

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO | ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# Métis stories come alive at AGA

Full Coverage starts on page 12



▲ (Left to right in front) Ontario Attorney General, Chris Bentley; Moon River Métis Council President, Larry Duval; and, MNO President, Gary Lipinski paddle a group of MNO leaders and other dignitaries in a short canoe trip re-enacting Métis voyageur traditions, as part of the opening ceremonies of the 2011 MNO AGA.



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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

AUTUMN 2011, No. 67

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## Correction

We would like to apologize for an error in the last issue of *The Métis Voyageur*. On page 19, bottom right-hand corner, under "Family History Project", we erroneously indicated that Keira and Kristy Cameron were from Midland. They are from Atikokan.

## Congrats



## Wedding Bells

By Barbaranne Wright

It is with great pleasure that Barbaranne and Harry Wright announce the marriage of their eldest daughter, **Leasa Dawn Wright**, to Hugh William Cumming. The wedding took place on June 4th, in Niagara on the Lake, Ontario. Leasa and Hugh are making Oakville their home.

*Barbaranne Wright is the Women's Representative for the Niagara Region Métis Council.*

## Fond Farewell

## Mixed Emotions

A long-time MNO employee says "good-bye"

I didn't want to leave MNO without having a chance to say "farewell" to everyone. At the end of the day today (24th June, 2011) I will officially be starting a new chapter in my life and moving on from MNO.

Because I have met so many of you and your families over the years I wanted to take a moment and extend my very sincere wishes to each and every one of you for only the happiest and most beneficial lives! Aside from the strides that the MNO continues to focus on, we all have a special bond in our joint culture and that is what made working for and within MNO so appealing these many years.

My leaving at this time is full of mixed emotions and feelings, both sad and exhilarating, but I believe it is the best move for me. Of course I



Jean McIsaac

will miss my MNO friends and colleagues but I will not be too far away and I will be seeing many of you again.

**Jean McIsaac-Wiitala**  
 (former) Executive Director  
 MNO Housing Investments Inc.

## Congrats



**Fern and Pierrette Tremblay celebrated 60th anniversary on August 13th, 2011.**

## Timmins couple mark 60th wedding Anniversary

Fern Tremblay is the brother of our frequent poet, Raymond Tremblay. Fern served as Reeve of Mountjoy Township and as an Alderman for the City of Timmins. He is the founding and current President of the Joseph Fortin Foundation, an organization that assists low income families to pay for costly medical treatment, travel or accommodation. His wife, Pierrette, always wholeheartedly supported her husband in his extensive community involvement.

Raymond commemorated this very special occasion with an open letter to his older brother, a portion of which follows.

*Dear Pierrette and Fern:*

*What can we tell you on this historical day when you are celebrating your 60th wedding anniversary? As a poet and a writer, it is very rare that I can't find the words to express my deepest feelings.*

*You see, since my tender youth, my heart has been overflowing with admiration for you. First of all Fern, I must admit that I don't remember too much of you as my brother when I was a little boy or young teenager (after all, you are 13 years older than I am). On the other hand, I remember much more about the both of you as a married couple and parents.*

*During my adolescence and my young adulthood, you will surely remember that I often confided in you both when I encountered certain problematic situations. When I did so, I was greatly impressed by the fact that you always took the time to thoroughly listen to me before sharing your advice with me.*

*Over the years, I have witnessed the incremental blossoming of a true love based on mutual respect, your faithfulness, your reliance on open dialogue, your honesty, your shared confidence and your support for each other; your great sense of humour; your respect for your respective private lives, and your generosity towards others, especially the most vulnerable members of our society.*

*Dear Pierrette and Fern, you continue to be exemplary role models and rich sources of inspiration for us throughout our lives. For this, we will remain forever grateful to you both.*

IN THE SPIRIT WORLD | MNO mourns loss of NDP Leader Jack Layton

## MNO AGA observes moment of silence for Jack Layton

On August 22nd the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) expressed its deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of federal opposition leader, Jack Layton, who lost his second battle with cancer.

The news of Mr. Layton's passing came during the last day of the MNO's Annual General Assembly in Parry Sound and was announced by MNO President, Gary Lipinski. President Lipinski noted that all Canadians regardless of political affiliation admired and respected Mr. Layton and it was very sad that he passed so soon after bringing the NDP to official opposition status. With the announcement of his passing, the AGA paused from its business and observed a moment of silence in honour of Mr. Layton.



▲ **Ken Simard, Captain of the Hunt for Region 2, greets Jack Layton at the MNO's 2009 Annual General Assembly in Toronto.**

OBITUARY | Elders

## MNO mourns loss of Elder William Commanda

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) shares in the mourning of Aboriginal peoples everywhere in Canada and around the world for the recent loss of Elder William Commanda.

"Grandfather" Commanda's public career is well-known as was his dedication to Aboriginal rights. His loss will be dearly felt but he left all of us an enduring and inspirational spiritual legacy. Grandfather was known throughout the world for his great wisdom and he worked with the United Nations and other international agencies. He was also an internationally renowned traditional craftsman and keeper of tra-

ditional knowledge and oral histories of the Algonquin people.

"Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family and to his people in the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg Nation," said Gary Lipinski, MNO President.

Former MNO President, Tony Belcourt expressed his sense of loss. "It's a sad day knowing that he [Grandfather Commanda] is no longer with us. He brought such joy to me whenever I saw him. He was always beaming, no matter how good or bad he was feeling. He never showed pain when he had it. He never showed anger or displeasure towards anyone. He was always kind and pos-



itive in his thoughts. He had a great vision of humanity and spent his lifetime fighting for Mother Earth. He was a small but strong figure, and a giant of a man. I will miss him."



MÉTIS HARVESTING | IN THE COURTS

# Charges dropped against Métis fisherman

MNO congratulates Lepage family for perseverance in pressing for justice

Louise Goulding stood for the Lepage family in court holding smudged feathers presented to her by Irene Peel, a member of the local Métis community. Peel who attended the trial to support the Lepage family presented the feathers after charges were dropped by the Crown.

On August 12, 2011, after only two days in court, the Crown withdrew all charges against Métis commercial fisherman Bernie Lepage. The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) publicly supported the Lepage family in its battle and the family also had the widespread support of the Métis community, many of whom came to the Orillia court house to show their solidarity. Louise Goulding, Lepage's sister, who stood for the family in court, stated: "It was very comforting to know the MNO, the Ontario Commercial Fishery Association and most importantly, our community, were behind us from the beginning."

The case revolved around charges laid against Lepage for going over quota on incidental lake trout in 2007. This incidental catch is impossible to avoid and the overage represented less than 1% of his total quota. In other parts of the province, commercial fishermen are not charged for these incidental catches, and



▲ Louise Goulding, who stood for the Lepage family in court, holding smudged feathers presented to her by Irene Peel, a member of the local Métis community.

have the ability to pay overage amounts to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) without being prosecuted. As well, other Aboriginal commercial fisheries that have had incidental catches have not been charged by the MNR.

The issue for the Lepage family was that the MNR's approach essentially criminalized them for doing something that is impossible to avoid in the operation of their authorized commercial fishery. A regulatory conviction could have been used against the Lepage family in the future with respect to their commercial fishing license or quota allocation. Moreover, the MNR's policies