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clément Chartier, congratulated David Chartrand on his re-election as President of the Manitoba Métis Federation.

"David Chartrand has a distinguished record of tireless service to Métis Nation citizens in Manitoba," said President Chartier. "Under his continued leadership, the Manitoba Métis Federation will become an even stronger voice for the Métis Nation."

The Manitoba Métis Federation held its province-wide election on June 10, 2010. In unofficial results, Chartrand was re-elected to his 5th term as President with over 80% of the vote.

MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL | UPDATE

Across the Homeland

125th Anniversary Back to Batoche Celebration

A crowd of thousands gathered in Batoche, SK for the opening ceremonies of the 2010 "Back to Batoche" celebration. Métis Nation citizens from across the Homeland, leaders, elders, veterans and guests were on hand for the official kick-off of eight days of Métis cultural events.

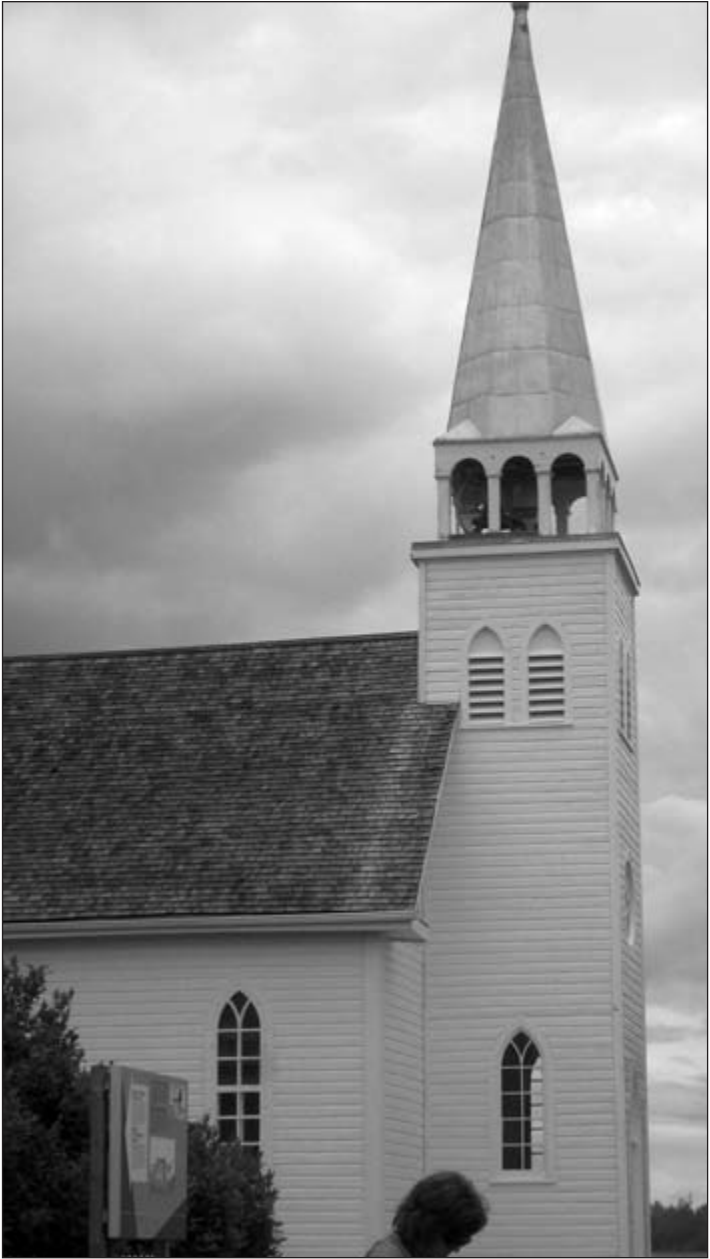
The much anticipated highlight of 2010—"Year of the Métis Nation"-- was the largest Back to Batoche ever. During the eight-day event between 75,000 and 80,000 people attended to mark the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Resistance.

Métis National Council (MNC) President, Clément Chartier, joined host Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President, Robert Doucette; the MNC Board of Governors; Leader of the Official Opposition, Michael Ignatieff; and other dignitaries for the opening ceremonies, held Sunday, July 18, 2010.

"This celebration is an enduring testament to the Métis who fought to defend their people at the battles of Duck Lake, Fish Creek, and Batoche 125 years ago," said President Chartier. "Their determination and sacrifices allowed for our culture and heritage to survive and helped the Métis Nation become an integral part of Canada."

The opening ceremonies were the first of the day's events at Back to Batoche, which was dedicated to veterans. A "Métis Nation Veterans' Garden" was unveiled, the newest addition to the Back to Batoche site. The garden is the future location of a permanent memorial to Métis Nation veterans.

Later in the day, a reconciliation ceremony took place for descendants of the Métis, First Nation and Canadian soldiers of the Northwest Resistance. Well over 1500 people heard the names of each person who fought and died read-out in front of the Batoche cemetery.



The Church at Batoche.

THE POWLEY LEGACY:
Mapping the History of
Métis Nation Rights

The MNC hosted a two-day conference on the pivotal role research plays in the recognition and exercise of Métis Nation rights.

"The Powley Legacy: Mapping the History of Métis Nation Rights" was held July 16th and 17th in Saskatoon, SK. It brought together Métis Nation leaders, community members, policy makers, legal experts, academics

and representatives from the federal and provincial governments. The conference featured a variety of speakers and panel discussions pivotal in advancing the rights of the Métis Nation.

"The conference was an excellent opportunity to reflect on the Métis Nation's past successes in having our rights recognized," said MNC President Chartier. "It was also a chance to share experiences and expertise, and prepare for the work still ahead in securing the Métis Nation's rightful place in Canada."

Speakers and panellists included former Supreme Court of British Columbia Justice, Thomas Berger; past-president of the Indigenous Bar Association, Mark Stevenson; and Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, who have both served as legal counsel in several influential cases on Métis rights.

Leading academics also attended, offering their insight on the latest historical and cultural research affecting the recognition of land, natural resource harvesting and other Métis rights. They included Professor Emeritus, Dr. Arthur Ray; Gwyneth Jones; Professor Keith Carlson, University of Saskatchewan; and Dr. Frank Tough, University of Alberta.

Métis Nation leaders, including Manitoba Métis Federation President, David Chartrand, and Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, each moderated a panel discussion.

Jim Brady monument
unveiled in La Ronge

A monument to Métis Nation leader, Jim Brady, was unveiled on July 11, 2010, in La Ronge, SK. MNC President Clément Chartier joined friends and family of the late Mr. Brady for the ceremony.

A World War II veteran, Jim Brady, was a prominent figure in the Métis movement. He helped found the Métis Association of Alberta--now known as the Métis Nation of Alberta--and was instrumental in establishing the Métis Settlements.

He helped found the Métis Association of Saskatchewan, now known as the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

Mr. Brady and Abby Halkett disappeared in June 1967 while on a prospecting trip in northern Saskatchewan.

Ensuring his contributions are remembered for generations to come, the new monument includes a description of his life and work on behalf of the Métis Nation.

MANITOBA MÉTIS FEDERATION | UPDATE

Métis land claim dismissed
in Manitoba superior court



On July 7th Manitoba's highest court dismissed a Métis land claim for 1.4 million acres of land. The case began 26 years ago when the Manitoba Métis Federation and 17 families claimed land that included the City of Winnipeg as well as strips of land on both sides of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers. They were hoping for a ruling that would allow for a financial settlement.

The 2010 decision upholds the decision of a lower court made in 2007, which said that the Métis who lived in Manitoba in the late 1800s were not Indians and had no treaty rights. Meanwhile, the MMF contends that this land was promised to Métis in the Manitoba Act to allow for Manitoba's entry into Confederation. It was negotiated by Louis Riel's Provisional Government.

The Métis National Council (MNC) has announced that it will intervene in the appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. "This decision must be appealed to ensure Métis receive their justice

in the Canadian courts," said MNC President Chartier. "The Métis Nation will not allow this decision to stand and the MNC will be taking active measures to prepare its intervener application."

President Chartier did note, however, that the decision had a number of positive findings that can be built upon in the appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. "The decision overturned the lower courts finding that Métis do not have Aboriginal title and it recognized that there is a fiduciary relationship between the Crown and Métis people."

Chartier also pointed out that the decision clearly recognized there was a great delay with respect to the implementation of allocations of land to the Métis and mistakes were made in the allocation of lands to Métis children. "We will build upon these findings on the facts in our submissions to the Supreme Court," he said.

"This fight has been going on for well over a century and the Métis Nation has no intention of backing down now. I am confident the Métis will find justice, and the promises made to our ancestors will be fulfilled."

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MNO successful in bid for New Relationship Funding

by **Joanne Meyer**
Director, Intergovernmental Relations
TORONTO

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) commends the Government of Ontario for continuing its support for the New Relationship Fund (NRF) and appreciates the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs role in implementing it.

Over the last two years, this important program has given the MNO and its community councils the opportunity to build the capacity necessary to ensure the active engagement of Métis in *duty to consult* activities across the province. The continuation of the NRF funding will ensure that Métis are able to engage with government and participate in meaningful consultation as development activities around the province ramp up.

The MNO is pleased to announce that our multi-year (four year) application to the

(NRF) on behalf of MNO’s 31 Community Councils has been successful. As a result, the MNO has been awarded \$2.1 million annually for a total of \$8.4 million over a four year period. The MNO, on behalf of its community councils, will be receiving the maximum amount of funding available to any applicant applying on behalf of more than one community. This is great news that will allow the MNO and its community councils to continue the implementation of the MNO

Multi-Year Plan for Building Core Consultation Capacity.

The MNO has implemented a unique Métis consultation process for engagement which was developed after extensive consultations with Métis citizens across the province. This has resulted in the development of a “Consultation Policy” which will serve Métis citizens well into the future.

Over the past 16 months, the MNO has received well over 450 notices from proponents, and

Métis have effectively participated in many consultation processes that have yielded and will continue to yield results in the future. To date, the MNO has signed a “General Relationship Agreement” with Great Lakes Power Transmission. “Memorandums of Understanding” and “Work Plans” have been negotiated with several proponents on major projects. Negotiations continue on many other “General Relationship Agreements”.

It is expected that the MNO will receive its first instalment of funding for the 2010-11 fiscal year (April – August, 2010) by the end of August, 2010. Once that funding is received we will be able to proceed with the deliverables identified in this year’s “Contribution Agreement” and “Work Plan” including ongoing work with and support of councils.

If you require additional information contact Joanne Meyer at joannnem@metisnation.org.

QUICK FACTS:
New Relationship Funding

- The MNO has received approval for multi-year NRF funding (4 years: from 2010-11 to 2013-14).
- The MNO will receive, on behalf of its 31 community councils, \$2.1 Million annually for 4 years commencing April 1, 2010.
- Revised NRF work plans must be submitted annually prior to the beginning of each new fiscal year.
- Year-end reporting includes: A Final Project Report on the year’s deliverables, Final Expenditure Report and Audited Financial Statements.

A distinct Métis history & harvesting

President Gary Lipinski comments on the Métis Nation of Alberta’s Harvesting Rights’ Case and mobility issues

President Lipinski has actively followed the Métis Nation of Alberta’s (MNA) harvesting rights’ case that concluded in June. He says that just as other Métis Nation governments benefited from the MNO’s pursuit and support of the Powley case, the MNO stands to benefit from this case because it deals with the important issue of Métis mobility within the Métis Nation.

Over the generations, many of our Métis citizens have moved and continue to move throughout the Métis Nation. However, based on the current state of the law on Métis rights, when a Métis person moves from Manitoba or Alberta to Ontario and then is accepted as a citizen of the MNO, that person loses the right to hunt. The MNO cannot currently issue such an individual a *Harvester’s Card*. Only a person with an ancestral connection to an historic Métis community in Ontario can qualify for hunting in that area.

Moreover, we are not allowed to issue Harvesters Cards to Métis citizens who move between regional rights-bearing Métis communities in Ontario, unless the Métis citizen is able to demonstrate an ancestral connection to the new regional rights-bearing community they live in.

“The MNO’s leadership has always believed this was wrong and that our people should be able to move within the Métis

Nation Homeland and not lose their harvesting rights,” said President Lipinski.

Gary went on to explain the case. “In the MNA case, the mobility issue is squarely before the Alberta court. One of the defendants, Garry Hirsekorn, is Métis and was born in Manitoba, but moved to southern Alberta. Ron Jones is Métis and is ancestrally connected to southern Alberta, but lives near Edmonton. Both Garry and Ron were charged for hunting in southern Alberta. Both of them claim that their mobility within the Métis Nation should not cause them to lose their harvesting rights.

“WE HAVE A DISTINCT HISTORY, COMMUNITIES AND CULTURE AS A PEOPLE.”

“The evidence and arguments in this case stress the important fact that the Métis Nation has an historic homeland and we are not just mixed ancestry individuals....We have a distinct history, communities and culture as a people. As well, the importance of the MNA’s objectively verifiable registry was key to the Métis harvesters’ defence that they are members of the rights-bearing Métis community.”

The president said that this case further reaffirms the importance of the MNO’s Registry as well as our connections to the larger Métis Nation.

The MNA trial took a lot of time, energy and resources. There were 42 days of trial, 30 witnesses, six experts and over 10,000 historical documents put before the court. It was the largest Métis harvesting rights’ trial to date.

“As well, our MNO lawyers-- Jean Teillet and Jason Madden--represented the Métis harvesters and the MNA in this case. As most of you know, Jean and Jason have been the lawyers for all of the Métis harvesting rights’ victories in Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and, we hope, soon in Alberta. The entire Métis Nation has confidence in their work in fighting for

and defending Métis rights and we know these important issues for the entire Métis Nation are in good hands.

“We all hope that the MNA will be successful in this case. A positive decision could allow the MNO to look to change its Harvesters’ Policy in order to begin addressing mobility issues. This is why I wanted all MNO citizens to be aware of this case and its potential impact for us. The MNO will continue to keep our citizens updated on this important case,” said President Lipinski.

A decision is expected in October.

Culture

Native Circle shares Indigenous culture with OPG employees


Métis fiddler and dancers demonstrate traditional jig

On July 21st, just one month after the rest of us celebrated National Aboriginal Day, the “Native Circle”, an Ontario Power Generation (OPG) group that works to share Indigenous culture with all employees, held their own celebration at Darlington Nuclear. The Native Circle is open to all OPG employees of self-identified Aboriginal or First Nations descent.

The ceremony began with a prayer offered by Dr. Helene Savard, interim President of the new Peterborough Métis Council. There was an arts and crafts sale, and a sampling of Aboriginal cuisine. Three members of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dance Troupe were joined by fiddler Alicia Blore as they presented some traditional Métis jigs.

This is the 10th year the Native Circle has celebrated National Aboriginal Day with OPG employees. OPG sponsors scholarships for indigenous youth, participates in the Thunder Bay Aboriginal Career Fair and partnered with an Indigenous group to operate a hydro dam.

Métis Harvesters



Attention Métis Trappers & Fishers

MÉTIS FISHERS
The MNO’s Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch (“LRC Branch”) is in the process of compiling a list of Métis citizens with commercial fishing licenses in Ontario. Commercial fishing has been and continues to be integral to Métis identity and way of life in Ontario. Collecting this information is important in the MNO’s ongoing efforts to protect Métis participation in this industry.

As well, the LRC Branch would like to identify Métis citizens and families who have been pushed out of the fishing industry by government policies as well as those Métis citizens and families who remain interested in participating in commercial fishing if opportunities became available.

MÉTIS TRAPPERS
The MNO’s Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch (“LRC Branch”) is in the process of compiling a list of Métis citizens with trap lines in Ontario. This information is important in showing ongoing Métis use of lands throughout Ontario and ensuring the interests of Métis trappers are being considered in consultation and accommodation processes. The LRC Branch hopes to eventually compile a map of Métis trap lines in the province.

As well, the LRC Branch is in the process of compiling a list of Métis citizens who would be interested in obtaining trap lines when they become available. The MNO is fighting to ensure that Métis citizens, like First Nations people, have the first right of refusal when trap lines become available in Ontario. This information on potential Métis trappers will be helpful in the MNO’s negotiations with the Ontario Government.

Register your trap line, or your interest in obtaining a trap line, with MNO in order to ensure that the MNO’s information is complete and includes you.

CONTACT:
Brian Tucker
807-274-1386 ext. 5
BrianT@metisnation.org

Housing

Housing Opportunities

Housing Program is moving many Métis

First Nation, Inuit and Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Assisted Housing Program

In the Ontario March 2007 budget, the provincial government announced 80 million dollars in funding for off-reserve Aboriginal housing units. Twenty million dollars were allocated for the Greater Toronto Area and 60 million dollars for the rest of the province. Following the announcement, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) and the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) partnered to prepare the Ontario Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust (OAHT) report, which was completed in September, 2008, and revised in February, 2009. The OAHT report made recommendations that, if implemented, would provide First Nations, Métis and Inuit people with safe, affordable, quality and culturally appropriate housing.

As indicated by a recent media release from the Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS), the OAHT report has made quite an impact. OAHS announced that the First Nation, Inuit and Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Assisted Housing Program is projected to deliver 255 units, and that the FIMUR Rental Component Program is projected to deliver 417 units. The last Request for Proposals through the FIMUR Rental Component Program closed in May, 2010, and resulted in the allocation of 17.4 million dollars for 199 rental units.

This is great news, not only because all of these facilities will be open to Métis citizens to live in, but also because the construction and management of these buildings may present job opportunities for Métis communities. The framework of FIMUR Housing Programs specifies that the design, construction, maintenance, ownership and administration of these units must go to Aboriginal people living off-reserve in urban and rural communities across Ontario.

FIMUR Housing Program funding is moving many Métis citizens as well as First Nations, and Inuit people closer to obtaining affordable and safe housing in their communities. This has been a long process, but many of our Métis citizens are now taking big steps forward, and this is something we can truly celebrate.

THUNDER BAY | PROGRAM UPDATE

Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program

The MNO Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) pilot project is a partnership between the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Ontario Power Authority (OPA), Confederation College and the Government of Canada's Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) and runs out of the MNO Housing Branch located in Thunder Bay, Ontario. It is a two year internship with in-class learning and on-site training with applied learning in shops, labs and the workplace.

Since January, 2009, the MNO BSTAIP students have attained a milestone and finished their first semester that consisted of the completion of four Confederation College credited courses which were: English, The Ontario Building Code, and two technical math courses. Building Science



Promoting the MNO Building Systems Technical Advisor Internship Program (BSTAIP) at local trade fairs.

Theory was and is an ongoing learning process for the students and will continue into the next semester. As part of their Energy Advisor course, MNO BSTAIP students fabricated a blower door display and presentation table to

promote the MNO BSTAIP at local and surrounding area trade fairs. So far this year, the MNO BSTAIP students attended the MNO Annual General Assembly in Thunder Bay and the Red Rock Indian Band Career Fair to promote their program and successes. At the AGA, the MBSTAIP students were also very helpful with the shuttling of delegates from out of town.

Currently, the MNO BSTAIP is accepting applications for the next cohort which is scheduled to start in January 2011. If you have a background in construction, have completed grade 12, or obtained post-secondary education and are interested in being part of a dynamic program, then contact:

Leafy Shaw

leafys@metisnation.org
Tel: 1-800-891-5882

Agawa hired as MNO Housing Policy Analyst

In May, 2010, Carrienne Agawa was hired by MNO for the position of Housing Policy Analyst. Her office is in the MNO Housing Branch located in Thunder Bay. In the late fall and winter, she will be arranging visits with the MNO councils and community members to deliver information regarding mortgages and to gather data regarding housing gaps and the needs of the Métis citizens and their communities.

CONTACT:

Carrienne Agawa

carriennea@metisnation.org
Tel: 807-626-9300



This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.



the Métis Nation of Ontario

- A two year internship with in-class learning and on-site training
- Mentorship by skilled technicians
- Applied learning in shops, labs and workplace

MNO BUILDING SYSTEMS TECHNICAL ADVISOR INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (BSTAIP)

APPLY NOW!

- NEW START DATE of JANUARY!
- Financing available to those who qualify.

Are you interested in:

- a career that challenges you?
- home renovations or construction?
- traveling?
- working with diverse people?
- energy efficiency?

If so, this program is for you!



CONTACT:

Metis Nation of Ontario **Housing Branch** - 226 South May St., Thunder Bay, ON
Carrienne Agawa or Leafy Shaw - Tel: **1-800-981-5882**

OSHAWA & DURHAM MÉTIS COUNCIL | CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE MÉTIS, 2010

Métis heritage festival

by Rob Pilon
President
Oshawa & Durham Métis Council

With visitors and participants from across Ontario as well as the Maritimes, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia, the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council held its 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration on June 26th and 27th at Memorial Park in downtown Oshawa. The day started with rain, but by early afternoon the clouds parted and the crowds filled the park with close to 5000 people attending over the two days.

The celebration included a full suite of great Métis entertainment, anchored by the amazing JJ Lavallee and band (nominee for a 2010 People's Choice Aboriginal Music Award) from St. Ambrose, Manitoba. But the entertainment didn't stop there – in addition there were the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, Alicia Blore on her fiddle, along with a new young



JJ Lavallee on his fiddle.

fiddler, Rajan Anderson, John Samosi with his drum, the All Our Relations Drumming Circle and the Métis Fiddler Quartet among others. We were also very honoured with the fiddling of James Cheechoo, one of the legendary James Bay fiddlers, along with his wife Daisy and daughter Trina. What an amazing line-up!

Complementing the wide array of entertainment, the park

was filled with a varied group of vendors and presenters. Visitors could learn about sash-weaving or drum-making, purchase beautiful jewellery, leather work or hand-made soaps, and see interesting displays of Métis artefacts. Bringing further ambiance to the park were a number of teepees—including the new one commissioned by the council and decorated with the beautiful paintings



The Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers

of renowned Métis artist Dennis Weber—the voyageur canoe on loan from the MNO, and a brand new Red River cart, built by Métis craftsman Armand Jerome from Manitoba. Together with the musicians and dancers, artisans and experts, these iconic symbols of our proud Métis heritage delivered a wonderful experience to the many people who attended our event.

So many people pitched in to help—from organizing, to setting up and taking down, assisting with vendors and participants, helping out in the various tents, managing the stage and hosting, communications and marketing, and more. My sincere thanks and gratitude to all who participated in helping us make this, our 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration, a resounding success!



Dennis Weber, a renowned Métis artist with his roots in Batoche, painted a teepee for the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council. This special teepee was on display at the 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration held June 26-27 at Memorial Park in Oshawa.

Oshawa and area Métis community make celebration a success

by Rob Pilon
Oshawa & Durham Métis Council

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks and appreciation for all of the hard work and commitment shown by members of the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council and our larger community in support of our very successful 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration.

Events like this cannot happen without a lot of dedication, planning, cooperation and hard work. The many people who pitched in towards making this an undeniable success are the reason it was that success. We should be proud that the Métis spirit was so well represented—from the fantastic entertainment, great vendors, interesting



presenters to the many volunteers, organizers and helpers, the Métis people, their families and friends worked together to pull off what we can proudly say is the largest Métis event in Ontario!

With the risk of overlooking someone, I'll keep my appreciation at the community level, because I really believe it is the community that makes this

work. So whether you played a small part or a large part, I would like to sincerely thank you for being an important part of this collective effort. In a way the combined effort of our community is similar to the Métis sash—a colourful combination of individual threads intertwined and woven together to make something much stronger and substantial than the individual threads.

Again, thanks to everyone who participated in our 4th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration. It was a fantastic weekend due to everyone's enthusiasm, creativity and hard work!

If you haven't checked out the web site be sure to click and see the great photos:
www.oshawametiscouncil.piczo.com

Honouring our Elders by investing in our youth

by Rob Pilon
President
Oshawa & Durham Métis Council

Earlier this year the Oshawa & Durham Region Métis Council (ODRMC) formed a partnership with the Abbeylawn Manor in Pickering. The goal of this partnership was twofold:

- (1) to create an event on the grounds of Abbeylawn Manor that would showcase Métis culture to residents and their families, as well as the surrounding community and,
- (2) to work together to establish a bursary fund for Métis youth.

Within a couple short months both objectives were met with a resounding success! With volunteers from both the Abbeylawn Manor as well as the ODRMC led by Joseph Poitras, the community pulled together to host yet another Métis event in the Durham region. On May 29th hundreds of people gathered on the lawns of the Abbeylawn Manor to learn more about our rich Métis heritage. The crowd was able to check out numerous vendors and presenters, listen to the fiddling of Alicia Blore, and cheer on the jiggging of the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dance Troupe.



Senator Joseph Poitras and Robert Pilon.

The event was capped off with the announcement of the “Joseph Poitras and Abbeylawn Manor Bursary”. A total of \$3200. was raised to start the fund which will be used to help support Métis youth with their secondary education costs. Surrounded by his family, Joe was presented with a plaque that will have the names of future recipients of the bursary.

It was a very proud moment for both Joe and our council in initiating a program that will help our youth in the future.

Further details regarding criteria and the application process will be posted on the ODRMC website early in 2011.

Niimki & Inouk back at home on the water

It's been one week since Niimki and Inouk went home. I am not feeling like a person with empty nest syndrome because I know the canoe and paddle were won by a magnificent person, one who is going to share the journey with us. Here is an update from Luci Rice, the winner of our canoe and paddle draw. I am honoured that she will indeed keep our council updated on the journey. The journey is the whole reason we did this. As I receive updates I will write a little bit on what those two are up to.

— **Barbara Rusk**, Grand River Métis Council

Boozhoo,

It took a little doing but we have found a temporary spot in the living room for both of them. B'maadzejig Dewaygunwaa is communing with them at the moment.

When we stopped at the Sunoco Gas Station at Waubeshene a woman came over before I could get out of the car and asked about Niimki. Her husband came over too. I told them a small part of Niimki and Inouk's story. They mentioned they visit in Pointe au Baril on occasion in the summer. I invited them to visit and take Niimki and Inouk out for a paddle next time they come this way. Their journey has certainly started in the way you had hoped.

Today I spoke with my nephew Musqwuanquot. When he comes home he usually stays at my mother's beach and will ask to use a canoe once in a while. I told him what I could remember about how Niimki came to be and the story of Inouk. I also asked him if he would accept the responsibility of taking care of them when I pass over. I recommended to him he spend as much time with Niimki and Inouk as he can when he comes home. (He lives in Ottawa.) He agreed

to help out and said he would take on the responsibility of ensuring Niimki and Inouk are well taken care of, never end up in a museum and would never be sold. He accepted the tobacco I gave him for these purposes.

On Monday, I told Niimki and Inouk's story with one of the owners of our local radio station on the Rez and she suggested I write it up and record it for a future broadcast. I will do this over the next several weeks.

I hope to talk with the coordinator of our day care centre next Friday and invite the children down to my mom's beach to tell them the story about Niimki and Inouk and how they came to be, as well as give them a short ride.

My landlord is an avid canoeist and he came Friday morning to take a look at Niimki and Inouk. He holds a regatta each year in September and invited us out on that weekend.

Paddy and I will be quite busy with things once they get started but we are quite content to be a part of this adventure.

Have a kind day both of you and I will give another update in a couple of weeks.

— **Luci and Paddy**



The winner of the canoe, Niimki, and paddle, Inouk, is LUCI RICE of Parry Sound

The Grand River Community held the draw on Saturday, June 5, 2010, in Guelph. The ceremonial launch took place on Saturday June 26, 2010, at the West Montrose Family camp.

Beginning at noon, canoe builder Marcel Labelle, performed a smoke ceremony. The maiden voyage was further celebrated with great music, a pot luck feast, and traditional stories. Micheline Boisvert, the paddle creator, was on hand to meet the Grand River Council for the very first time.



(left) **Luci Rice, winner of Niimki (the canoe) and Inouk (a paddle hand painted by Micheline Boisvert), and canoe-builder Marcel Labelle on the water.**

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES | THE LAUNCH OF NIIMKI & INOUK

Métis at heart

By **Bradley Rusk**

I have been around the Métis world for a few years now. I am not Métis; however, through my wife, Barbara Rusk, I have been introduced into this sphere.

Niimki, the canoe, first came into my life as a large, bark like thing in my garage. Resting on two wood horses, it spent the better part of a year there.

When my friends would come over I would always go over the list of materials that went into building the canoe: birch bark, cedar, ash, pine gum and bear grease. "Where does he get the bear grease?" they would ask. "Bears, I assume", would come the reply. The world of bears is a distant memory in most city minds.

Niimki, like an urban legend, seemed to grow with time. Marcel Labelle, Niimki's creator, and his essence are alive in this vessel. Then, the paddle, Inouk, gifted by

Micheline Boisvert, accentuated an already magnificent craft. And, as it turns out, these two people were long lost cousins--reunited by acts of charity and talent.

I've heard the story of the cousins told many times. It seems to touch people open to the spirit, people who are willing to listen to the trees and wind. It brought one man to tears that had come to our door to buy a ticket one evening. It was a good evening.

However, Niimki seemed destined to remain in the garage or travel to the odd cultural event. As Niimki remained silent, Barb spent countless hours getting a raffle together, telling the story and discovering her own identity. The entire range of human emotion ebbed and flowed. Just when it seemed like this was never going to take off, it came together.


Niimki is no longer in our garage.

I attended the launch with 30

or so other souls, who braved the heavy rain to see Niimki and Inouk take the next step in what we all hope is a long journey. As usual I watched from the shadows. I'm always welcome at Métis events but I still feel like a ghost clings to me. It is difficult to explain. The eyes of the Métis people tell me I belong; but, I feel as if my blood prevents it. However, on this occasion that all broke down. I'm not sure if it was the Ojibway words and ceremony or the complete grace exhibited by Luci, Niimki's new caretaker. The event pulled me in and washed away all inhibition. I was truly moved and felt tears emerging from behind corporate eyes.

As Luci, Marcel, and Niimki cut through the swifter than anticipated Grand River, I felt a sense of being part of something--something good, something bigger than all of us.

I was honoured.



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MNO Council and Health staff organize ‘Métis Day’ in Dryden

by Don McDonald
Long Term Care Coordinator
DRYDEN

On June 25, 2010, as a show of hospitality typical to the time-honoured Métis way, the Northwest Métis Nation of Ontario Community Council and local Health Branch Program Coordinators organized a “Métis Day”. Although circumstances required the local council to celebrate the event later in the week, it celebrated both National Aboriginal Day and the fact that 2010 is the “Year of the Métis Nation.”

This special day provided an opportunity to showcase the community, culture, and charm of the Métis in the Dryden area. The event also highlighted the role of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) in representing its citizens and planning for future growth. It further gave reason to share the optimism that MNO President, Gary Lipinski, had expressed regarding the recognition of the Métis by the government’s designation of 2010 as the “Year of the Métis Nation”. As he said, “...most of all, I felt optimism... that the best and brightest days of the Métis Nation are still ahead of us!” Those in attendance were empowered by similar expressions made throughout the day and shared the same sentiments.

Senator Al Roussin gave the opening prayer. The Long Term Care Program Coordinator, Don McDonald, was master of ceremonies. He along with Tina Dufey, Community Action Plan for Children (CAP-C) Program Coordinator and Judith Williams, Aboriginal Healthy Babies/Healthy Children, Program Coordinator, assisted the Northwest Métis Council President, Alvina Cimon and council office assistant, Nick



Above: Northwest Métis Nation - Dryden Health staff



Far left: Don McDonald and Northwest Métis Nation Council President, Alvina Cimon



Left: MNO President Gary Lipinski

Roussin, in organizing the event. Special guest, MNO President, Gary Lipinski, was a welcome presence and contributed to the meaningfulness of the occasion with both his sincere speech and his warm and caring approach while mingling with those in attendance. A presentation was made to the local council president acknowledging the important role of the community council and exceptional effort of President Cimon herself, in extending a wide range of assistance to local citizens and friendly support to the MNO Health Branch Staff. President Lipinski was presented with a “Dryden” pin as a

memento of his visit to our community.

An exceptional feature of the Long Term Care Workshop was the presence of the Dryden Area Family Health Team, who provided glucose testing and blood pressure checks along with excellent information on an effective self-care approach to health and wellness. In addition, there were activities for children and youth and our older adults and seniors were welcomed with a warm embrace as we cherished our time together.

Adding to the true spirit of a Métis celebration a remarkable live performance of Métis music

was provided by Ken and Jeanette Denby and Marshall Bazinet. The colourful presentation outside the office, the music echoing along the downtown streets, the people crowded around throughout the duration of the event and the light lunch and refreshments were a definite display of Métis hospitality.

As council and staff reflected on some of the conversations and experiences of the day we concluded that it was a genuine show of Métis community, culture and charm and an excellent way to acknowledge 2010 as the “Year of the Métis”.

OWEN SOUND:

Great Lakes Métis Council Fall Activities

The following workshops have been planned for the Grey-Bruce-Owen Sound area. If you are interested in attending any of these workshops/activities, or want more information, please contact David Clark. As well, check our web site at: www.greatlakesvoyageurs.com (click on “coming events”).

NINTENDO WII 101 - Using the Wii for recreation, leisure, and exercise. Learn how to use the Wii and its various fitness programs. A recent study has shown that regular use of the Wii can help with symptom relief in people with Parkinson’s.

24th November, **HOW TO HANDLE HOLIDAY STRESS Lunch ‘n’ Learn Series** - A workshop presented by the Community Network Support Team and the Consumer / Survivor Development Project. Lunch will be provided.

WALK ‘N’ TALK TO BATOCHÉ!
If you are interested in a weekly walking group, let me know. I would like to suggest a “Walk to Batoché” by collectively accumulating kilometres that add up to the distance from Owen Sound to Batoché (2,729). Each of us would record our kilometres walked, on a master chart, and continue until we reach Batoché.

9th December, **DIABETES AND FOOT CARE CLINIC** - Presented by Métis Nation of Ontario’s Health and Wellness Program and Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative (SOADI). Pre-registration will be required for a foot care session.

If you are interested in any upcoming activity, or would like more information, contact

David Clark / Community Wellness Coordinator
Tel: 519-370-0435 or
DavidC@metisnation.org
380 9th St. East, Lower Level
Owen Sound, Ontario

We have to be grateful because plants are very powerful things, not something to be toyed with. And when we pull a plant, we have to be careful because essentially we are ending that life. So when we are yanking that life from the earth, it better be with good intentions.”

Métis Elder Joe Paquette
MNO Traditional Plant Knowledge Study, Spring 2010



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Contact Nichole Fraser MacDonald or Laura Taylor:
nichole.frasermacdonald@aecom.com or laura.taylor@aecom.com
519.763.7783



REGION 7 COUNCILS

Great Lakes Métis Council



by Senator Leora Wilson

Great Lakes Métis Council
leoraw@greatlakesvoyageurs.com

New Council Name

The Grey Owen Sound Métis are now officially known as the Great Lakes Métis, after the community vote at the annual community meeting in April.

Former president Ray Racicot was interviewed by MNO and hired as the new office co-ordinator, so come out and encourage him, as he takes on new challenges.



Great Lakes councillor Peter Couture, (left) is shown presenting Linda Boyle (right) with a certificate of appreciation for her volunteerism and service to local Métis.

Métis Appreciation Dinner

The first ever Métis Appreciation Dinner, held at the Best Western Inn on the Bay this past April, was an unqualified success. All those invited were past and present council members, as well as dedicated volunteers.

Special music was presented by Piyak Ootih (One Heart) Métis Drummers. Dinner speakers were MNO President, Gary Lipinski; Manager of Community Relations, Hank Rowlinson; and, Land, Resources and Consultation Director, Melanie Paradis. This unique event was planned and organized by Peter Couture, as well as Great Lakes Métis office coordinator, Melanie Hamilton. A good time was had by all, with lots of stories about

the humble origins of the modern Métis of Owen Sound and area being shared. Many attendees commented on how strong and in how brief a time, the Métis identity has been re-established in this area.

All the best, Melanie!

Best wishes to Melanie Hamilton, the first ever office coordinator for Great Lakes Métis Council, as she leaves us to take on new employment. Our council and community owe her a debt of gratitude for her service over the past few challenging months and we wish her the very best in all new ventures.



Summer Rendezvous

Great Lakes Métis Council of Owen Sound held a summer rendezvous on July 17th at Durham Saugeen Conservation Park. A Grand Entry proceeded to the picnic area over the dam at the McGowan Falls south access.

The rest of the day was filled with activities and entertainment: canoe races; fish fry; barbecue; horseshoe tournament; bingo games; children and youth activities; vendors' tables; penny table; fishing; swimming; horse and buggy rides; a music jam-boree; campfire; and, drumming.

A good time was had by all. If you missed it, plan to join us next year.

Moon River's Métis Soirée



In celebration of National Aboriginal Day and the "Year of the Métis", the Moon River Métis Council held a Métis Soiree on June 24th at the Gravenhurst Opera House.

This evening of fiddling and jigging featured Métis jigger Jamie Koebel and the Métis Fiddler Quartet. The Métis Fiddler Quartet specializes in performing and interpreting Canadian Aboriginal fiddle music. This bilingual French/English family group continues to discover and present the old-style fiddle tunes passed down by elders from across Canada.

The group's mandate is to expose audiences to the unique diversity of Canadian Métis and Native fiddle and to educate through participation. This is accomplished by means of musical performances, educational presentations, and interactive workshops for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal audiences.

Professional Métis jigger, Jamie Koebel, whose fancy foot work sets the standards for jiggers, also appeared. As a solo dancer, Jamie has won several Métis jigging competitions across Canada and the US. In 2009 she won first place at the only international Métis festival held on the North Dakota and Manitoba border. The same year she was asked by the Governor General of Canada to accompany her on an

"IN ONTARIO, IT IS IN PLACES LIKE MOON RIVER THAT MÉTIS HISTORY COMES TO LIFE."

official state visit to the United States, Guatemala and Costa Rica to share her experiences as a performing artist. Ms. Koebel believes that having a positive outlook while dancing is one way to show the pride that you have in your culture.

"The Year of the Métis will be celebrated in Ontario along the water routes of the province, around the Great Lakes and throughout the historic northwest," said Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario. "In Ontario, it is in places like Moon River that Métis history comes to life, and the Métis Soirée, is the perfect way to celebrate the rich history and the proud traditions of our vibrant and colourful culture."



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Shki-Miikan (New Roads) One-year Certificate Program

Developed in partnership with the Anishnabe Education and Training Circle, Shki-Miikan foundation year is designed to enhance the Aboriginal student's sense of cultural identity, develop a solid academic base, assess education/career options and develop self-management skills. Students can receive a one-year certificate or continue on to the Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development (ACSD) program. Both programs have a common first year.

Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development Two-year Co-op Diploma Program

This program is focused on the planning, development, evaluation and administration of social/health care services within the Aboriginal

community. This program includes business and community development studies with an emphasis on integrating cultural, social and health issues relevant to Aboriginal people in Canada. Graduates will find employment in a wide range of health/social settings: in community health centres, social services organizations, healing lodges, mental health services, school boards and other human services areas.

Cooperative Education

Co-operative education is a mandatory component of the two-year Aboriginal Education - Community and Social Development program. Two co-op work terms are needed: May to August.

Watch for more information about our upcoming Traditional Pow Wow on Saturday, March 12th, 2011.



Program Co-ordinator
(705) 728.1968, ext. 1326

Community Liaison Worker
(705) 728.1968, ext. 1317

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Second Chance canoe

by Rick Paquette
Niagara Region Métis Council

This past July in the Niagara Peninsula was a hot one; so hot in fact that the government had to issue heat advisories for four days because the humidex was over 50C.

This was just before our annual summer picnic which was extra special as we would also be hosting the official launch of our new birch bark canoe. The organizing committee was worried about the people and all the food. With temperatures like that it wasn't going to be easy. Two days before the launch it started to rain and continued until Friday afternoon when it finally stopped. By Saturday morning it was beautiful--about 27C with no humidity and gorgeous powder blue skies. The work party arrived around 7:30 to get things ready for the day which would be packed full of activities such as snow shoe races, bannock making and canoe races.

We had almost 100 people there to take part in the day, watch the canoe ceremony and witness its historic launch. Marcel Labelle arrived with his wife, Joanne and their grandson Alexandre, and of course our new birch bark canoe. When it was time to start the ceremony, I opened by thanking all the MNO staff, community volunteers, and the NRMC for their hard work to make the day happen. I also welcomed all of the citizens and out of town guests as well as two members of the District School Board of Niagara, Shirley Scott and Maureen Alderdice, who made it possible for Marcel to build the canoe at Fort Erie Secondary School. This was unheard of until now and especially nice because it gave Marcel a chance to share his wisdom and our Métis culture with students in the community. On behalf of council, I presented Marcel with two hand carved decoys made by Bernard Paquette as a



thank you for the canoe. Then it was Marcel's turn to address the crowd. He started by speaking about our county's history and how vital the wikwas tchiman (birch bark canoe) was to the people back then. Life was hard as there were no roads and no stores, yet people survived. They were able to survive because they respected the land, and they worked together. As Marcel put it, the waterways were the highways and the wikwas tchiman was something that his Anishinabec grandparents shared with his European grandparents. That is a nice feeling and one that we as Métis can all share. He also spoke

about how all that sharing and working together changed when government and business saw Canada as a way to make money. It became a very dark time for the First Nations people and I know that they suffered a great deal, as did the Métis. In some ways, I think we had it worse. It became a time of mistrust between the First Nations and the Europeans and that spelled disaster for the Métis. In most cases we just hid, blended in, vanished, or went underground. It was a dark and sad couple hundred years. Our people concealed our identity in public, and only spoke of it at home or with our community, and in many

cases, not at all. When I see Métis Elders like Marcel Labelle and others like Joe Paquette, sharing, teaching, and showing respect, not only in our community but in the First Nations community, and the non-aboriginal community, I know that there is still hope. In Marcel's speech he talks about reconciliation and Prime Minister Steven Harper's apology to the Aboriginal people. This is how the name of our canoe came to him. He told the crowd of almost 100 people, "I am very optimistic, as a result of this process, that the residents of Canada, even though its culture is merely one defined by a large geographical

territory under one government, seems for the moment to be embracing its 'Second Chance' to treat the original people of this land fairly--as equals. So, just as many generations ago, the people of this land are starting to get the recognition they so rightfully deserve. Again, maybe through the same gift of the Wikwas Tchiman, this is why the name 'second chance' came to me. Let's get it right this time."

This was a proud moment for our community and a great time to join together to honour the land and celebrate our culture. This is a wonderful gift that Marcel has given us through the grant that he received from The Ontario Arts Council, and we are honoured to receive it.

With the work that President Gary Lipinski, the PCMNO and the MNO staff are doing on our behalf, combined with the teachings of our Métis elders and local events like this one which are taking place in communities all across Ontario, and the rest of Canada, I am certain that "2010 the Year of the Métis" is only the beginning.

(above) The inaugural launch of "Second Chance". Vice President Derrick Pont, Youth Rep. Andrea Paquette and artisan Marcel Labelle.

(right) Andrea Paquette, Youth Rep; Derrick Pont, Vice President; and, Sarah Macdonald, Secretary.



Canoe launch and family day in Welland

by Barbaranne Wright
Niagara Region Métis Council

The weather was perfect as our Métis family attended this very special occasion--Family Day and Canoe Launch on Merritt Island, Welland, Ontario. Great fun was had by all!

There were games; a snow-shoe race; bannock baked over an open fire; canoe races (and yes, Dalton Vander Sanden and I partnered and came in first). I could not have done it without you Dalton!

Marcel Labelle brought his family and the canoe called *Second Chance*. The Niagara Region Métis Council was very fortunate and grateful to receive it. Thank you, Marcel! It means a lot to the citizens, of this region. Everyone deserves a second chance.



Canoe-maker Marcel Labelle with "Second Chance"

We also want to thank Senator Andre Bosse, and his wife Brenda from Northumberland for attending the event, and Virginia Barter and her husband Sandy, who attended on behalf of the Métis Artists' Collective in Toronto.

The health team was on hand to make sure the food was ready for all the citizens who came out to celebrate this day together. We are truly thankful for the wonderful Métis family we are a part of here in Niagara.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 12
Harvest Potluck Dinner

NOVEMBER 16
Louis Riel Day, Flag raising at Welland City Hall

Please visit our web site at:
www.niagarametiscouncil.ca for more details.
For info contact Barbaranne:
bwright.ue@sympatico.ca

Red River cart beats the rain

by Kelly Paquette
Niagara Region Métis Council

On June 6, 2010, the Niagara Region Métis Council participated in the annual spring fair hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Niagara Falls. The event was held at the Willoughby Historical Museum a few steps from the beautiful Niagara River.

The theme of this year's event was "The Importance of wheels throughout our Lives". The NRMC's Youth Representative, Andrea Paquette, was doing a high school co-op at the museum. When she heard of the theme, she told the project coordinator that we had a Red River cart. The coordinator sent us an invitation asking us to attend.

The weather was against us. It rained all night before and for most of the day. In true Métis fashion, the members of our council quickly tied some tarps to the trees for shelter, set up our MNO banner and our flags. We pulled the Red River cart out in front of our display table which featured MNO and council information.

Even with the bad weather this event was well attended, including dignitaries Kim Craitor, Niagara's MPP; and, Ted Salci, Mayor of Niagara Falls. The Red River cart caught the attention of everyone and many people thought that it was an original. Members of our council in their regalia mingled with the crowd and talked with the other exhibitors. This was a good day for all even in the rain.

GENEALOGY & GENETICS

Family Finding

By Donn Fowler

In pursuit of information concerning our family roots it becomes obvious that we amateur family genealogists soon exhaust our resources. We experience so many problems searching for our ancestors that we become mired in the huge matrix of first and last names to which we are exposed. Often, the initial names are well known to us because we are more closely related. Geneticists refer to these as our known “Most Recent Common Ancestor” (MRCA). Accordingly, we can go only so far in the process of genealogically digging for gold.

When we take the plunge into researching our families, we usually begin with our own birth surnames, then those of our parents, grandparents, and so on. What finally stops us cold is the magnitude of the doublings that occur: two parents from four grandparents, four grandparents from eight great-grandparents, eight great-grandparents from sixteen great-great-grandparents; sixteen great-great-grandparents from thirty-two great-great-great-grandparents, and so on into a brick wall. It becomes necessary for us to concentrate on those names which are most likely to keep the chain of ancestors reasonably accurate as we make newer discoveries.

We can also run into hyphenated names such as, “Sedore-Dafoe”, or spelling changes. These names tend to compound the process of identifying our true ancestors. We immediately recognise our genealogical limitations. At that point we could turn to determining our own genetic information (DNA), a process already described in previous issues of the *Voyageur*.

In the search for verification of our ancestors, the contemporary use of genealogy combined with genetics has given us a new means of identifying formerly unknown “cousins”, those with

whom we share some yDNA or mtDNA (male and female chromosomes). With this genetic information we can distinguish “cousins” who have our exact haplotype, from those who may have a few markers which are different from our own.

I have only one last genetic bit of information to obtain. It is called “Family Finder”. However, it is limited at present because it can only go back a few short generations. The science is fairly new, more expensive, and only recently available to those who have completed “full genetic sequencing” (FGS)—those who have completed the 67 markers (as distinct from, say, the 12 marker test). The new Family Finder is the Family Tree DNA's new test to determine closest family relationship.

“What finally stops us cold is the magnitude of the doublings that occur.”

The Family Finder, which will be coming to me in the next several weeks, will end my quest for genetic ancestral information and my search for our Métis and Indian roots. I expect to learn more about the haplogroups to which each belongs in addition to their respective specific haplotypes that are, like my own, Métis and Indian yDNA and mtDNA to complete my own final search, thanks to the FT-DNA's genetic team, the National Geographic's National Genographic Project and IBM's initiatives in providing this public service, including Ysearch.org and Mitosearch.org made available to clients.

The FT-DNA can be found on the reader's computer browser if desired; just type FT-DNA and you're there.

It's easy to become so embroiled in the search that we lose sight of what instigated it—the birth of our first Métis ancestor.



left to right: **John Leroux, Cornwall, ON; Conrad Leroux, Montreal, QC; Vern LaRue, Lansdowne, ON; Gaetan Leroux, Cornwall, ON; Steve Fleury, Brewerton, NY; Brenda Bradley, Morrisburg, ON and Senator Jacques Leroux, Bruce Mines, ON.**

Leroux family gathers to honour ancestor

by Jacques Leroux

On June 19, 2010, the Leroux family, after a long search, found the burial place of our ancestors, Jean Roux and his wife Judith Amard, at Chateaugay Quebec. As it turns out, they were one of the founding families of

the town and church.

We found out that their headstones had deteriorated, so we decided to have one made of granite for them. It seemed like the right thing to do. Now we have a marker to visit. It's a nice thing when we can do something for our ancestors.

MÉTIS CRAFTSMAN | SENATOR TRIES HAND AT METALWORK



Beautiful birds -- but they will never fly

by Senator Jacques Leroux
BRUCE MINES

I would like to show our younger Métis citizens that when one retires one can do many things to fill up the days and weeks.

I always wanted to try my hand at metal art. I was a welder for many years and I admired other people's metal sculptures. Now I have the time and I thought I would give it a try, to see what I could put out there.

These are my first three pieces. The two geese are my rendition and tribute to Benjamin CheeChee's great work.

The silver bird (far right) was named “Larry” by my wife, after Larry Bird the basketball player.

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Toronto**
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Around Blue Sky

Glowing camp fires warm the cusp between summer and fall

by **Brian Cockburn**
North Bay Métis Council

September 25th, 2010, the North Bay Métis Council enjoys the Feast of the Harvest Moon at Dutrisac Cottages in Sturgeon Falls. Wood ducks pass overhead as this annual harvest gathering serves up a dinner of fish and corn; the glowing camp fires warm the cusp between summer and fall.

It's the end of a very busy summer, looking back to the start with an invitation to St. Joseph-Scollard Hall High School, in North Bay, for an aboriginal appreciation day.

Roger Labelle hauls a birch bark canoe from Mattawa joining us at the Mattawa Ecology Centre between the Métis flags. Roger talks about the canoe's construction as Marc Laurin explains to the students the variety of furs laid out on his table, the softness of

the sheared beaver pelt being the most surprising to the passing youth. Behind us, Lorraine Montreuil can be heard doing her drumming workshop as the ecology team, dressed in their sashes, demonstrate a number of Métis games.

RELAY FOR LIFE

The "Relay for Life" attracted a Métis team to Sturgeon Falls--an over-night walk from 7:00 PM to 7:00 AM for the Cancer Society, thousands of flickering candles, tears in the rain, a very personal walk for loved ones lost, but a witness to a huge parade of those who survived.

On the same day as the Relay, Senator Marlene Greenwood represented the Métis, as our Elder, at a cultural gathering put together by the North Bay Friendship Centre.

The North Bay Métis Council unveiled the new logo (see below) with a visit from MPP



(top) **Roger Labelle discusses canoe construction with students at Scollard Hall.** (left) **Sabrina Roy-Metcalf and her 2 year old son, Samuel at the Fun in the Sun picnic.** (right) **Susan Van der Rassel and son, Ishmael after the 12-hour Relay for Life. The candle was for her mom Rita, a victim of cancer.**

PHOTOS BY LINDA KRAUSE AND BRIAN COCKBURN

Monique Smith, part of the Cultural Approach Research and Mapping project sponsored by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Around the office Linda Krause, MNOET, had the summer youth program up and running, Katelynn Peplinskie and Allison Smith kept a group of five to

twelve year olds entertained with a multitude of events from July 6th to August 12th.

FUN IN THE SUN

A number of the toddlers also joined in the summer "Fun in the Sun" day at Lee Park on July 16th. The annual Métis family picnic,

put on by the health and education program drew a good crowd as it did indeed turn out to be very sunny, but somehow very wet. Water balloons were out for the whole day; anyone in t-shirt and shorts volunteered themselves as targets. The North Bay Métis Council even managed to have a short meeting surrounded by 6 to 60 year olds unloading every sort of water pistol. Good times and a nice lunch as well.

WELCOME BACK, AMANDA!

September saw Amanda Desbien returning to Healthy Babies and Healthy Children at 101 Worthington St. East (Tel: 705-476-2339). Onyx Reath Maksoud was born August 19th, 2009, and it's hard to believe a year has passed, but Amanda was going over her plans for her office in July.

INTERIM MATTAWA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A birth of a different variety--Mattawa has formed a new interim community council. Nelson Montreuil previously of the North Bay Métis Council is the acting president until the first election. A good group in Mattawa means another council for Blue Sky Region 5. Congratulations!

I would also like to congratulate Jason Jamieson as he moves into his new position as MNO Health Branch Supervisor for Community Wellness, one of my favourite pieces of Blue Sky.



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CARM Chair, Mel Jamieson; Mary Lou Arrowsmith, Trillium Foundation; Senator Marlene Greenwood; Nipissing MPP, Monique Smith; North Bay Métis Councillors Marc Laurin and Doris Evans.

North Bay Métis Council unveil new logo

by **Brian Cockburn**
North Bay Métis Council

On June 18th, 2010, the North Bay Métis Council hosted the unveiling of its new logo in the Greenwood room of the Métis Centre as well as the official presentation of a two year, \$149,500 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Senator Marlene Greenwood opened the session with a prayer by Chief Dan George, and then Ben Farella, the consultant for the project, introduced the noted speakers.

"I love your logo", stated Nipissing MPP Monique Smith as she discussed Trillium and the Cultural Approach Research Mapping (CARM) project which will develop a cultural map plus

an inventory of local Métis history "to preserve the rich heritage that the Métis have---and highlight the Métis community here in North Bay."

Mary Lou Arrowsmith, the Trillium Foundation representative, also commented: "Your on-going research will help to identify the contribution of the Métis in our region." CARM chairperson Mel Jamieson thanked the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the funding, mentioning other sections of this project, such as the establishment of a new identity for the North Bay Métis with a governance manual, and a web site to bridge our Métis culture with the world.

Video of the event can be seen on Facebook at "North Bay Métis".

That elusive peace

By Donn Fowler

In the 1930s, while living in Kingston, Ontario, then a military city, we elementary school children had neither the knowledge nor a clear understanding of what the “Eleventh hour of the Eleventh Day” of each November really meant, except that it seemed to be a very important event in time, and one that our teachers called, “Our Armistice Day”. I had thought then that everybody in the whole world had to stand and be quiet for two long minutes (with our heads properly bowed in the long silence)—until the principal rang the school bell and we could all sit down again, but none the wiser.

However, in September of 1929, I had been registered in King Edward Public School in Peterborough, Ontario, two months short of being age five. Already, as a small child, I had been badly frightened by a very tall, uniformed man who had walked boldly up and onto the porch of our home on Prince Street in Peterborough, and then warmly greeted my parents. Only much later did I learn that that man was my father’s oldest



A Canadian soldier at the Second Battle of Passchendaele in Belgium, 1917.

brother, Arthur, and therefore my “uncle” from Kingston who was a career Canadian Army non-commissioned officer and soldier. Both that distinguished looking man, and his own father, Alfred—my paternal grandfather—had returned, almost unscathed, from France following “the war to end all wars” in 1918.

Some years later I learned that

my paternal great grandfather, Samuel, also had been a decorated Canadian soldier in an earlier action to thwart a threatened incursion into Canada from the United States, by an Irish motivated conglomeration of “Fenian Raiders”, near Brockville, Ontario.

In retrospect, the French and Indian War of 1754-1763, and the War of 1812-1814 against the

American incursion into Canada foreshadowed the wars with Germany in 1914-1918, and 1939-1945 in which my father James and I both participated, overseas. “Our war” was not only against Nazi Germany, but also against Italy and Japan. That period in history became the precursor of the United Nations’ North Korean conflict of the 1950s. In addition,

Canada’s many “peace-keeping” missions have occupied much military time and energy, and have to be kept in mind.

The League of Nations of 1920 failed to ensure peace, and it seems to many people that the United Nations has not made much, if any, real or lasting progress in preventing armed conflicts throughout the world either—certainly not in Palestine, nor in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, we Aboriginals collectively—Indian, Inuit, and Métis—in Canada, have always and continuously put our lives on the line in order to defend against any potential threat to our rural or urban homelands—those places which we all respect and love. Moreover, we’ll likely continue to do the “right thing” whenever we’re called upon to make a just and rightful stand to keep that elusive peace in sight, but what price will lasting peace demand?

Donald (Donn) Fowler enlisted as a 14-year-old in the Canadian army in June, 1940. As a member of the Glengarry Highlanders he landed in Normandy, France with a wave of D-Day reinforcements in 1944.

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Construction and Maintenance Electrician

Level One

What is Level One Training Program?

The Level One Training Program helps potential entrants to the apprenticeship system develop their job skills and trade readiness, so, that they will be prepared to find work as apprentices.

What is the Level One Construction and Maintenance Electrician Training Program all about?

The Level One Construction and Maintenance Electrician Training Program has been created to meet the important and growing needs of Aboriginal Communities of Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding area. This 23 week long program provides the equivalent to Level One Construction and Maintenance Electrician Training, the same as required by the Apprenticeship Branch for that trade. Successful graduates who secure apprenticeship positions in the trade will need only to write an exemption exam and do not have to repeat the training. In addition, the program provides academic upgrading and training in renewable energy, green construction and construction safety.

PROGRAM COSTS: While there are no costs to participate in the program, out-of-town students are responsible for their own travel and/or accommodations. Textbooks, tools and safety equipment are provided for the students registered in the program. The program concludes with a 4 week paid work placement.

LOCATION: This program will be delivered in Sault Ste. Marie at the Batchewana and Garden River First Nations as well as at Sault College.

Heavy Duty Equipment Technician

Level One

What is Level One Training Program?

The Level One Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Training Program helps potential entrants to the apprenticeship system develop their job skills and trade readiness so that they will be prepared to find work as apprentices.

What is the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician training program all about?

The Level One Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Training Program has been created to meet the important and growing needs of Aboriginal Communities in the Superior East area of the Algoma District. This 23 week long program provides the equivalent to Level One Heavy Duty Equipment Technician Training, the same as required by the Apprenticeship Branch for that trade. Successful graduates who secure apprenticeship positions in the trade will need only to write an exemption exam and do not have to repeat the training. The program provides academic upgrading, life and study skills and construction industry safety, tools, equipment and practices.

PROGRAM COSTS: While there are no costs to participate in the program, out-of-town students are responsible for their own travel and/or accommodations. Textbooks, tools and safety equipment are provided for the students registered in the program. The program concludes with a 4 week paid work placement.

LOCATION: This program will be delivered on the Michipicoten First Nation, in Wawa at the Superior East Training Centre and in lab / shop sites in the Wawa area.

Contact the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre:

Sault Ste. Marie (Sault College office) 705-759-2554 ext 2587
Blind River (Employment Solutions office) 705-849-3187
www.aboriginalapprenticeship.ca

CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF THE MÉTIS NATION -

AGA2010

17TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO
FORT WILLIAM HISTORICAL PARK • THUNDER BAY, ON
AUGUST 21ST TO 23RD, 2010



LIVING HISTORY, MAKING HISTORY

Métis Gather at Fort William

from page 1

In addition to the three day assembly, citizens participated in proponent consultations; youth bunked together and embraced their individual identities at FWHP's Bell House. Métis Veterans, Senators, Women, Presidents and Youth met to assess their accomplishments of the past year, and to define paths for the year ahead. Resolutions were put forward and suggestions made to keep the MNO advancing, and everyone was given the opportunity to experience the lifestyle of their ancestors as it existed centuries ago in the nation's infancy at Old Fort William. Old acquaintances laughed and reminisced; new friendships blossomed as fresh faces

were introduced, and lasting memories were made.

Métis are known to work hard and play hard, but at the AGA work had to come first. Pre-AGA activities included proponent meetings with the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO). OPA informed citizens about grants and programs available to the MNO and its community councils. Thanks to MNO's extensive lobbying, the MNO and its community councils were included in the legislation as one of the groups eligible to apply for these project opportunities. NWMO gave attendees an overview of their site-selection process and encouraged interested communities to request further information sessions. Citizens were also able to participate in the Woodland Caribou Workshop which discussed the traditional knowledge involved with the caribou harvest. Speakers for all three presentations provided listeners with both pertinent information and the opportunity to make a difference in the future.

The importance of proponent meetings was stressed later in the AGA by Métis lawyer, Jason Madden, who said, "These meetings are more than just an intake of information. These meetings help to keep Métis on the map. They are evidence that we do exist in the same way that our ancestors made their presence known a hundred years ago."

MNO President, Gary Lipinski, spoke to attendees at the consultations about his hope that they would "turn these opportunities into realities," in the near and long-term future.

Hydro One Contributes

A presentation of \$25,000 from Hydro One was made to the MNO during the OPA proponent ses-

PRESIDENT LIPINSKI THANKS TIRELESS MNO STAFF

After a very successful conclusion to MNO's 17th AGA, I want to pass along my sincerest appreciation to all MNO staff for all that you do. I know many of you worked tirelessly prior to and during the AGA to make it the success it was. Your hard work, planning, preparation, etc, is directly related to the success and the enjoyment had by all those in attendance. I also want to mention how much it was appreciated that some staff gave up their tickets to the Gala dinner to ensure MNO citizens and leaders were able to attend; it was another example of your generosity and dedication, thank-you to those that made this sacrifice. The Gala dinner was a wonderful evening.

To all the staff who were not able to attend, that had to hold the (other) "fort(s)" down so to speak--keep the other offices and programs going--I know you were with us in spirit and we wish you could have been there. Your contributions are equally appreciated, thank-you.

All staff, you are doing an amazing job that has been reflected in the growth of the MNO and its positive momentum.

Once again, thank-you for all that you do!

On behalf of all MNO citizens, leaders, PCMNO and others, well done.

by **GARY LIPINSKI**
Métis Nation of Ontario
PRESIDENT

Annual General Assembly



left to right: **Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras; Ontario Minister of Tourism and Culture, Michael Chan; Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, Chris Bentley; Métis National Council President, Clément Chartier; MP for Toronto-Centre, Bob Rae.**



left to right: **MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Bill Mauro; Acting Mayor of Thunder Bay, Linda Rydholm; MPP for Thunder Bay-Superior North, Michael Gravelle; MP for Simcoe North and Chair for the Commons Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Bruce Stanton; MP for Thunder Bay Superior North, Bruce Hyer.**

from page 15

sion. The money will benefit Métis students pursuing careers in the energy sector.

“The MNO will continue to grow. Through positive relationships we will move our agenda forward,” said President Lipinski.

Following each presentation, the floor was opened up to questions and comments by citizens eager to have their say. The majority of the concerns surrounded how Métis traditional land would be preserved with the implementation of these projects and what considerations had been made in regard to long-term management.

“Having your voice heard is part of your legacy to the Métis people,” said Director of Lands, Resources and Consultations, Melanie Paradis, in response to several citizens who asked questions and put forward comments following the consultations.

Métis youth were also asked to speak following the NWMO consultation about their opinions on the proposed Deep Geological Repository. The youth who spoke were open-minded and presented well thought out responses to the presenters as well as their fellow citizens. Many youth said that they felt more familiar with the topics for having been present during

the consultations.

After all their hard work, citizens were ready to kick off their moccasins and put on their dancing shoes. When Friday night’s Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Meet & Greet by the campfire was rained out, the Thunder Bay Métis Council invited citizens to gather in their Community Centre. It turned out to be a great night—a very large crowd, snacks, beverages, good music and a chance to catch up with one another.

The AGA officially got under way bright and early on Saturday morning, August 21st. Evoking memories of the fur trade era, the emotional opening ceremony began with the voyage of three canoes filled with honoured dignitaries. FWHP staff steered the canoes from shore to the wharf where they were greeted by eager citizens and park staff who welcomed the AGA to Thunder Bay and to the park. “[The entire opening ceremony] made the hair stand up on the back of your neck,” said President Lipinski, who was particularly moved.

Canoe occupants included: MNO President, Gary Lipinski; former MNO President, Dr. Tony Belcourt; Thunder Bay Métis Council President, Wendy Landry; Métis National Council

President, Clement Chartier; Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras; the Hon. Michael Gravelle, Minister of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry; the Hon. Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs; PCMNO Vice-Chair, Sharon McBride; PCMNO Chair, France Picotte; Senator Bob McKay of the Thunder Bay Métis Council; Anna Gibbon, Aboriginal Liaison with the City of Thunder Bay;

Linda Rydholm, representing the Mayor of Thunder Bay; Bill Mauro, MPP of Thunder Bay/Atikokan; Bruce Stanton, MP of Simcoe North; Denis Hubert-Dutrisac, College Boréal President; Sergio Buonocore, General Manager of FWHP; Peter Boyle, Manager of FWHP; PCMNO Senator, Reta Gordon; PCMNO Secretary/Treasurer, Tim Pile; PCMNO Youth Representative, Nicholas Callaghan; and, PCMNO Councillors Cameron Burgess, Maurice Sarrazin, Senator Ruth Wagner, Art Bennett, Marcel Lafrance,

Peter Rivers, Theresa Stenlund, Anita Tucker, Senator Gerry Bedford, JoAnne Wass, and Joseph Poitras.

Once out of the canoes, dignitaries joined in a procession that included Métis Veterans, Women, Senators, Youth and Olympic Torchbearers. Youth in the procession were outfitted with traditional Métis dress. As the procession entered FWHP, citizens standing-by joined in as they

wound their way through the park. The sight of citizens in traditional dress and colourful sashes filled everyone with pride as they celebrated their Métis ancestry.

Then it was down to business. Government Ministers, local MPs and MPPs also spoke, offering greetings and speaking to the MNO’s success in the past year and the strength of Métis-government relationships at the federal, provincial and municipal levels. Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Chris Bentley, con-

gratulated the MNO for its initiatives in the fields of education and training, housing and health.

State of the Nation

In his State of the Nation address, President Lipinski thanked all in attendance for their presence and dedication; for coming from all parts of the province to share in celebrating the AGA, and this, the Year of the Métis. “It is time that we, the Métis people, are recognized in this province and country,” said President Lipinski. “We have been here since before Canada was Canada.” As part of his speech the president spoke passionately about Métis involvement and historic sites which have contributed to the growth of Ontario and Canada itself.

Michael Chan, Minister of Tourism and Culture and the Minister responsible for Fort William Historical Park, highlighted growing opportunities for MNO citizens in the travel and tourism industry and also congratulated the MNO for its work in preserving Métis history and culture.

Following the speeches, an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), the first MOU of its kind between two provincial

“IT IS TIME THAT WE, THE MÉTIS PEOPLE, ARE RECOGNIZED IN THIS PROVINCE AND COUNTRY,” said President Lipinski. “WE HAVE BEEN HERE SINCE BEFORE CANADA WAS CANADA.”

Annual General Assembly



Past MNO President Tony Belcourt and MNO President Gary Lipinski.

PHOTO: Ralph Brown, Waterfront Productions



left to right: fiddlers at Historic Old Fort William, Opening procession of 17th Annual General Assembly.

Métis governments. The MOU was signed by President Lipinski and MNA President, Audrey Poitras, to help strengthen ties and as a formal commitment to work together, to learn from one another, and, to create a more unified Métis Nation in Canada.

In addition, John Bonin, Manager of Government and Aboriginal Affairs with Union Gas, presented \$10,000 to support Métis youth.

Tony Belcourt Gala

Saturday evening was all about recognizing and honouring the many, many contributions of MNO’s former and founding president, Dr. Tony Belcourt. Tony was accompanied by his partner Danielle Choquette who is a member of the Canadian Association of Conference Interpreters (CACI). Over 350 people attended the sold out dinner at the Best Western Nor’Wester. The cozy atmosphere was accented by a slideshow of old photos of Past-President Belcourt and his MNO family. During their meal, attendees were treated to a performance by the Métis Fiddler Quartet and entertained afterwards with the toe tapping music of Roger and Aline Giroux.

The evening continued as several of Dr. Belcourt’s former col-

leagues and friends, including President Lipinski, Chair France Picotte, Secretary Treasurer Tim Pile, and Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, roasted--and toasted--Dr. Belcourt. They reminded Tony of some of their more humorous times together, and most important, spoke of his dedication and generosity to the Métis people, his strong historical impact on the Nation as its founding president, and his ongoing battle to ensure that Métis rights are recognized and respected. Many also commended his ability to seemingly be in more than one place at any given time--even if it meant risking a speeding ticket.

Dr. Belcourt received a number of honours following the speeches, including the announcement of the establishment of the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts. The endowment, chosen by Tony, was created in partnership with the Ontario College of Arts & Design University (OCADU), which committed to matching the amount of \$20,000. Dr. Belcourt plans to oversee fundraising to aid the growth of the fund.

In a very emotional presentation, Senator Earl Scofield, on behalf of Métis veterans, honoured Tony with a rare white



above: Brian Tucker, MNO Manager of Lands, Resources and Consultations during a presentation on caribou migration. left: Senator Gordon Calder. right: Senator Elmer Ross.

continued page 18

AGA 2010
What a Wonderful Experience!

This is the second year in a row I have been invited to play music for the Métis citizens of Ontario. It is with great pleasure that I send my gratitude to the Health Branch for allowing this to happen again. Special thanks to Natalie Lloyd and Lisa Pigeau for their direct involvement.

This year was particularly special as my time was focused on entertaining for the Senators’ Meet & Greet. Everyone we met during our time that weekend was extraordinarily kind and welcoming; truly the enjoyment was all ours.

To everyone, a heartfelt thank-you!

God Bless
Armond and
Linda Desjardins
and Dexter

Annual General Assembly



clockwise from top left: **Métis Rights Lawyer Jean Teillet; Past MNO President Tony Belcourt receives eagle feather from Senator Earl Scofield; Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras, MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte sign Memorandum of Understanding; MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO Director of Finance Judie McKenney.**

from page 17

eagle feather that recognized his leadership. Métis Nation of Alberta President, Audrey Poitras, surprised the former MNO President with a framed reproduction of his family’s genealogy. Dr. Belcourt was born in the historic Métis community of Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, and served as Vice-President of the Métis Association of Alberta in 1969. Former Ontario Regional Chief, Charles Fox, and his wife Meladina, honoured Dr. Belcourt with the presentation of a First Nations’ name: Makwa Kah Nii Gah Niich, which very suitably translates to “the bear that leads”.

Volunteer of the Year


The 2010 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to a very deserving PCMNO Region 7 Councillor, Pauline Saulnier. Pauline, who is a member of MNO’s Development Corporation and Finance and Audit Committee, has co-facilitated Duty to Consult meetings across the province. She was nominated for the award because of her hard work and support of the MNO. Pauline was very moved by the recognition as she accepted the award in front of her fellow citizens. Past winners of the award include Deputy Chief Captain of the Hunt, Louise Goulding; Sudbury Métis Council President, Richard Sarrazin; PCMNO Senator, Reta Gordon and the award’s

name-sake, the much loved, late, Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. The youth agenda was full with over 30 young Métis in attendance. Activities included the Métis Boot Camp Workshop led by Bonny Cann and the Ispayin Project Workshop in partnership with the Métis Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO). Both focused on encouraging youth to discover and embrace their Métis

identity. More information about the Ispayin Project can be found on the back page and at www.metisyouthexpressions.ca. “It is great to see so many inspired and ambitious youth at these events,” said youth attendee Benny Michaud, who co-facilitated the Ispayin Workshop with Ginny Gonneau. “When I heard they were holding the Métis Boot Camp, I thought it would be a great way to get a

bunch of youth together in one room who were already engaged in a discussion about identity – and it went really well.” Youth representatives from several regions met and discussed ways in which youth across the province can communicate with one another (i.e. teleconferencing); the need for a more comprehensive governance structure within the youth council; a better method for

ensuring that youth council issues and concerns are brought to the PCMNO and MNO executives on a regular basis. “I was impressed and happy to see as many youth at this AGA as there are this year,” said Region 2 Youth Representative, Janine Landry. “At the first AGA I attended, I was the only youth. In following years the attendance has grown and will hopefully continue to grow as more youth



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Annual General Assembly



clockwise from top left: **Bannock-making workshop; sash-weaving workshop; Ontario Attorney General, Chris Bentley; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP, Bill Mauro and Thunder Bay Superior North MPP, Michael Gravelle; Senators arrive at the AGA; Volunteer of the Year, Pauline Saulnier; Métis fiddler Roger Giroux and friend.**

become interested and involved.” Amanda Strong, Chris McLeod, Ginny Gonneau, and Jeremy Brown who participated in past Métis canoe expeditions were also in attendance and made a presentation on their individual hardships, lessons learned and the strong camaraderie developed during their voyage. Youth were also treated to a presentation by Angelica Laurin, one of NAHO’s 2010 National Aboriginal Youth Role Models (see page 30). Bonny Cann and Dr. Chris Paci facilitated a discussion surrounding the possibility of a future Métis Youth Role Model award. Youth sat in on the two days of consultation meetings as well as the Saturday morning business meeting under the tent.

History Come Alive

Within FWHP, it felt much like history itself had come alive. The park staff was dressed in traditional Métis regalia and portrayed voyageurs and young Métis women with the utmost authenticity. Attendees were also able to enjoy and participate in cultural activities throughout the grounds--such as smoking delicious fish; mixing and baking their own homemade bannock; and creating intricate beadwork, much like their ancestors had done. Citizens were also enthusiastic to learn the traditional Métis dance form of jigging, participate in a mock casino facilitated and run by the Health Branch using “Métis money” as currency, and



John Bonin, Manager of Government and Aboriginal Affairs, Union Gas presents MNO President Lipinski with \$10,000 to support Métis Youth.

take part in the ever-popular Voyageur Games which consisted of traditional Métis activities such as hatchet throwing, rifling, and slingshot competitions. Other activities throughout the park included a sash weaving workshop held by Ruth Quesnelle and a nature walk led by Joseph Paquette. As well, visitors were welcome to browse the MNO tradeshow where they could purchase handmade jewellery, MNO merchandise and fine art. Representatives from Service Canada, Lakehead and Laurentian universities, and several MNO branches were available to provide interested visitors with information and literature on their services. Sponsored by the Thunder Bay Community Council, Sunday

evening’s pig roast was, in a word, “fabulous”! Region 4 Councillor, Art Bennett, who brought his roaster all the way from Sault Ste. Marie, actually started roasting the pig on Saturday evening because it was too big to be stored in a refrigerator. Citizens savoured a hearty meal at FWHP while enjoying outdoor entertainment. “The Dream Catcher” cover band got the audience’s toes tapping with a great mixture of classic rock and country hits. “Scott van Teeffelen and the Backroads Band” kept the crowd moving past dark with their unique country-pop melodies. Citizens then stuck around FWHP for a cozy campfire to say “farewell” to the 17th AGA. The AGA concluded the following morning with financial

reports and resolutions. A report by the MNO’s Finance Department showed that the organization is more financially stable than in previous years. This great achievement can be credited to improved financial management and new, more rigorous financial policies and procedures.

AGA Resolutions

Resolutions passed during the business meeting, included the MNO’s decision to oppose the Government of Canada’s plan to eliminate the mandatory long-form census. This resolution was especially significant to Métis people as the long-form census has been used to give our Nation the opportunity to offer input when dealing with government and industry. Liberal MP for Toronto-Centre, Bob Rae, spoke about the importance of the mandatory long-form census and how it has helped to ensure that there is “full recognition of a Métis Nation in Ontario and in Canada!” More information about the MNO’s support for the long-form census can be found on our website. A resolution was also passed on a proposed “Métis Act”. Through such legislation the Government of Ontario would recognize the MNO’s unique governance structure at local, regional and provincial levels. It was appropriate for this resolution to be passed at this year’s assembly as the Métis received recognition as a people through

the proclamation of 2010 as the “Year of the Métis”. Furthermore, a resolution regarding the MNO Registry was passed: “that the MNO initiate a province-wide, multi-phased consultation process on Métis identification and registration issues in order to develop consensus-based solutions to move the MNO forward, based on its Statement of Prime Purpose and ultimate goals of advancing Métis rights and self-government in Ontario.” Further information regarding the consultations will be forthcoming. A “Historic Sites” committee presented a draft proposal that included research into the identification of possible Métis historic sites in Ontario, including a memorial at Queen’s Park. This research will eventually translate into showcasing and preserving our unique Métis stories, reiterating President Lipinski’s comment that “our story needs to be told more often.” Overall, the AGA was a smashing success among Métis citizens and members of the general public who attended. It received generous coverage on several Thunder Bay radio stations, a local television station, as well as making the front page of Thunder Bay’s most-read daily newspaper, where a headline described the assembly as a “Métis homecoming”. Visit www.metisnation.org to browse the AGA Photo Gallery and find more information about the MNO’s 17th AGA.

Annual General Assembly

A feeling of a family and festive spirit

The feeling I had when I came away from the Annual General Assembly (AGA) was that, like grandma’s favourite recipe, we have to write down all the ingredients in our cookbook so we can refer to it over and over again. But like any old family recipe it is not so much the ingredients, it’s the pinch of this and the dash of that, and if you don’t have enough of one thing you add a handful of another.

Comparing our AGA to a recipe may be an over-simplification, but one thing is for sure; the feeling of a family reunion and the festive spirit, coupled with the importance of the affairs of our Nation make for an important and historic event amongst our people.

There are so many to thank for their contribution to the success



Senators’ Spotlight

BY **RETA GORDON**
PCMNO SENATOR

“Our leaders, building on the strong foundation that was laid by those who preceded them, have raised our Nation to a solid position within Ontario.”

of our AGA I could go on forever. Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged; without their talent, dedication, and spirit, it would have been just a meeting of the Nation.

Individuals amongst us have gone well beyond the norm in promoting, nourishing, fostering and guiding our Nation through some pretty traumatic times. Their foresight and downright stubbornness have brought us to where we are today. Some of those leaders who have stepped forward in the past are still active in the affairs of the Métis people. Thankfully, over the years, new leaders have stepped forward to take up the torch. Our place

within Canada and within the Province of Ontario has finally been recognized and we now enjoy an unprecedented and envied position, but we must not let our guard down. We must be ever-vigilant that our place within Canadian society is neither eroded nor diminished. As one of Canada’s three Aboriginal peoples we must strive to maintain and build upon our Constitutional Rights.

As always, I was so pleased to see many of our Senators from across the Ontario Homeland and was comforted to know that those who could not be there in body were definitely there in spirit. I welcome our new Senators and reflect on those beloved Senators who have passed on. Their efforts will not be forgotten and their guidance and dedication sets the standard for all the Senators to follow.

Our leaders, building on the strong foundation that was laid by those who preceded them, have raised our Nation to a solid position within Ontario. The Métis people of Ontario were not acknowledged or recognized 17 years ago. We now stand tall and proud, unafraid to hold our heads high and claim, “We are Métis”, and “We are proud of our heritage and our contributions within Canada”.

Thank you again to all those who answered the call to serve, and all those who worked so hard to make it happen. Thank you to all our citizens and families who make our collective communities so very strong.

Now let’s bottle it. It’s one heck of a recipe!

AGA 2010 | RELEFECTIONS ON MÉTIS COMMUNITY

Incredible Event, Invaluable Experience

Sharing some of the thoughts and recollections from times past with you in this issue of the *Métis Voyageur*

by **Don McDonald**
Long Term Care Coordinator
DRYDEN

As the 17th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario quickly approached many of those preparing to attend finalized their plans. Anticipation was high, as it represented a unique point in time to personally share in a meaningful event that involved Métis citizens individually and as a community. People of all ages and from various places would mingle with one another to strengthen the bonds of unity, purpose and kinship. Although a significant moment in time it had taken decades to achieve this event and its many features. Additionally, it had taken the time and energy of those past and present to ensure an outstanding presentation and representation of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

At this time it would be good to reflect on the past efforts of those who, for many years, generated interest, attended, and participated at the AGA. With the passage of time some have passed away and others, due to circumstances, are unable to attend. Everyone is to be commended for respectfully recalling the role in the community of those who have passed away. Moreover, everyone is to be applauded for taking time to reminisce with those unable to attend or who had a limited share in the overall event. Each of us can benefit from what they share with us.

I had the opportunity to visit and listen to some of those from the Northwest Métis Nation of

Ontario Community who were unable to attend. It is a privilege to share some of their thoughts and recollections from times past with you in this issue of the *Métis Voyageur*.

Bertha Masacar said, “The AGAs are just wonderful! Those are the times we all felt close and proud to be Métis. Yes, proud to be Métis.” She continued, “When people find out what’s going on, wherever it was held, they would learn something about the Métis. Even if it just was that we have a good sense of humour. And we do!” When asked if I could mention her age she replied, “You can if you know it. I don’t remember things like that at my age.” So I am pleased to inform you that she is 90 years young with a remarkable joie de vivre.

“You just can’t beat that feeling of everyone being together. Family, friends, and people you’ve known for years sharing something unique. Enjoying the fact that we are Métis.”

“You just can’t beat that feeling of everyone being together. Family, friends, and people you’ve known for years sharing something unique. Enjoying the fact that we are Métis.” was how 68 year-old, Dennis (Denny) Polard described his memories of “get-togethers.” Although he was never able to attend an AGA, due to circumstances, as he stated, “You know...it’s a special time, an important time.” When asked what he would say to young people to encourage them to attend the AGA he said, “I would just tell them, ‘go to enjoy yourself and

to learn’. There’s a lot you can learn at AGAs.” Despite many health-related changes and challenges, including vision loss, Denny is an excellent example of someone with a positive outlook as he offered “best wishes for a successful AGA.”

A visit with Albertine Roussin was heart warming as she spoke of some of her fondest memories of past AGAs. “It’s a time of celebration--a time of looking back at where we came from and looking ahead to where we’re going.” When asked what she would say to young people about the importance of the AGA and other cultural aspects of the Métis community she said, “Young people need to get more involved. They are going to be the ones telling the young ones in the future

what I’m telling them today.” This incredible 93 year-old’s soft spoken and quite mannered view of life, especially Métis life, was invaluable to understanding the Métis’ ongoing development of an absolute identity and accomplished self-governance.

Admittedly, many were visited and more was said during these visits but the comments shared in this article speak volumes for the past, present and future of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s AGA. It also adds another positive note to celebrating the “Year of the Métis Nation.”

AGA 2010 | RELEFECTIONS ON COMMUNITY

A Blast from the past

by **Danielle Deneau**
Community Wellness Coordinator
WINDSOR

The excitement rose as the sight of the ‘Thunder Bay’ sign came into view. It was the beginning of a beautiful and educational journey: AGA 2010.

Fort William was not just an attraction, but rich with history and elegance. Walking into the fort to the sound of cannons going off while the canoes came in, one couldn’t help but wonder what it was like to live during that time. I was brought back to reality by the procession that included the President of the MNO, elders, veterans, senators, PCMNO, and council members. With fiddle music, bag pipes and even authentic dress, history was now reality.

I met a youth who was generous enough to take time to show and explain finger weaving to me. I was taught the difference between machine-woven and finger-woven--traditional to Métis culture--and the technique of how to do it. The youth, only just learning finger weaving himself, was on his third sash and had already mastered one technique, and was well on his way to mastering another.

On cultural day, not only was there an educational casino simulation, a bingo, hatchet throwing, painting, and even an auction, but I had the pleasure of being a part of the slingshot and air-rifle station. Although I didn’t test my expertise this year, a lot of my co-workers did and there definitely were some bulls-eyes. Way to go gals!

Being my first AGA with the



A fiddler at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay.

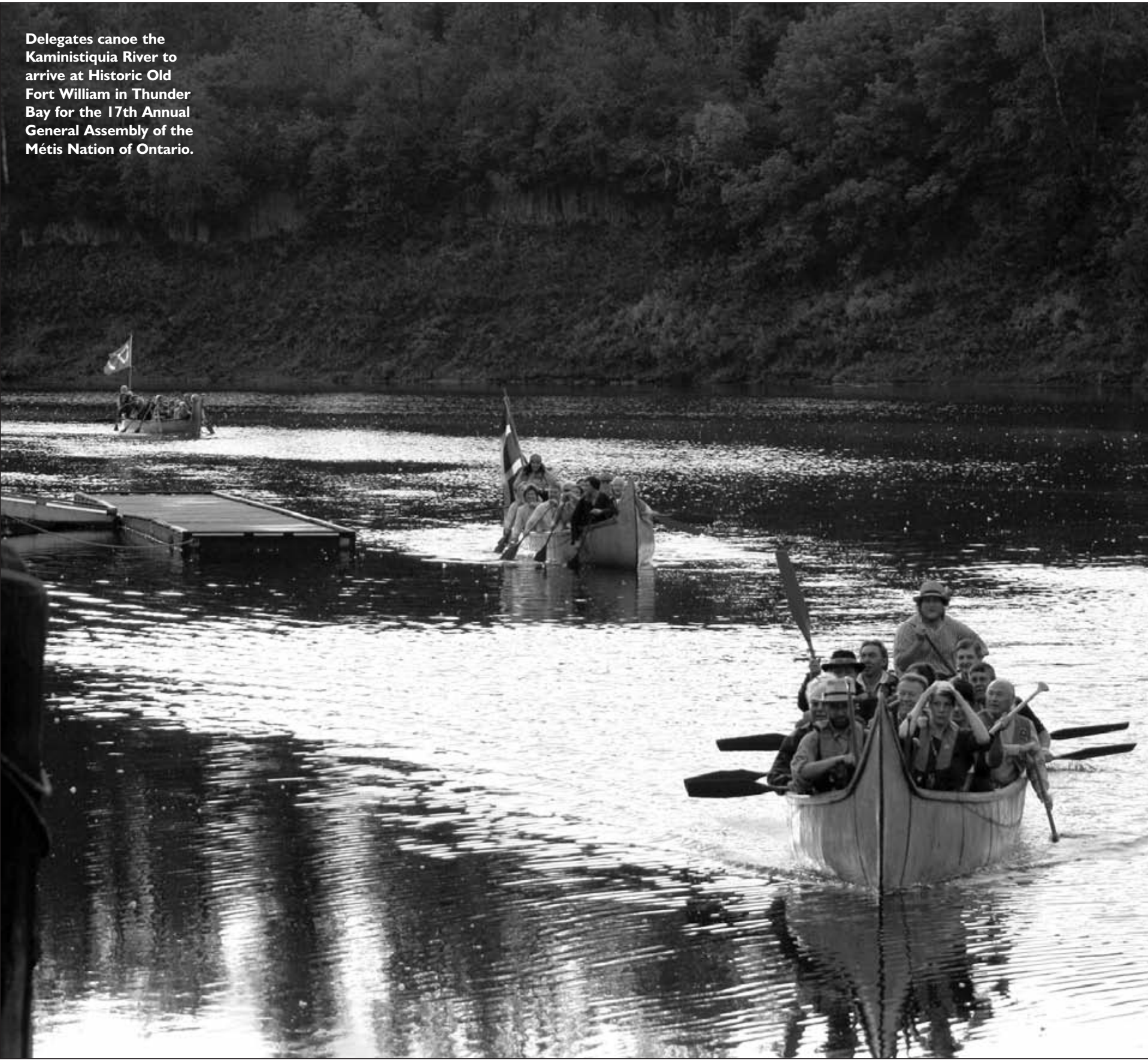
Métis Nation of Ontario, most of my education and understanding came from the meetings and discussions. I learned about what is happening within the MNO, the directions and ideas for the future, new projects, and even the legal positions, just to name a few. Most important though, was the familial tie. I realized the MNO is like one big family and although we all have our own opinions, we all have the same want in the end. I listened to the passion of the veterans and the wisdom of the elders and I left wondering: “How can I continue to extend the voice of the MNO and continue to teach the culture?” On my long, but beautiful drive back to Windsor, along the valleys and winding roads, passing by beautiful lakes, with the morning fog hanging low, to the ‘Moose on the loose’ signs, I came up with my answer.

I’ve learned that speaking with and teaching just one person may not seem like a lot, but it’s enough to make a difference--something we can all do.

Annual General Assembly



Métis youth in regalia at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay.



Delegates canoe the Kaministiquia River to arrive at Historic Old Fort William in Thunder Bay for the 17th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.



Katelyn Stenlund takes part in a beading workshop.



Members of the 2005 Métis Canoe Expedition: Amanda Strong, Ginny Gonneau, Chris McLeod and Jeremy Brown.





The Métis Fiddler Quartet perform at Back to Batoche celebrations in Saskatchewan.

Back to Batoche

by **Guylaine Morin-Cleroux**
MNOET Administrative Assistant
OTTAWA

Those who have had the opportunity to visit Saskatchewan know why it is called the “land of the living skies”. I have never seen anything like it, having come from Ontario where there is an abundance of hills, valleys and trees. I felt as though I could touch the puffy white clouds. The sky seemed to surround the earth, wrapping its blue arms around me. It was breathtaking!

I had the pleasure of attending “Back to Batoche 2010”, the 125th anniversary of the Battle of

Batoche this past July. It was the most incredible event I have ever been a part of.

I flew out of Ottawa on Saturday, July 17th, to represent the Métis Nation of Ontario as a “youth ambassador” in Back to Batoche’s opening ceremonies on July 17th. I was so excited to be a part of this wonderful event. I was greeted in Batoche on July 18, 2010, by Jenn Altenberg, the youth representative on the Back to Batoche planning committee. She then introduced me to the youth ambassadors from the other provinces. We all gathered together: Métis Nation Presidents, Veterans, Elders and Youth from across the Homeland to sing both the national and Métis

anthems. Presidential speeches and opening remarks from government dignitaries followed.

The youth then made their way over to the Batoche National Historic Site to help set up chairs for the Commemoration & Reconciliation ceremony and the unveiling of a Commemorative Gate to honour the fallen of Batoche. The gate had the inscription: “In spirit we reconcile on this day of July 18, 2010, as we honour those who lost their lives in the 1885 North-West Resistance. We, the Métis, died for our home and our land. We, the soldiers, died for Canada. We the First Nations, died for our Métis brothers and sisters. We are now forever free,” in English,

French and Michif. I can’t even begin to describe the powerful feelings that rushed through my body. I thought to myself, “WOW, I’m actually standing on ground once stained with the blood of Métis fighters.”


The reconciliation ceremony began with fiddling, a drum song and an RCMP bugler as spectators watched, proudly wearing their Métis sashes and T-shirts. While the names of those who had fallen in the battle were read aloud, youth were given a handful of small signs with names and information about the combatants. Family members stood to acknowledge the service, dedication and sacrifices the soldiers had made for our country. It was

a very moving ceremony.


Following the ceremony, I was honoured to be able to speak to various Métis families who told me wonderful stories and shared memories they had of their deceased ancestor. The ceremony concluded with a song by Andrea Menard dedicated to the veterans while the youth went around and handed out reconciliation medals to all those in attendance. It was remarkable to see the bullet holes in the church and the rifle pits that were once part of the fighting grounds of the 1885 Resistance.


July 18th, was Ontario Day and I had the pleasure, along with Tim Pile, of hosting and introducing a wide range of Métis artists as well as keeping spectators informed of activities happening on-site. The Ontario pavilion, one of five provincial pavilions, was beautiful and very rich in Métis culture and history. Scott Carpenter had brought his extensive collection of Métis artefacts which were greatly appreciated by all who stopped by for a visit. For the next two days, I stayed in the pavilion alongside some of my coworkers and spoke with the many Métis people about the various programs and services that the Métis Nation of Ontario has to offer. I enjoyed meeting my fellow Métis from across Canada and sharing our unique stories and life experiences. I gained a stronger understanding of the Métis way of life and how it varies from province to province.

This experience was life-altering for me and given the chance, I would definitely participate again next year. I hope all of you will one day have the opportunity to join in the culturally enriching festivities at Back to Batoche.



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Métis Health

COMMUNITY GARDEN

In full bloom

by Lianne Dumais
Long Term Care Coordinator
TORONTO

I would like to take the time to thank our Métis gardener, Ralph Chernenko, for taking care of the community garden in the west end of Toronto. Community gardens encourage an urban community's food security, allowing citizens to grow their own food and/or for others to donate what they have grown.

Community gardens afford access to fresh produce and plants as well as providing satisfying work to those who participate. A garden bestows neighbourhood improvement and promotes a sense of community and connection to the environment. The MNO's Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children (AHBHC) program run by Sarah Parr contributed seeds and tools to help make this garden achievable.

Community gardens can be as diverse as community gardeners. Our gardener chose to grow vegetables, herbs and flowers.

I attended a SOADI frontline

workshop at the beginning of March. The elder was talking about traditional foods and how far we've come from our traditional ways. Something she said really stuck with me. She strongly believed that you can feel the love in our food but we've lost that connection; everything is processed and done quickly now. She explained that in the past, families took the day to prepare a meal together and you could feel the love and hard work put into every meal. As the elder said, "you got that tingly feeling in your tummy"; it was so good you didn't want to waste one bite.

Now there is a whole new meaning to food. It is called "fast food"; we drive up to a window and pick up our meals within minutes. Our ancestors used to call it "fast food" as they had to chase the food so they could eat that night. We need to go back to our traditional ways and find our ancestors' recipes to help us all remember where we came from!

It is all about balance, learning to encourage our families to be active and connected. Be proud of what you've created; encour-



Gardener Ralph Chernenko and views of the community garden he tends in west-end Toronto.



age those around you to garden as it is never too late to learn!

I strongly believe community gardens improve the health of the gardener by providing an increased supply of vegetables

and an outlet for exercise. The gardens also battle two forms of alienation that plague modern urban life by bringing urban gardeners in touch with the source of their food, and by breaking

down isolation and creating a social community.

The greatest wealth is health. Therefore, enjoy every day for what it has to offer!

GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL | COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Two-weeks on the job and my first Rendezvous

by David I.M. Clark
Community Wellness Coordinator
Owen Sound

Just two weeks into the job, I had the honour of attending the Great Lakes Métis Council's 2010 Summer Rendezvous at the beautiful Durham Conservation Authority Park on July 17th. The conservation park is located on the Saugeen River in the town of Durham, Grey County.

As a new Community Wellness Coordinator, the experience was, I thought, going to be a little overwhelming—just not knowing what to expect. I had, after two weeks, met most members of council, and a few citizens, but had not met most of the citizens who live scattered across Grey and Bruce Counties. I really shouldn't have worried; it was as if I were attending a family reunion. Of course I was!

I had prepared a "Gambling IQ Quiz" along with my table of brochures. The quiz attracted many people. Each was asked a question or two about gambling, and received a gift. I was challenged a few times that the activity was promoting gambling as it was itself "gambling". Ha ha I thought a chance to educate! But, I explained, a gift was given for both correct and incorrect answers and no one was risking anything of value. Okay, maybe a



David Clark is the rookie Community Wellness Coordinator in Grey and Bruce counties.

"I really shouldn't have worried; it was as if I were attending a family reunion."

little pride if the answer was wrong, especially if they were with someone who had answered correctly! I had questions for children and adults covering dice, poker, lotteries, and coin tossing. Many were on probability/chance, with choices of true-false and multiple-choice.

This event also allowed me to consult with people about pro-

SAULT STE MARIE | ABORIGINAL DAY

Métis celebrate in the Soo

by Heather Moss
Community Wellness Coordinator
SAULT STE. MARIE

On Monday, June 21, 2010, I had the pleasure of being involved as a "community partner" at our local Aboriginal Day celebration. A powwow was held at Bellevue Park in Sault Ste. Marie. The Métis Nation of Ontario's Sault Ste. Marie office partnered with the Indian Friendship Centre and other organizations to celebrate Aboriginal Day. It was a great success.

The Health Branch participated by having a display table to promote the Long Term Care program, Aboriginal Healthy Babies Program and the Community Wellness Program. Our display table offered various types of information for all ages to read and enjoy. We also had a Problem Gambling Awareness game set up, where participants spun the wheel then were asked a question pertaining to gambling issues. If the question was answered correctly there was a prize.

Together with a handful of eager helpers we cut and filled 350 small cups with mixed fruit to give out to individuals at the powwow. It was very hot, with temperatures reaching between 25 and 30 throughout the day. From different comments that

we heard the fruit was a big hit and much appreciated.

The powwow ran from noon until 9 PM with various dancers participating in the event. Just to mention a few, there were jingle dancers, Métis dancers, and traditional dancers and drummers.

"THANKS TO MY WONDERFUL COLLEAGUES I HAVE LEARNED A LOT AND LOOK FORWARD TO FUTURE EVENTS"

Other community agency booths and craft booths were set up. A food booth was there to sell Indian tacos and scone dogs to hungry customers. The City of Sault Ste. Marie had its usual canteen open. Due to the hot weather there was a lot of ice cream sold at the canteen. Participants were invited to a feast of moose meat, mashed potatoes and various salads with pies for dessert at the Indian Friendship Centre. The evening was spent enjoying Aboriginal dance exhibitions followed by a music jamboree.

Thanks to my wonderful colleagues I have learned a lot and look forward to future events.

Osteoporosis: The Silent Thief

by **David I.M. Clark**
Community Wellness Coordinator
Owen Sound

While making my rounds as a new Community Wellness Coordinator, introducing and re-introducing myself to former colleagues in the health and social service sectors, I had a chat with the area manager for Osteoporosis Canada. I asked if there were any studies of osteoporosis specifically relating to Aboriginal peoples; there were none that she was aware of. However, during that discussion, Judy Porteous did note that there was a connection between osteoporosis and diabetes. The obvious happened; next I arranged a workshop on this health issue, complete with a “bone friendly” lunch.

Judy’s informative presentation covered what osteoporosis is, risk factors (major and minor), who is affected, and causes. One test for risk is the bone mineral



“ONE IN FOUR WOMEN, AND ONE IN EIGHT MEN, OVER THE AGE OF 50 HAS OSTEOPOROSIS.”

density (BMD) test, which can be done by your doctor. As well, she covered healthy eating as it relates to maintaining healthy bones, drug treatments for osteoporosis, and the importance of physical exercise.

Did you know one in four women, and one in eight men, over the age of 50 has osteoporosis? Neither did I. The term “silent thief” refers to the process of the body slowly robbing the bones of strength (reducing their density), often with no symptoms until a fracture occurs (source: Osteoporosis Canada brochure “Are you at risk?”).

There is some research related to the osteoporosis-diabetes link, although little of it is specific to Aboriginal peoples. One published study (2004) looked at fracture risk among First Nations people in Manitoba. “Diabetes is a significant risk factor for fractures” evidenced by the study’s finding that First Nations people have “significantly higher fracture rates than the control subjects [general population]”. Particularly, there are higher fracture rates for hip and spine; almost double! One unpublished study (undated) indicated that people with Type 1 diabetes tend to have

lower bone mass, and women with Type 1 are 12-times more likely to report having a fracture. Clearly more research is needed for both First Nations and Métis related to both osteoporosis and the diabetes connection. Given the recent Métis Nation of Ontario study about diabetes rates of MNO registrants (lower than First Nations, higher than the general population), future research should consider Métis separately from First Nations, so that we are able to develop Métis-specific strategies for health and wellness education, awareness, and prevention.

Oh, by the way—if you are aged 19 to 50 you need at least 1000mg of calcium and 400 IU (international units) of Vitamin D (which helps the body absorb calcium). If you are over the age of 50, you’ll need at least 1500mg of calcium and 800 IU of Vitamin D. (New guidelines with higher rates are due out sometime in mid-September – watch for them.)

SUDBURY:

Preparing for the autumn harvest

by **Desneige Taylor**
Community Wellness Coordinator
Sudbury

Over the summer we were busy at the office. We had a successful year with the Youth Program thanks to our youth employees and volunteer parents and children who gave the program a chance—a chance to embrace culture and activity and a chance to learn about the Métis culture.

We enjoyed a successful Annual General Assembly once again as the Métis Nation of Ontario embraced the culture as well as the politics that are necessary to be recognized as a people and as a Nation.

As you know, this year the AGA was held in Thunder Bay at Fort William Historic Park. Fort William is important to the Métis people because many Métis ancestors were voyageurs or Nor’Westers.

In their pursuit of fur, the Nor’Westers established an ambitious transportation network spanning the entire country. Located on Lake Superior, Fort William became the key midway transshipment point.

Some events that the Sudbury office is planning to share with the community will focus on proper nutrition, diabetes, family violence and some cultural fun as well.

Enjoy the outdoors, the crisp air, the hunting and fishing. Enjoy the children as they await the first snow fall.

CONTACT:
Tel: 705-671-9855
Healthy Babies/Children (ext. 225)
Long Term Care (ext. 228)
Community Wellness (ext. 229)

New LTC Staff in Kenora

Kathleen Tardi has joined the Long Term Care Team. LTC is pleased to announce that our Kenora site now has its Long Term Care program up and running again. Kathleen is Métis herself and glad to be a part of our team. She comes with some excellent experience and will be an asset to the community of Kenora and the MNO.

Please welcome Kathleen to the MNO. She can be reached at kathleent@metisnation.org or 1-807-467-2555.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Métis Cheer

On Friday, December 3rd, MNO staff and the Georgian Bay Métis Council will be hosting their annual Métis Cheer.

Each year we invite our partners, community members, clients, and local dignitaries to drop in and join us in some holiday cheer. There is always a great amount of food, traditional items, sweet treats, and our famous moose milk. The event is held at our offices from 1:00-4:00 PM.

Please come by and join us!

For information contact:
Tel: 705-526-6335
355 Cranston Crescent
Midland ON

TSX:G | NYSE:GG

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 **GOLDCORP**

KENORA MÉTIS COUNCIL



MINOJINGEWIN:
Healthy eating
cooking classes

by **Marley Hodges**
Community Wellness Coordinator
KENORA

We live in a time where convenience is a priority and nutrition tends to take a backseat. Chef Ryan Parisian of Seven Generations Institute is trying to change that with “Minojingewin”, his cooking and healthy eating classes. Having enjoyed success in other communities in north-western Ontario, Lauri-Ann Marshall of Northern Diabetes Network approached me with the idea of presenting this program to Kenora, via the Community Wellness Program and Kenora Métis Health Services.

The Community Wellness Program’s prime goal is to promote health, nutrition, and diabetes prevention, so this seemed like a perfect fit for all parties. With enough space for 24 participants, advertising was done throughout the community. Parisian and his team from Seven Generations arrived in Kenora with an arsenal of tools to help them attack “convenience cooking”. With a full set of convection ovens, hotplates, casseroles dishes, knives, cutting boards, bowls, pans, and other utensils for each table, Minojingewin

explained the most basic to the more skilled culinary aspects of developing a meal from start to finish. Over two days of classes participants learned how to prepare the foods they love using healthier ingredients.

Parisian discussed ways to make a nutritious meal both economically and efficiently, even for the fast food lovers. From proper cooking time and temperature, baking, boiling and poaching techniques, canning procedures, recipe revision and ingredient substitution, locally available products, and an example of how to cook healthy traditional and family favourite dishes, all attendees from amateur to expert were able to take home new knowledge to their family kitchens. While learning the practical tools and tips to assist in developing healthy meals, diabetes educator, Lauri-Ann Marshall, highlighted nutrition as a diabetic management and preventative tool to attendees.

According to Parisian, this session of his workshop was the most successful yet. The knowledge that the participants received will stay with them for the rest of their cooking years and can be shared through healthy family meals.

Minojingewin Bannock Recipe:

- INGREDIENTS:**
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1 cup whole wheat flour | 1 cup water |
| 1 cup all purpose flour | 1 egg white |
| 1 tsp baking powder | Pinch of salt |
| 1 ½ tbsp olive oil | |

- DIRECTIONS:**
1. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C)
 2. In a large bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, salt.
 3. In a separate bowl mix together egg white, oil and water.
 4. Make a well in middle of flour mixture; add wet ingredients.
 5. Slowly mix all wet ingredients together with all dry ingredients
 6. Once all is mixed together, turn dough out onto a well floured table, and knead dough for 3-5 min.
 7. Place dough on a cookie sheet, and spread dough out to 1 inch in thickness
 8. Poke holes in dough with a fork
 9. Bake for 30 minutes in a preheated oven, until bannock has risen, and the top is golden brown

TIMMINS MÉTIS COUNCIL | THANKS TO UNION GAS

Métis Family Day at
Moonbeam

by **Richard Aubin**
AHBHC Coordinator
TIMMINS

The Métis Nation of Ontario-Timmins employees would like to thank Union Gas Ltd. for their generous donation in support of a summer family event.

Lynne Picotte the Supervisor of Child and Family Initiatives accepted a \$500.00 donation from Union Gas presented by Andreanne Aubin the Administrative Assistant for Union Gas Distribution Operations - North-west.

Fifty-three participants ages 2 to 93 went to the Twin Lakes Campground in Moonbeam. A great fun-filled day of wading in the man-made lake and the use



of the water slides was enjoyed by everyone.

The older adults in the meantime played various games and relaxed on the beautiful campground. This was an opportunity for the Métis staff to raise aware-

ness on healthy lifestyle choices in our great outdoors.

Once again thank you on behalf of the staff and all participants in helping us make this event a reality.

TORONTO | ABORIGINAL DAY

Toronto Aboriginal orgs
partner for picnic

by **Lianne Dumais**
Long Term Care Coordinator
TORONTO

2010 is the Year of the Métis. What better way to celebrate with our communities than by hosting an Aboriginal Day picnic in the park? On June 17, 2010, the Toronto Long Term Care program in conjunction with SOADI and the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto’s seniors program organized such a picnic; there was an excellent turn out!

We enjoyed a nutritional lunch that provided healthy choices. Lunch was followed by BINGO, summer crosswords and word searches. Practical prizes such as diabetic meters, step count meters and resource materials, medical foot creams and



Amanda Lipinski, SOADI

diabetic socks were provided to ensure the participants knew the importance of taking care of one’s feet. The children who attended were kept busy with blow-up balloons, tennis rackets, and a ball and bat to play with. We had a beautiful day in the sun

and a good turn out. It was great to see the seniors participate in a day devoted to an outdoor social gathering. One of the seniors said: “I enjoyed the togetherness and the pleasant manner of the event planners,” and many others commented about enjoying their outing.

Thanks to Amanda Lipinski (SOADI) who helped make this picnic possible by ensuring we had a proper park permit and appropriate items for all the participants. Amanda also did a great job calling “Nutritional Bingo” food items. I would also like to thank Caroline Francis and Helen Parker for helping with food cost and ensuring everyone made it there safely from their seniors’ program. Thank you for all your support.

WINDSOR | SWEET SUMMERTIME SWEETNESS

Summer is gone, but
dessert is all year long

by **Danielle Deneau**
Community Wellness Coordinator
WINDSOR

Ahhh summertime, it’s the time of the year when you drive down the street with your windows open and smell the BBQ and say “mmmm”. It’s the time of the year when the kids are playing outside and you can sit out with friends and family. It’s the time of the year when you hear the music of the ice cream truck coming around the neighbourhood. It’s the time of the year to indulge in your favourite eats. Are you hungry yet?

Well, summer may be just a sweet memory, but here’s a

dessert that my mom introduced me to and I would like to introduce it to you. If you’re anything like me, you have a sweet tooth that never goes away. So, fellow sweet lovers who can’t seem to get enough, fear no more! Treat your friends and family to a great dessert.

INGREDIENTS:

- can of low fat/no fat cooking cherries
- container of low fat/no fat cool whip
- angel food cake
- a bowl

Directions: Take the angel food cake out of the container

and cut it in half horizontally, in order to have two layers. Put the smaller layer in the bottom of the bowl. Put a layer of cool whip on top of the angel food cake. Now put a layer of the cooking cherries on top of the cool whip. You should have angel food cake, cool whip and cooking cherries. Place the other layer of angel food cake on top. Repeat the process and place in the fridge until its cool.

You can vary the amount of cool whip and cherries according to taste. My suggestion is two cans of cooking cherries and one container of cool whip. Any leftover cherries and cool whip make a nice snack another day. Enjoy!

A Sombre, proud moment

by **TerryLynn Longpre**
Community Wellness Coordinator
WELLAND

On Sunday, June 13, 2010, I was invited to represent the Métis Nation of Ontario at the Commemoration Ceremony for Victims of Crime held at the Oakes Garden, Niagara Falls. This event was sponsored by the Ministry of Attorney General and hosted by Niagara Victim Crisis Support Service and the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, Niagara.

The sombre event attended by police, caregivers and victims, adopted the theme “Every Victim Matters.” Upon entering we were

greeted with the musical prelude, “Amazing Grace,” provided by Piper Constable Wayne Robinson of the Niagara Regional Police Service. Horse Guard Constable Kevin Michener and his horse “Brock” from the Niagara Regional Police Services were on hand for the tribute. The Ohnia:Kara Native Drum and Dance Group honoured all victims with song and drumming. The beating of the drums was the pulse of this ceremony as we bowed our heads in prayer. Could our victims hear our words?

Guest speaker Sandie Bellows painfully recounted her abduction, rape and near murder of 20 years ago to raise awareness of

the cause. She is quoted as saying, “I wanted to be a victim that made a difference.” Ms. Bellows certainly has healed the wounded souls of others despite the everlasting damage that she claims, “never goes away.”

As the day ended, I pondered and mulled over how this Community Wellness Coordinator could make a difference. It was then I decided to raise awareness for those victims of crime by reaching out to you, our *Voyageur* readers! I implore you to join me and consider the following facts regarding violence against Aboriginal women in Canada, and to review the “Sisters in Spirit” missing alerts.



Members of the Ohnia:kara Native drum and Dance Group who honoured victims of crime with song and drumming at Oakes Garden, Niagara Falls.

MISSING ALERTS - EVERY VICTIM MATTERS

The very prospect of having a missing loved one is something we hope you and your family never have to experience. We can only imagine what a parent or grandparent must feel when they realize someone close to them is missing. We have heard that this process can be very isolating and emotionally overwhelming and we want you to know that Native Women's Association of Canada and our Sisters in Spirit initiatives are here for you. We work in the best interest of the woman or girl who has gone missing. To add your loved one to the Missing Alerts page, please contact the NAWAC. By phone: 1-800-461-4043 By mail: Sisters In Spirit, Native Women's Association of Canada | Nicholas Street, 9th Floor, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7



Amanda Sophia BARTLETT has been missing since the summer of 1997 from Winnipeg, MB. Amanda was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and lived in the Pas, MB before moving to Winnipeg in 1996. She was last seen leaving a family member's home in Winnipeg. She promised to return but has not been seen or heard from since.



Bea Kwaronihawi BARNES has been missing since January 5th, 2010, from the Chateauguay area, QC. Bea was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and requires medication that she does not have with her.



Claudette OSBORNE has been missing since July 24th, 2008, from Winnipeg, MB. Claudette was 22-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Family members and Winnipeg Police Service have been searching for the young mother of four children who was last seen at the Lincoln Motor Hotel at 1030 McPhillips Street around 2:00 A.M. Suffering from health issues, drug issues, and the loss of custody of her two-week old baby, the family is extremely worried about her well-being.



Danita BIGEAGLE has been missing since February 11, 2007, from Regina, SK. Danita is the mother of two children. Danita's mother, Dianne BigEagle, says Danita has been seen at least three times since her disappearance: in Winnipeg at the Manwin Hotel; again in Winnipeg at an establishment on Broadway Place; and at the Coachman Hotel in Regina.



Delores WHITEMAN has been missing since 1987 from Edmonton, AB. Delores was 42-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Her family members have not seen or heard from her since the early 80s and her last known whereabouts was 1987 in Edmonton. Some family members recalled hearing rumours that Delores left for Vancouver, Toronto, or NWT.




Elizabeth DORIAN has been missing since November 13, 1999, from Pukatawagan, MB. Elizabeth Dorian was 49-years-old at the time of her disappearance. She was born on December 15, 1954, in The Pas, MB. She has three children: two daughters and one son. Elizabeth lived her life to the fullest, despite the challenges that were thrown her way.

VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN CANADA

Did you know that over the past 20 years approximately 500 Aboriginal women have gone missing in communities across Canada?

Facts to Consider:

- The mortality rate of aboriginal women as a result of violence is three times the rate experienced by all other Canadian women. Aboriginal women aged 25 - 44 are five times more likely to die from acts of violence. (Health Canada, 2002)
- Eight in ten Aboriginal women in Ontario reported having personally experienced violence. (Women's Health Surveillance Report 1999)
- 42.5% of Aboriginal women experienced partner violence (Physical, sexual, financial or emotional) compared to 20.6% of non-Aboriginal women. (Women's Health Surveillance report, 1999)
- Rates of spousal homicide among Aboriginal women are more than eight times higher than for non-Aboriginal women. (Statistics Canada, 2001.)



Sisters in Spirit Campaign,
www.sistersinspirit.ca

Emily OSMOND (LAPLANTE) has been missing since September 9, 2007, from Kawacatoose First Nation, SK. Emily was 78-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Her disappearance is very unusual. Her vehicle and personal belongings, including medication, were left at her residence. Searches of the area have failed to locate any sign of Emily.



Lisa Marie YOUNG has been missing since June 30th, 2002, from Nanaimo, BC. Lisa Marie was 21-years-old at the time of her disappearance. She was last seen in a burgundy Jaguar in the Jingle Pot area of Nanaimo. More than anything, the family wants to keep Lisa in people's minds. They do not want people to forget about Lisa Marie.



Maisy ODJICK has been missing since September 6th, 2008, from Maniwaki, QC. Maisy was 16-years-old at the time of her disappearance and is believed to be with her friend Shannon Alexander who has also been missing since September 6th, 2008. Please visit the Find Maisy and Shannon website at www.findmaisyandshannon.com/



Marie KREISER (NÉE SAINT SAVEUR) has been missing since the fall of 1987 from Westlock, AB. Marie was 49-years-old at the time of her disappearance. Marie was born in Wabasca, AB to Pierre Saint Saveur and Adelaide Crow. Pierre was of Métis descent and Adelaide was a member of the Bigstone Cree Nation. As a girl Marie attended St. Martin's Residential School located on the Bigstone Cree Nation. Marie last resided in Slave Lake. Marie is the mother of Sharon, Arlene, Lorna, Brian and Gail.



Pamela Holopainen has been missing since December 14th, 2003, from Timmins, ON. Pamela was 22-years-old at the time of her disappearance. She was last seen leaving a party in the early hours of December 14th. Pamela's family says she left accompanied by her common-law spouse. Pamela has not been in contact with any of her family members or her two small children. This is completely out of character, and police strongly suspect foul play in her disappearance.



Shannon ALEXANDER has been missing since September 6th, 2008, from Maniwaki, QC. Shannon was 17-years-old at the time of her disappearance and is believed to be with her friend Maisy Odjick who has also been missing since September 6th, 2008. Please visit the Find Maisy and Shannon website at www.findmaisyandshannon.com



Our Stories



Two Wheels, One Year, Nine Countries

by Linda Lord

Almost every *Voyageur* contains at least one of “our stories”. We have had quite a variety over the years: the adventures of Métis pilot, Michelle Goodeve; building birch bark canoes, the seemingly endless quest for our roots and so many more. We are indeed a diverse people. I am especially pleased to bring you this story.

A few weeks ago I received an email from MNO citizen Paul Gauthier of Waterdown ON. Paul began by saying, “I’m the proud father of Garrett Gauthier....” He then told me why he was proud, and he certainly has good reason. Since then, I have been corresponding with both Paul and his son Garrett. Here’s the story.

Garrett is an environmental scientist, who recently graduated with distinction from Guelph University. Along with four friends, he left Guelph, Ontario, on bicycle, and (As I write this he is probably somewhere in Saskatchewan.) is currently bicycling across Canada. After a short stay in Victoria, B.C., the group will bicycle south through the U.S., Mexico, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. They will stay in Costa Rica at Durika, a nature reserve and organic farming community.

The purpose of the journey is to raise awareness of sustainable living practices across the Americas.

“What makes a person want to hop on a bicycle and go for a 16,000 km spin?” I wondered. Garrett responded.

“It’s difficult to pin down a particular, singular experience that incited my concern for sustainability. I don’t think one exists! A great deal of it has to do with my friends and peers; during my five

years at the University of Guelph, I befriended a number of engaged citizens and community activists. They show an honest, open compassion for the individuals around them, human and otherwise, and I’ve found that relationships with such people are mutually reinforcing. We support and encourage each other in appreciation of the work we do.

“I used the word “activists” there because it’s a good blanket term, but it’s not a word I’m terribly fond of. To me, activist seems to imply that you’re headed out, into the ‘outside world,’ apart from your own concerns and considerations, and then acting in a way that’s novel or unique in order to achieve something beneficial. This can be a fantastically worthwhile thing, and sometimes it’s the best way to accomplish something good, but I don’t like the notion of an ‘outside world.’ I try to simply live in the world, without the perception that my life is separate from the lives of others (this might not be entirely possible, but it’s the goal!). I try to be consistent in my actions, and act in a manner that promotes well-being in the world around me—from seemingly mundane things like communicating honestly to seemingly exciting things like biking for a year.

“I suppose, though, that something must have drawn me to the peers I mentioned. I was already interested in environmental and animal welfare issues before going to Guelph. Some of the greatest credit probably belongs to my parents, who took me on hikes along trails in Hamilton and Burlington ever since I was very young. During high school I lived at a dead-end road next to a meadow and forest, and I still consider that to be one of the world’s most beautiful places—not because it necessarily is, but because I developed a relation-

ship with it. I think that’s where I developed an appreciation of places—habitats—where more than just humans reside. I have a lot of vivid memories of misty daybreaks, soft rainy days, cool breezes, warm-grass-smells, and the sounds of birds and insects—nothing you can’t find at the edge of most any southern Ontario town or city, really.

“In my final year of high school, I took a class with a name that was something along the lines of ‘Challenge and Change in Society’. It was a collection of social, psychological, and anthropological studies. Near the end of the semester, we gave presentations on a variety of issues, and I remember being most struck by the presentations given on industrial-scale agriculture. I had never had any exposure to the notion of an unsustainable food system, of petroleum-derived pesticides or

an engaged citizen; I wanted to learn as much as possible about the world around me, and I quickly discovered that because there are a despairingly large number of problems all around us, there are an empoweringly large number of opportunities to do good things for the world, for each other.

“It was probably that motivation that led me to my peers at Guelph, and they provided more opportunities for growth.”

This bicycle excursion is not an isolated act of courage on behalf of the environment. Garrett has been involved with Greenpeace, and is one of the environmental activists who climb buildings, bridges, etc., to hang banners related to environmental issues. He is one of the two young persons who hung the banners on the Alexandra Bridge in Ottawa that read “Welcome

WHAT MAKES A PERSON WANT TO HOP ON A BICYCLE AND GO FOR A 16,000 KM SPIN?

mined fertilizers, of animal exploitation. That was the first I had ever heard of genetic modification. Of course, now these issues are quite visible, but they were completely off my radar until I took that class. I had already been thinking about health—healthy eating, a healthy lifestyle—and had come to the conclusion that the health of an individual is entirely dependent on the health of that individual’s habitat (not terribly insightful, but I was just figuring it out at the time). My interest in healthy eating, then, was thrown full-force against this new information about our food system. I think that’s when I started to become

President Obama” and “Climate Leaders Don’t Buy Tar Sands”.

Last summer, Garrett, Justin Pape, and Kristi Mahy ran an organic farm, Elm Grove Farm, in Sutton, ON. They used only heritage seeds imported from British Columbia, to ensure no genetically modified seeds were sown. They did all their farming without using any machinery, and sold the produce to very satisfied customers.

Paul says that Garrett firmly believes that living sustainably is urgently necessary, and he follows that up by doing so in his daily life—organic gardening, using public transit systems, bicycling, recycling, and buying only environmentally friendly necessities.

Unlike so many well intentioned and earnest efforts to save the environment, Garrett and his friends are not out to tell you what you can’t do. In fact, this is all about what you can do.

“Through this tour we resolve to illustrate that sustainability is accessible to everyone and that people living in a variety of conditions can make meaningful contributions to planetary health. We aim to weave a network along our route connecting what we call ‘sustainability models’: those individuals, families, communities, and organizations that develop and demonstrate successful sustainable and socially conscious living initiatives. The intent is to empower the public at large in transitioning to sustainable lifestyles, and to facilitate the sharing of relevant resources and information. Ultimately, we intend to aid others in their journeys toward sustainability by publicizing what we learn so people across the continent can take strides towards forming a sustainable society.”

I think Paul realized just how committed his son was when he “handed back a BMW I gave him for transportation. He said: ‘That’s okay, Dad. I’m going to walk or ride my bike or use public transportation if I need to go anywhere.’”

I encourage you to visit www.pedalacrosstheamericas.com. It’s a great web site with pictures and blogs, and if you can, consider making a tax deductible donation to help them on their way.

Donations can be made securely online using a credit card or PayPal. As Garrett says, “They are used to keep us fed (we’re fuelled by donations rather than by gasoline) and any surplus money that’s fundraised will be donated to the sustainability models we’re working with and documenting.”

Métis Arts



Artist represents Muskoka and Métis community at G20

by Nathalie Bertin

In June, 2010, Muskoka Tourism and the Huntsville - Lake of Bays Chamber of Commerce approached the various arts organizations in Muskoka and Parry Sound to name artists to represent Muskoka at the G20's Media Centre. Out of sixteen artists who were nominated, I was one of the final eight selected to participate at the Northern Ontario pavilion of the Experience Canada event. The excitement of being selected for such an important event was incredible! I knew there would be more than 2500 media there from around the world but other than that, I didn't know what to expect. After all, the only news that seemed to be circulating in public was about the "fake lake". When the day finally came for my "shift", I ended up having a truly unforgettable experience!

My volunteer job as "Artist Ambassador" was to display, demonstrate and discuss my art with the media and government representatives from around the world. I was filmed and photographed, was interviewed and had conversations with journalists from Canada, India, Spain, the US and Russia. Since art is a common thread among all people and all cultures, this wasn't just a great opportunity to show my art to the world, it was also a great opportunity to tell people about the distinct Métis art form.

A good portion of my art includes my interpretation of traditional flower patterns like the ones Métis women embroider or bead onto clothing, shoes and other textile or animal skin items. I like to include my own signature flower designs on my art to add special significance to the subject matter, or sometimes simply for embellishment, just as the Métis women of the past would embellish clothing. Animals are also common central figures in my art. I often deal with subjects such as hunting with links back to the fur trade. My art is an expression of the combination of my French and Algonquin heritage. It is neither European in style, nor First Nations in style, but rather a mix of the two. Like being Métis!

Because our Métis ancestors never signed their embroidered

and beaded artworks, the art of the "Flower Beadwork People" would have become totally lost were it not for traditional knowledge handed down from generation to generation. My own personal side-mission as a Métis artist is to honour this art form and I am always happy to discuss Métis art history with anyone! Interestingly, as I spoke with journalists from across the globe, they would relate stories back to me of the traditional craft work their mothers used to make and how sad it was that the practice was no longer as highly regarded today. The more we spoke about Métis art, other cross-cultural topics would also come up, such as ethics in hunting, environmental conservation and the preservation of storytelling, not only proving the power of art but the cultural relevance of Métis art!

As for the "fake lake", I wish the general public had been able to see it so they could understand what went on inside the G20 Media Centre. It's one of the reasons why I chose to share my experience here. It really is a shame the "fake lake" was blown out of proportion to become the centre of attention at an otherwise significant event. Yes, by our

“ Because our Métis ancestors never signed their embroidery and beading, the art of the “Flower Beadwork People” would have been lost were it not for traditional knowledge handed down from generation to generation. ”

Canadian standards, it was small—a water feature really—but it was never meant to reproduce Canada or Muskoka. The Northern Ontario pavilion and the rest of the event were created to impress visitors from other countries. From my vantage point, working on my painting and meeting people from that very cedar dock, I felt myself strangely immersed in the Muskoka feeling. So many people from around the world who didn't know what Muskoka was (or who had never come to Canada) were in awe of the fantastic imagery that was being displayed on this massive screen as they sat in total comfort in a Muskoka chair with the smell of cedar surrounding them. They would not only hold meetings and interviews on the dock, they would literally rearrange the four-chair groupings to face and watch

the video that was being shown on the big screen! And they would stay—for a long time—captivated! It was a very successful marketing tool. Watching the effect of the "fake lake" on our visitors, I realized just how much we take our forests, lakes, resources and lifestyle for granted in Canada and how important it is to preserve them. (As a Métis citizen, I am glad to know that we have the MNO's Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch working to protect our interests!)

As for other areas in the G20 Media Centre, there were chefs creating tasting menus, samplings of wines and spirits, and an impressive digital technology display that spoke to Canada's capabilities in broadcast and within the film industry. I was thrilled to discover that every single item I was witnessing being promoted

during this event was 100% Canadian. If a presenter talked about wine, our guests were not only given a sample to try but also told about the history of the grape, the region where it's grown and the people who run the company. The same went with other spirits, foods and regions. I listened as Chef Jamie Kennedy told media about the local family who brings him fresh trout (some of which they were about to eat) and how they use sustainable practices.

Ultimately, the important factor to consider when we hear about the costs of the G8/20 is that a significant amount (if not all) of the money that was spent on this event was spent in various regions of Canada, on various Canadian products, for the promotion of Canada. And our visitors were extremely impressed. They were genuinely interested in Canada, in the beauty of our landscapes, our culture and in the art history of the Métis. And lucky for me, they seemed genuinely interested in my art.

There is no way I could have bought the kind of exposure I was lucky enough to get through my volunteer participation at the G20, regardless of any outcome. I am very fortunate to have been a part of it. I am extremely proud to have been able to show my art, represent my part of Canada and the Métis heritage to the world.

PS: I'd like to send a special thank you to Susan Greenaway, Mary Rashleigh and the Huntsville Art Society for putting on the show *Eight Back from the Lake* at the Art Space gallery in Huntsville. The show featured all eight G20 Media Centre artists together for the first time and included photos, video and memorabilia of the event. The show opened on July 23 and ran until August 29, finally giving the general public a chance to see who and how they were represented during the G20.

Nathalie is an artist who works out of Torrance and Newmarket, ON. For more information: www.nathaliebertin.com

STAY CLEAR STAY SAFE

Recreational activities near hydro stations and dams are dangerous

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Family, culture & Métis identity

by **Chris Paci**
Manager, MNOET
OTTAWA

This is the first book by Brenda Macdougall, written as part of her doctoral thesis and completed while she was teaching and serving as acting Chair of Native Studies, University of Saskatchewan. *One of the Family: Métis Culture in Nineteenth-Century Northwestern Saskatchewan* is a fascinating read. In it, Macdougall (12) offers instructive methodological considerations for historical research, “not to quantify the demographic characteristics of this community, to reveal or analyze such things as birth rates, marital ages, or mortality. Instead, the methodology used here draws from the qualitative methodologies....What can the genealogical reconstruction of family structures tell us about larger historical issues of Métis identity across western Canada and the northern plains, and what can it tell us about the intellectual process that went into the establishment of a new society?” This work represents a deep understanding of Métis social relations and speaks to economics and geography, as well as environmental relationships that shape culture over time.

I use both spellings for “Métis” in talking about the book. The accent is used in Ontario and it denotes a respect for Aboriginal and French origins that many Métis families in Ontario and elsewhere celebrate. When I was growing up in St. Boniface, Manitoba, the accent was sometimes dropped and the link to the French community down played. This was a condition of the times,

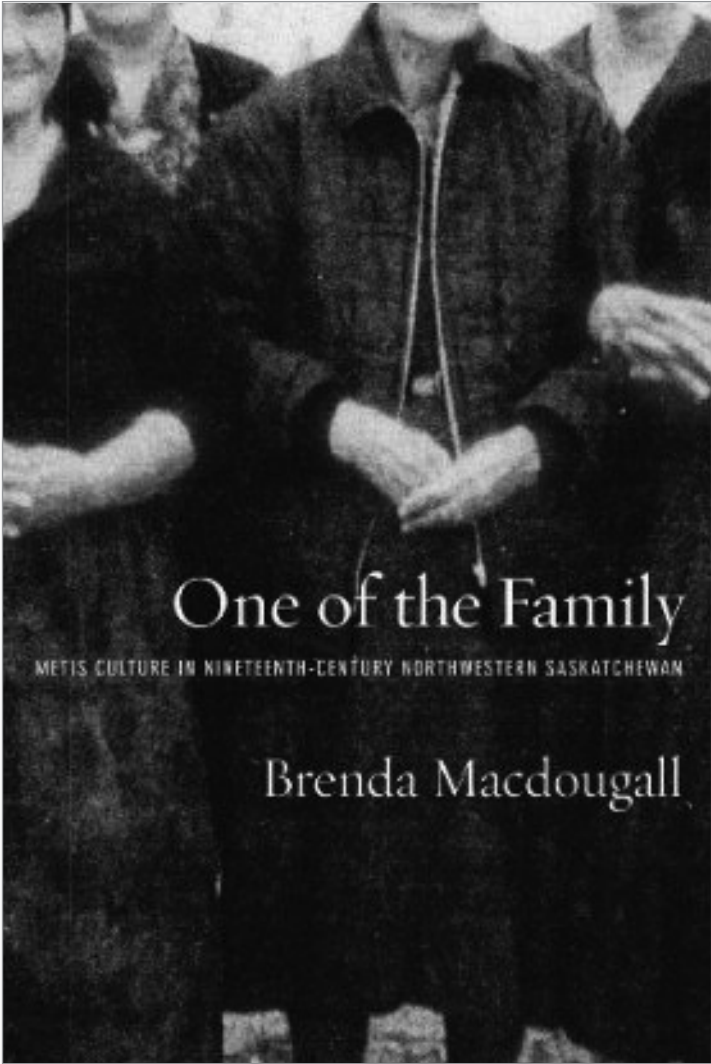
a response to the “Quiet Revolution” in Quebec, the FLQ and “October Crisis”; it was sometimes an attempt to be distinct. While there are complex personal reasons why Métis choose one spelling over the other, in north-western Saskatchewan most Métis choose to write it without the accent. In this review I use both to speak specifically about Métis in Ontario and Métis in north-western Saskatchewan, both of whom are part of the larger Métis Nation. Métis/Metis are like other Indigenous peoples in other parts of the world; they share much in common and have cultural differences, one nation but with a lot of diversity. As Macdougall notes (30), “how a people names themselves and inserts their narrative into a landscape reveals a great deal about their self-conceptions.”

Dr. Macdougall is now at the University of Ottawa where she has taken up the first Research Chair in Métis Studies. The research chair is unlike any other in Canada, funded to a sustainable level by the Government of Ontario and the University of Ottawa. It is a significant policy and political shift from the dark days when the government issued a bounty on the head of Louis Riel. The idea of the chair came out of discussions between the Métis Nation of Ontario and then leader of the opposition, Dalton McGuinty.

Relationships between people and places are core features of Métis protogenesis, genealogy and resiliency over time. Macdougall notes: “the region was transformed into a Métis homeland not only by virtue of the children’s occupations of the territory, but also through their rela-

tionships with the Cree and Dene women and the fur trader men from whom they were descended. The Métis, like their Indian and fur trader relations, lived in a social world based on reciprocal sharing, respectful behaviour between family members, and an understanding of the differences between themselves and outsiders.” Historians of the past often treated Métis as marginal in their contributions to the development of Canada. Métis began to surface in scholarship, in particular fur trade history, social history and women’s history in the late 1970s, but it is only within the last decade that governments in Canada have redressed racist’s policies of assimilation and acculturation that contributed to the erasure of Métis. Early Métis scholarship focused on the fur trade, Red River (present day Winnipeg), the establishment of a government in Manitoba in 1869-1870, and the resistance in Batoche in 1885. There was, until now, relatively little scholarly attention paid to contemporary Métis in other parts of Canada.

In *One of the Family* Macdougall uses the Cree concept of wahkootowin to present her extensive genealogical research of the Métis from the English River district, Île à la Crosse, a land the people call Sakitawak. Macdougall (7) did not take the concept from the historical record. “While outsiders knew Aboriginal languages, they learned those languages only to advance their own agendas—expansion of the fur trade or conversion to Christianity. These outsiders were not necessarily interested in the cultural dynamics of the community itself or in



“...the region was transformed into a **Métis homeland** not only by virtue of the children’s occupations of the territory, but also **through their relationships** with the Cree and Dene women and the fur trader men from whom they were descended...”

understanding the philosophical or religious meaning behind a people’s action or behaviours.” Since the late 1700s, the beauty and uniqueness of the boreal forest region mixed with the rich cultural heritage along the rivers and lakes west of the Nelson and south of Lake Athabasca. The height of land between two major basins: the Hudson’s Bay and Athabasca linked the fur brigades before the 1900s. European goods were shipped inland by canoe and furs were exported to

the coast, bound for Europe. This is the interzone between the northern Cree and Dene, where the Métis took on characteristics of both mixed with their rich traditions of Scottish, French, and English forefathers.

If the book has some weakness it is that we are left as readers, to wonder what became of the many men and women, families, who left the English River District. We know that there were relationships with people who came in from other parts of western Canada, Ontario and Quebec, that men and women came in from the Northwest Territories and from northern Alberta and British Columbia. We can only speculate about the changes to Métis culture these different peoples brought with them, that they took the imprint of this place with them on their travels and across the nation, and how the social landscape changed over time. Moreover, we are left without a clear idea of how Métis culture in Sakitawak, in the larger nation across Canada and the United States, will change in the future. After all, history teaches us where we come from. What then will be the basis for renewal in the future? Will it be based on new relations with the land and if so will these resemble traditions of the past or some dreamed future? This is the challenge Macdougall and all scholars leave for future research.

This review was originally published May, 2010, by Indigenous Peoples Issues and Resources, Bâuu Institute.



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Métis Student Success

■ ANGELICA LAURIN

Sturgeon Falls youth wins National Aboriginal Role Model award



On June 19, 2010, Angelica Laurin, a Métis from Sturgeon Falls Ontario, attended the National Aboriginal Role Model Awards Ceremony at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. She was one of 12 role models to receive the National Aboriginal Role Model award. Angelica received a crystal award with her name on it as well as a bronze “grandmother moon” necklace that is awarded to all role models.

To win this award Angelica was nominated by one of her peers, Danika Landry, who felt all of Angelica’s accomplishments should not go unnoticed. Angelica won because of how she leads her life in a healthy, positive way. At 15, she is bilingual, a swimmer, a singer for charity events, a writer working on a romantic thriller novel, and is an honour student. Angelica also has been a figure skater since the age of four, attending many competitions and winning

several medals. She volunteers at the Verner Skating Club as a program assistant helping young people learn to skate.

National Aboriginal Role Model Program

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program celebrates the accomplishments of First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth aged 13 to 30. “Lead Your Way” inspires Aboriginal youth to strive to reach their goals. Each year 12 Aboriginal Role Models are nominated by their peers for their achievements, leadership and innovation. Throughout the year, role models visit First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to share their stories with other Aboriginal youth.

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program, administered by the National Aboriginal Health Organization, is funded by Health Canada.

■ ANDREA PAQUETTE



Niagara Métis Council Youth Rep graduates with Honours

Andrea Paquette, Youth Rep for the Niagara Region Métis Council, recently graduated from A.N. Myer Secondary School in Niagara Falls. She is an Ontario Scholar who graduated with her Secondary School French Diploma. Andrea was on the Principal's Honour Roll and is the recipient of the A.N. Myer Staff Award. Andrea is now studying Honours History at Brock University.

■ GEORGETTE MACDONALD

Cambrian College honours Governor General Award Winners



During Cambrian College’s 42nd convocation ceremonies held May 26, 27, and 28, 2010, three graduates were honoured for their academic excellence and contributions to the Cambrian community.

The President’s Gold and Silver Medals are awarded annually to two graduating students who have combined academic excellence and technical ability with a significant contribution to college life through social and athletic interests. The gold medal is accompanied by a scholarship valued at \$2,000 and the silver medal by a scholarship valued at \$1,500.

The gold medal winner was Georgette MacDonald, a graduate of the Business Administration-Accounting program who has been a positive influence on her peers, her program, and the college.

Throughout her six semesters at Cambrian, MacDonald

maintained a 4.0 grade point average while successfully balancing her role as a parent, student leader, and college volunteer. She co-founded Cambrian’s accounting club; was an active participant in Cambrian’s recruitment activities; assisted with first-year orientation and the accounting program’s annual tax clinic.

A citizen of the Métis Nation, MacDonald is a well-known advocate for Métis and Aboriginal culture, particularly through her role as Vice-president and her former role as Secretary-Treasurer for the Cambrian Native Students’ Association.

The silver medal winner was Marc Siren, a graduate of the Physical Fitness Management program. The Governor General’s Academic Medal was presented to Shawn Chrétien who graduated from the Instrumentation Engineering Technician – Industrial program with an overall average of 96 percent.

■ DAVID SHUTTLEWORTH

David Shuttleworth is a youth from the Windsor region. He attended St. Clair College last year and the year before. He has successfully completed the two year Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician program and is currently looking for employment in the Windsor area. Last summer David worked in the Windsor, Essex, Kent Métis Council office and did a wonderful job.

by David Shuttleworth



Ever since I was in elementary school I’ve known that I wanted to go into a trade. At the time I was conflicted over whether I wanted to go into the automotive or electrical field. During high school, my career choice became clear. I would either be an auto mechanic or an electrician; I would be a heating and cooling technician. In my mind this field incorporated the best of both my previous choices—mechanics and electricity.

As my high school career was coming to an end, I realized that my financial situation was not adequate to cover my college expenses. At this point, I began to consider what my options were. I could have taken time off school and worked towards improving my financial situation, but since I had already been accepted into the program, I decided this was not the best course of action. I also wanted to stay in school because a year long absence from it can cause you to forget quite a bit. Deciding to stay in school, I was ready to apply to OSAP when it was

brought to my attention that the Métis Nation of Ontario had a training initiatives program. If I was approved the program would cover the cost of my schooling. After I sent in all of the required forms I received a positive response. The MNO was excellent, and covered my tuition, books, and supplies and even gave me a travel allowance. On top of that, last year they were able to secure a summer job for me when I was having trouble finding one for myself. For all of this I am extremely grateful to the MNO.

So here I am two years after having applied to St. Clair College and been accepted into their Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technician

■ STACEY RIVET

A youth, a college grad and proud Métis

by Stacey Rivet



Growing up Métis was probably one of the most confusing things as a child. All the other children in my class would talk about their European background and I felt singled out because it seemed like no one else shared my unique heritage. It wasn’t until my post-secondary education that I was able to truly find the answers and be proud of who I am.

I was funded by the Métis Nation of Ontario for the Social Service Worker Program offered at Canadore College in North Bay. Not only was I fortunate enough to receive funding, but I was also able to do my student work placement with the MNO office in North Bay. I was fortunate to work as a summer student with the MNO office in Sudbury. The easy-going but productive environment of the MNO offices helped me thrive and

course. As I write this, I don’t quite have my diploma in hand as the graduation ceremony takes place in a couple of weeks, but I know that I passed with marks that made both my family and me proud. I am now a

grow as a person.

I attended the 2010 MNO AGA in Thunder Bay where I lived the life of a voyageur for several days, the opportunity of a lifetime. I am proud of my heritage and want to be able to show other Métis youth that being Métis is something we should carry with pride. Working with the MNO, I got those answers and I hope that other youth will see this as well. I am a college graduate, I am a youth and I am proud to be Métis.

licensed Heating Technician browsing the job market for employment. Hopefully it won’t be too hard since everyone wants to feel warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

■ DAVID SUTHERLAND



MNO Citizen called to the Bar of Ontario

Joshua David Sutherland was called to the Bar of Ontario at a ceremony held in Toronto on June 15. Originally from Nipigon, Joshua is of Ojibway descent and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

While studying law in Toronto, Sutherland founded The Diversity Pipeline Initiative – Aboriginal Outreach Project, which took him on a solo cycling journey of 1,900 kilometres from Vancouver to Saskatoon. Throughout his trip, he stopped to talk about the benefits of post-secondary education with First Nations’ children living on reserves.

He is actively pursuing a career in criminal law.

Métis Education

OCAD University
and the
Métis Nation of Ontario
establish endowment
to support
Métis students

MNO BURSARY PROGRAM | Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts

Rooted in culture

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), in partnership with the Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD) is thrilled to announce the establishment of the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts.

"It is an honour to be in partnership with such a successful and acclaimed university. Because of the introduction of this fund, Métis students will have greater opportunities for future careers in the arts," said MNO President Gary Lipinski. "It is important that we encourage our youth to grow and learn and to support them in all their endeavours."

The award will be established in recognition of the Métis Nation of Ontario's founding president, Tony Belcourt's more than 40 years of service to the Nation and Métis people. It will serve as

acknowledgement of Dr. Belcourt's invaluable role within the Nation and his continued leadership.

"OCAD University is strongly committed to building an Aboriginal Visual Culture Program", said Dr. Sara Diamond, President of OCAD University. "We're honoured that the Métis Nation of Ontario has chosen to support OCADU students of Métis descent in recognition of their founder. The Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts will provide support for a Métis student to undertake research and creation that is rooted in their culture. The Endowment Fund is a welcome addition to our existing student funding, and aligns with OCADU's deep commitment to Aboriginal culture and diversity."

Once established, the bursary



left to right: **Tony Belcourt, MNO Secretart-Treasurer Tim Pile and MNO President Gary Lipinski.**

will be open to Métis students residing in Ontario who are pursuing arts and design related careers through OCADU's superior programs. Belcourt would like to see the endowment fund not only have enough revenue to support bursaries for Métis artists but also enough to support a

scholarship, especially for further studies on Métis history and Métis art in history.

"The MNO's contribution has been the building block to help this fund grow. My hope is to give back by holding fundraising events," said Belcourt. "I'm very grateful to MNO for making this

possible. It's truly an honour to me personally but it is going to be a tremendous benefit to Métis people who want to consider art as a career."

Belcourt's three children are all involved in arts careers and were part of the reason that OCADU was chosen for the bursary. "President Lipinski brought the idea to my attention several months ago and after considering other institutions, my kids all said, 'it's gotta be at OCADU, dad.'"

Belcourt hopes that the introduction of the endowment fund will create a greater profile of Métis art at OCADU. Details about the Dr. Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts, including when bursaries will become available and how students can apply will be forthcoming.

EDUCATION | NORTHERN ONTARIO MEDICAL SCHOOL

Métis at medical school

MNO citizens among students at Northern Ontario School of Medicine

Two Métis Nation of Ontario citizens and one Métis Nation of Alberta citizen are among 64 new medical students at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). The students are MNO citizens Catherine Maguire and Amanda Bates and MNA citizen Jordan Ducharme.

NOSM's mandate is to deliver innovative education and research for a healthier north. Students are taught using state-of-the-art smart classrooms and learning technologies, integrated collaborative approaches to education, and distributed community-based placements across northern Ontario. Each of these elements helps to ensure that

NOSM graduates high-quality physicians with an appreciation for the unique health-care needs of northern Ontario. Eight per cent of NOSM students are self-identified as "Aboriginal". Like students in all medical schools, these students have been selected from a very competitive field, and are extremely academically able as reflected by a mean grade point average (GPA) of 3.66 on a four point scale.

Prior to the start of classes, the NOSM students participated in a unique orientation week. They traveled to several northern Ontario communities, participated in working sessions, and became acquainted with their new lives as medical students. As



left to right: **Robert Graham, Bill Gordon, Amanda Bates, Cam Burgess, Catherine Maguire, Wendy Landry, Bob McKay, Tim Pile, Ian Peltier, Dr. David Marsh and Jordan Ducharme.**

part of orientation, the students enjoyed a dinner on Monday, August 23, in Louis Riel Hall at the Thunder Bay Métis Council Centre. The meal was co-hosted by

the Thunder Bay Métis Council and the NOSM's Aboriginal Reference Group. MCs for the event were Tim Pile, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Provisional

Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and Ian Peltier, the Acting Director of Aboriginal Affairs for NOSM. "We are very proud to be associated with NOSM," said Pile, "and are very pleased that some of our citizens are students in the program." The support of Wendy Landry, the President of the Thunder Bay Métis Council and her council in organizing the dinner was greatly appreciated.

On the day following the dinner, the students embarked on a week-long bus excursion to Sudbury with stops in Geraldton, Constance Lake, Hearst, Kapuskasing, and Timmins. Students participated in meals and activities, and experienced a warm welcome from physicians, community leaders, and dignitaries.

STUDENT BURSARIES

Bursary Program continues to grow

by Bonny Cann
Provincial Education Coordinator
TORONTO

With a new school year starting our thoughts in the Education and Training Branch turn to how we can best support Métis post-secondary education.

The Métis Nation of Ontario understands the stress that comes with new and returning studies. New students are leaving home—often for the first time. How will they manage? How will on-going training get paid for? A number of years ago, the MNO asked our communities: “What are the priorities for you, your family and your community?” The MNO heard that a focus on support for education was a priority. This was especially true because Métis people have not had federal funding like other Aboriginal peoples. The Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario heard that and set out to help make financial assistance possible and Métis bursaries were established across the province.

The Métis bursary program continues to grow. We are working with corporate partners as well as government to continue to establish new bursaries and to grow existing bursaries so that more funding can be made available to Métis students. The MNO is committed to continuing the growth of these programs. At the 2010 Annual General Assembly, we announced significant contributions to establish bursaries in the electrical sector, thanks to Ontario Power Authority, Power Workers Union, and Hydro, who each contributed \$25,000. We continue to seek partnerships with corporations, businesses and

governments to fund post-secondary education.

Another momentous bursary announced at the AGA was the Dr Tony Belcourt Endowment Fund for Métis in the Arts at the Ontario College of Art & Design University. This bursary is being set up as an endowment and like existing funds elsewhere, it will continue to be in existence for future generations.

If you are unsure if there is a bursary at your school, please feel free to contact the financial aid office and the Aboriginal Student Services office within your institution. We also recommend you google “Aboriginal student bursaries, awards and scholarships” as literally hundreds will come up. Maclean’s Magazine usually comes out with a special edition in August of each year dedicated to post-secondary students and lists bursaries, awards and scholarships. (On-line visit *Maclean’s On Campus SCHOLARSHIP FINDER*.) Be sure to check the MNO website under Education and Training for a list of more. While you are there, it is not too early to go through the website for information about Summer Career Placements and connect with the Education and Training Coordinator at your local office. The Summer Career Placement program is about providing our students with an opportunity to work in the field for which they are studying to ensure it is the right career choice and also to provide an opportunity to gain valuable work experience to add to the resume.

If you require assistance or are unsure if you qualify, please contact Bonny Cann, Provincial Education Coordinator at bonnyc@metisnation.org or at 1-888-466-6684 ext 102.

AIDER MÉTISSE | WORKING WITH THE FRANCOPHONE COMMUNITY

Soyez tous que vous pouvez être

by Chris Paci
Manager, Education & Training
OTTAWA

The MNO declaration on education, in the *Statement of Prime Purpose*, speaks to the encouragement of all Métis to reach their full potential. The day to day work of the Education and Training Branch is to assist and support Métis in Ontario to be all they can be. The branch also works with colleges and universities, government and industry partners, to create training opportunities that will lead to meaningful employment.

In the past few years we have been focussing some of our creativity and attention on working with the Francophone community and the host of fine schools in Ontario who offer postsecondary programs in French. Université du Sudbury is the latest school where we are now working to finalize a “Memorandum of Understanding” (MOU) and establish the Métis bursary that is available at over 32 institutions across Ontario.

Every once in a while a Métis person, whom the branch has assisted, comes along whose story inspires this important work. These stories are so good! We want to invite you to share your stories with us, and we will share your stories with all Métis.

“AS A BILINGUAL MÉTIS, BORN IN SUDBURY AND RAISED IN THE FRENCH RIVER AREA, ÉRIC WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE THREE PROGRAMS AT COLLÈGE BORÉAL.”

One such story comes to us from Éric Dupuis.

Éric attended this year’s Annual General Assembly in Thunder Bay. He stood at the Collège Boréal information table at the trade show. The reason he was standing there is that Éric now works at the college. The college signed a MOU with us last year and since then has worked with the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities to secure funding and open the “Centre de ressources de la Nation Métisse”. Éric is the centre’s first Coordonateur des projets autochtones et métis. “It was a pleasure attending the AGA this year,” says Éric. “I was honoured to be part of it. I was also glad to have gotten the chance to meet a lot of key people, such as France Picotte, Gary Lipinski and Tony Belcourt. The Fort (Fort William Historical Park) was absolutely beautiful, and being there was like living our history in Ontario.”

As a bilingual Métis, born in Sudbury and raised in the French River area, Éric was able to complete three programs at Collège

Boréal: Social Work, Commerce and Business Administration, and Marketing. He was able to continue his education because of the training support and assistance of the MNO. “Honestly, had it not been for these programs I would have not been able to continue and specialize in marketing, which in the end helped me to get the position I hold now.” During the past five years of postsecondary education, Éric received bursaries from the MNO, which he tells us, “helped me enormously, and I am very grateful, and without the support I received from the MNO, I would not be where I stand today. Honestly, I am proud to be part of the branch success stories!”

We invite all Métis interested in either their first or second career training options, to come speak with one of the staff in the regional offices across Ontario. You can also contact us by email or phone us. Information is available at: www.metisnation.org.

It is up to you to take that first step toward finding your dream job, but we are there to help.

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QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY | INDIGENOUS PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND POLICY

Unique aboriginal studies program graduates first students in Kingston

A special ceremony featuring traditional native drummers was held at Queen’s University to honour the first four graduates of Canada’s only program for graduate studies in indigenous public administration and policy.

Four students—Deborah Brant, Francis Cadeau, Tracy Maracle and Russell Roundpoint—each received a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree. The program started in 2007 and was developed by the Queen’s School of Policy Studies and the First Nations Technical Institute,

located on the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory.

“This is a historic day. On behalf of all members of the School of Policy Studies, I congratulate the graduating students on their great achievement. I thank the graduates’ families and their communities for the support they provided to the graduates during the academic program, and wish the graduates well in their ongoing careers,” said School of Policy Studies Director, Peter Harrison, who attended the event.

The program involves a series of courses that are unique in Canada and integrate traditional knowledge and philosophies in indigenous policy, governance, and management.

The development of policy leaders and senior administrators is essential to the capacity building and self-determination of First Nations, both for today and for future generations. It is hoped that graduates of the program will play key roles in Aboriginal organizations and community developments.



left to right: **Tracy Maracle, Deborah Brant, Russell Roundpoint and Francis Cadeau are the first four graduates of the aboriginal Master of Public Administration program.**

Teachable Métis moments

by **Chris McLeod**
Education Analyst, MNOET
THUNDER BAY

Even as students were heading back to school, the Métis Nation of Ontario, Education and Training (MNOET) Branch was also preparing for the new school year with several new initiatives aimed at improving the quality of Métis education delivered at schools across Ontario.

This year, the branch will be visiting school boards, classrooms, and communities to deliver awareness presentations to all. These presentations highlight Métis culture and history in Ontario and the role the Métis

continue to play shaping Canada into what it is. Teachers will receive tools and resources that will allow them to deliver additional lessons to their students to help deepen the understanding of the Métis people.

In addition to these presentations, the branch is distributing awareness kits to schools and we have developed kits for regional community councils that can be used in presentations and during lessons. Inside these kits are a variety of items that can be combined with a teaching package to provide dozens of teachable moments. This resource will be an invaluable aid for school boards and communities who have previously found it difficult



“KEEP YOUR EYE OUT FOR STUDENT RESOURCES AIMED AT BOTH ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS.”

to communicate about the unique culture and heritage of the Métis people in Ontario.

The MNO plans on facilitating discussion between community members and school boards across Ontario in nine regional meetings. These discussions will focus on highlighting the importance and need for Métis education in Ontario classrooms. The branch aims to increase awareness of educational issues that face Métis communities and the roles that school boards and the Ministry of Education can play in promoting a safe and healthy environment for students which reflects the needs of Métis communities.

Keep your eye out for student

resources aimed at both elementary and secondary institutions. These resources and initiatives are designed to get youth more involved in the Métis community and to empower them in learning what it means to be Métis in Ontario. Through an online presence as well as other forms of outreach MNOET hopes to reach out to hundreds of Métis youth across the province and provide them with support and tools to assist them at school and at home.

If you are interested in learning more about these initiatives or would like to be informed of discussions happening in your community contact Chris via email chrism@metisnation.org

EDUCATION | MNO DEVELOPS NEW POSITION TO IMPROVE SERVICES DIRECTED AT K-12 EDUCATION

Métis education and awareness

by **Jennifer St. Germain**
Director, Education and Training
OTTAWA

The Education and Training Branch is pleased to welcome its newest member. Chris McLeod, previously Youth Coordinator with the City of Thunder Bay, is filling the newly created position as Education Analyst/Officer in the Thunder Bay office. Chris is a proud Métis citizen and a certified teacher.

For close to ten years, Chris has been a facilitator and educator, working with corporate, non-profit and youth groups across the country. His background is recreation and athletic training, and he has trained and competed in gymnastics at the national level. You may recall that Chris was on the 2005 Métis Canoe Expedition that travelled from Thunder Bay to Batoche. His passion for travel and expedition



Chris McLeod MNOET’s Education Analyst/Officer in the Thunder Bay office.

training has led him to over 70 countries around the world where he has helped to train and organize other expeditions. We are excited to welcome Chris to the MNO to further the development of education initiatives reaching out to communities, schools, and boards across the province.

MNO developed the new position to improve services directed at K-12 education activities. Chris will support branch operations to regional community councils, partnerships with school boards, and regional Ministry of Education staff, and he will oversee the implementation of the project which will run for one year.

The core of the project will include finalizing the Métis Education and Awareness Kits. The initial design of these school kits was completed last year. Chris’ job will be to ensure 200 are produced and distributed to regions and community councils.

Chris will develop, in collaboration with senior management

and Ministry staff, a comprehensive training plan for joint sessions that we anticipate hosting in the late fall-early winter with the Ministry of Education. He will work with Bonny Cann and Chris Paci on a number of planned training sessions in partnership with the Ministry for regional representatives, community councils, and trainers.

As the new Education Officer/Analyst, Chris will facilitate meetings between senior school board administration staff and trustees with our regional staff, community council representatives, and MNO. He may also get involved with the branch on self-identification outreach.

Join me in welcoming Chris aboard. Please drop him a line at chrism@metisnation.org to say hello and to advance education across the Métis Homeland in Ontario.

BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY.

Are you an Aboriginal student looking for a career in the skilled trades?

If you are an Aboriginal person (including First Nations, Métis and Inuit, Self Identified and Status) then Aboriginal Apprenticeship can help you begin your journey towards a successful career in one of over 300 certified trades.

Whether you're new to the trades or already on your way to becoming a tradesperson, we can help you.

To learn more visit
Aboriginal Apprenticeship.ca
or call 759-2554 in Sault Ste. Marie
or 849-3187 in Blind River.

ABORIGINAL APPRENTICESHIP CENTRE

This project is funded in part by the Government of Canada.

FIND THE RIGHT APPRENTICE.

One of the hardest parts of growing a business can be finding qualified apprenticeship applicants. The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Centre is here to help, providing employers with support to make the process easy and candidates who are trained, equipped and ready to work.

Additionally, there are financial incentives exclusively for employers who take on Aboriginal apprentices.

To learn more visit
Aboriginal Apprenticeship.ca
or call 759-2554 in Sault Ste. Marie
or 849-3187 in Blind River.

ABORIGINAL APPRENTICESHIP CENTRE

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The Spirit World

OBITUARY

SENATOR HELEN BRADLEY, 1934-2010

A founder of Georgian Bay Métis Council and respected leader within MNO passes

Helen Bradley (nee Lepage) was the daughter of a commercial fisherman on Georgian Bay where she still lived. Over the years Helen volunteered in many capacities: as a genealogist, assisting people who needed help with a translation of documents from French or Michif; as a board member at the Enahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre; as a Métis Elder at a local correctional facility; as a fundraiser par excellence and just about anywhere else that she could help.

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

On January 31st, 2008, Senator Bradley and 12 other Ontarians were honoured with the "Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship" at a ceremony at Queen's Park. Hosted by the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, and the Honourable Michael Chan, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Good Citizenship Investiture ceremony took place on the grand staircase of Queen's Park, Toronto. Simcoe North MPP, Garfield Dunlop, and his wife Jane were also in attendance to congratulate Helen. In addition, she received a letter of congratulations hand delivered by Emily Bullock, Special Assis-



tant to the Honourable Michael Bryant, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

"These individuals demonstrate citizenship in action," said the Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, who presented the awards at the ceremony.

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

And we will never forget her.

"Senator Bradley was well-known and well-loved throughout the Métis Nation," said President Gary Lipinski. "I am very grateful that a few weeks ago I had the chance to visit her in her home in Penetanguishene. I visited her at that time because I could not attend a later event honouring her contributions to the MNO and Georgian Bay Métis Council, but I wanted to make

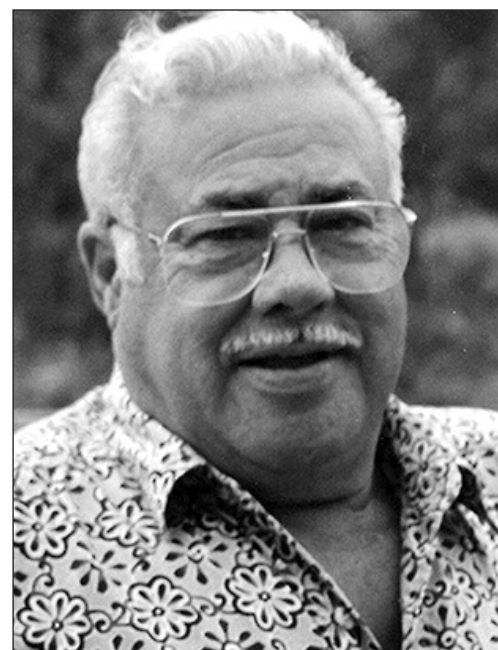
sure she knew how much the MNO valued her contributions and dedication to our cause.

"I cannot say enough about Senator Bradley. She was a founder of the Georgian Bay Métis Council, instrumental in the council getting its charter and a respected leader within the MNO. She continued to be involved in MNO committees and meetings right up to her passing and if it had not been for an unfortunate fall, she would have attended this year's AGA."

Senator Helen Bradley OMC was born in Penetanguishene on September 25, 1934. She passed away October 21, 2010. She was predeceased by her husband Helmut Schmidt and survived by her sisters, brother, two children, three grandchildren and one great grandchild, as well as numerous nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

A celebration of Senator Bradley's life will take place in Penetanguishene.

OBITUARY



SENATOR GILBERT GERVAIS
1928-2010

A founding citizen and Senator of the MNO passes

Although his grandparents settled in North Bay and were part of the Golden Lake (Algonquin) and Nippissing bands, Gilbert Gervais was born and raised in Timmins.

Senator Gervais first became active with the Métis movement in 1989 as a member of Quebec's Native Alliance. Soon thereafter, striving to be recognized as Métis, he joined the Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association (OMAA). Then, in 1993, Gilbert became one of the founding citizens and a Senator of the MNO. Gil was also the Region 3 Captain of the Hunt for many years. His dedication to the Métis cause was well-known and respected throughout the Métis Nation, as was his passion for advancing Métis rights. Gilbert Gervais was also a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.

After a period of self-education and working in mines and on railroads, Senator Gervais headed his own construction and trucking company for over 30 years. Then he switched careers and received a diesel engineering certificate and worked another 19 years for the Ministry of Natural Resources where he supervised the construction of forest access roads in northern Ontario.

Gilbert's community activities included sitting on the board of the Misiway Ininwuk Health Centre, as well as on the Timmins Métis Council as a Senator.

A man of many talents and diverse interests, Gil was also a poet. His book, *Daily Prayer Poems and Words of Wisdom* was published in 1982. His lifelong passions included playing guitar, body building, bowling, and wood-carving.

Senator Gil Gervais passed away on October 23, 2010, at the age of 82. He was predeceased by his wife Jeannette, his brother Don, his sister Doreen and by his son-in-law David Martin. He is survived by his companion Jeannine, his siblings Edmore, Emery and Gail, his children Glenn and Brenda, his grandchildren Jamie, Jason and Jeffrey, and his great grandchildren Jessica, Madison and Hunter. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held October 27th followed by interment at the Timmins Memorial Cemetery. Remembrance donations made to the Canadian Cancer Society will be greatly appreciated. Online donations and condolences can be made at www.lessardstephens.com.

OBITUARY

Gary Kowalski

Gary Kowalski, the husband of Denise Kowalski, a long-time Housing Branch staff member based in Thunder Bay, passed away in the Hospice Unit of St. Joseph's Hospital in Thunder Bay on October 28th, 2010. Gary was born June 21st, 1953 in Fort William. He was predeceased by his father Edward.

Gary is survived by his mother, Jean; brother, Jim; and sisters Jo-Anne and Brenda.

A funeral service for Gary took place November 1st at the Harbourview Funeral Centre in Thunder Bay. We extend our sympathy to Denise, as well as Gary's family and friends.

OBITUARY

Daryl Robert Boston

On October 22, 2010, a heart of gold stopped beating, two shining eyes at rest. God broke our hearts to prove, he only takes the best. Loving husband of Valerie (nee Houghton); hero to Tricia and Trevor; son of Donald and Mary Jane Boston (nee Bouchard); son-in-law of Jim and Dorothy White; brother of Tracey, Terry (Jennifer) and Tim (Chico, Chavez); brother-in-law of Robert Houghton; uncle and friend to Steven (Oscar), Bryan (G-Slice), Tasha, Starr (Moonbeam), Justin, Jessica and Shannon; a lifelong friend of Roger and Karen Theberge; Daryl was surrounded by many loving and supportive aunts, uncles and cousins who will surely miss his unique sense of humour and care-free attitude.

A funeral service was held on

October 27, 2010, followed by interment at Hillside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, a trust fund has been set up for his children.

Daryl was the 41 year old cousin of Tammy Webb (MNO Labour Market Manager) and the son of Mary Jane Boston who has been involved with the MNO since it was founded. Mary Jane was the Region Four Councillor until she took a position with Métis Nation of Ontario Training Initiatives as the Community Development Officer (CDO) and held that position until she suffered a stroke in 2000 and was unable to continue to work. Many in the Métis community including MNO staff will remember Mary Jane.

"We all know that the power of prayer is strong and our entire family would greatly appreciate it in our time of such sorrow," said Tammy Webb.

Expressions of sympathy may be offered: www.arthurfuneralhome.com

OBITUARY

Todd Saulnier

The Métis Nation of Ontario would like to extend condolences to the family and friends of Todd Saulnier.

Todd passed away suddenly at his residence on October 18th, 2010, in his 48th year. He was the beloved husband of Region 7 PCMNO Councillor, Pauline (Deroches) Saulnier, loving father of Benjamin, Justin, and Ashley, cherished grandfather of Kaiden Pilon, and dear son of

Joyce and Delphis Saulnier. Todd will be deeply missed by his many friends and family.

Interment was at St. Ann's Cemetery, Penetanguishene. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Diabetes Association or the Métis Cultural Commission would be appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Pauline and her family at this most difficult time.

OBITUARY



Valerie Stewart:
**Former
PCMNO
Councilor
and
Senator
passes**

Former Community Council Senator and PCMNO Representative for Region 9, Valerie Stewart, passed away peacefully at home in Dunville, ON on August 1, 2010, with her husband Bill at her side. Valerie was 84 years of age.

Valerie was an active participant in the early days of the MNO, proud of her ancestry and willing to share her valuable historical knowledge. Valerie came to the MNO in 1994 as one of our earliest citizens. Valerie served as a Senator for her local Community Council and, as the PCMNO Councilor for Region 9; her portfolio was Veterans and Michif Language. Her contributions were indispensable as MNO grew. Valerie Stewart is fondly remembered, and sadly missed.

President Lipinski spoke with her husband Bill and passed along our sympathies and thanked him for all the contributions Valerie has made to the MNO.

OBITUARY



SENATOR KAY LYNCH, 1923-2010
**Senator gave
freely to assist
and help others**

We are sad to report that Senator Kay (Kathrine) Lynch passed away on July 6th, 2010 at Lake of the Woods District Hospital with her family by her side.

Kay was born in Dunseith, North Dakota, on August 2, 1923. She was predeceased by her parents, Elizabeth Racine and Pierre Dauphanais; six brothers, five sisters; and, granddaughter Shelley Berthelette.

Surviving are her sister Lorraine (John), her children Shirley (Art-deceased), Brian (Melissa), Judy (Ed), Leah (Glen), Charlotte (Gary-deceased), and Linda (Mike), 13 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren and two great great grandchildren. Also surviving are numerous nieces, nephews and cherished friends.

Kay was active in the Kenora Legion Ladies' Auxiliary for many years. She was also a member of the Kenora Moose Lodge. In recent years Senator Kay worked on behalf of Métis veterans just as she had supported the building of the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Kenora Métis Council and the community as a whole. She was a strong woman who gave freely to assist and help so many others.

"I recently visited Kay in the hospital this past June 13th and even then her spirits were high and she was looking forward to getting out and attending MNO's AGA this August," said President Lipinski. "She will be sadly missed by many. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends."

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OBITUARY

**Temiskaming Métis
Council Senator
Earnie Lavallée passes**

Following a brave battle with cancer, Earnie Elmer Lavallée passed away at Temiskaming Hospital in New Liskeard on August 3, 2010, at the age of 64 years with his loving wife Christine by his side.

He is predeceased by his parents Moise and Antoinette [Ranger] Lavallée and siblings: Edward "Eddy" Lavallée, Marie Vanperen and Armand Lavallée Sr. He is survived by his loving wife Christine Keith-Lavallée, and sadly missed by his children: Debora [Glenn] Gutjahr of Beamsville, Loretta Lavallée [fiancé Donald Stringer] of South Porcupine and Sandra Néron of Earleton. Earnie is fondly remembered by grandchildren: Dustin Desgagné, Kaylee Néron and Zoe Néron; sister Florence Watson of Haileybury, Jeannette Laisi of Edmonton and many nieces and nephews.

In keeping with Earnie's wishes, cremation followed the decease. Interment will take place at the Cobalt Catholic Cemetery. Memorial contributions in Earnie's memory may be made to Community Cancer Support. Arrangements entrusted to Buffam Leveille Funeral Home. Condolences, contributions and memorial candles may be left at www.buffamleveille.com.



It is with sadness that I write to inform all that Senator Earnie Lavallée passed away on August 3rd. I had an opportunity to speak with Senator Lavallée while in the hospital, even in his final days he remained strong and committed to the MNO looking forward to attending our AGA. He loved the land and harvesting and on a prior occasion had told me about one of his recent hunting trips where he harvested his moose. He will be sadly missed in his local community, by the Temiskaming Métis Council, the MNO Senators, and through-out the MNO where he generously gave so much of himself. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Christine, family and friends.

God Bless. Gary Lipinski, MNO President

OBITUARY

Bruce Davidson

Bruce Davidson, husband of Marlene Davidson, the President of the Atikokan and Surrounding Area Métis Council, passed away October 26th, 2010.

Our deepest sympathies go to Marlene and her family and we ask you all to keep Marlene in your prayers, to help give her the strength to get through this difficult time.

OBITUARY

*Jaye Peterson
Waas*

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Region 6 Councillor, JoAnne Wass, whose 29-year-old daughter-in-law, Jaye Peterson Waas, was killed in a head-on collision near Santa Cruz, California on October 22nd. JoAnne's 10-month-old grandson, Kyler, was also seriously injured in the collision.

"I hope our collective prayers will help Kyler's recovery and give JoAnne some of the strength she needs over the days and weeks ahead," said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

HOUSING | FIRST NATION, INUIT, MÉTIS URBAN & RURAL (FIMUR) HOUSING PROGRAM

**OAHS announces \$17.4 Million to
provide Aboriginal housing**

Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services (OAHS) is pleased to announce \$17.4 million in funding to deliver 199 units under the First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban & Rural (FIMUR) Housing Rental Component Program.

"This affordable housing will support off-reserve Aboriginal families and strengthen communities," said Rick Bartolucci, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. "By working together, we are making a positive difference in the lives of many Aboriginal people."

"We are pleased to announce that the FIMUR Rental Component Program is in a position to deliver at least 417 units which is 16% ahead of target," commented Don McBain, OAHS Executive Director. "Further, the FIMUR Assisted Homeownership Program is projected to deliver

**About ONTARIO
ABORIGINAL HOUSING
SERVICES**

The OAHS Board is comprised of representatives appointed by the Métis Nation of Ontario, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and the Ontario Native Women's Association. "Providing safe affordable housing is our mandate. Creating homes is our goal."

For more information:
www.ontarioaboriginalhousing.ca
Tel: 1-866-391-1061
**Ontario Aboriginal Housing
Services / FIMUR Assisted
Homeownership Program**
500 Bay Street, Suite 200
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
P6A 1X5

255 units which is 27.5% ahead of target for this component of the FIMUR Housing Program. We are excited to be able to assist Aboriginal people find safe, affordable homes across the entire housing continuum."

The goal of the FIMUR Housing Program is to help address housing needs for Aboriginal people in Ontario living off-reserve, designed and delivered based on community engagement processes.

Proponent submissions were evaluated by an independent Proposal Review Committee who reported their recommendations to the OAHS Board of Directors for final review and approval. The Board granted conditional approval for the following:

- Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter of Native Women Inc., 10 units \$1,700,000

- Fort Frances Native Urban Wahkaihanun Corporation, Fort Frances, 10 units \$1,254,000
- Wequedong Lodge of Thunder Bay, 110 units \$3,000,000

Due to community need, the Proposal Review Committee recommended and the OAHS Board of Directors also approved for OAHS to assist in the development of new housing units in the following communities:

- Dryden, 30 units \$4,800,000
- Sioux Lookout, 15 units \$2,534,700

OAHS will also deliver 24 new units of housing at a cost of \$4,080,000 in under-served areas of north-eastern Ontario. OAHS is committed to delivering and operating safe, affordable housing for Aboriginal people.

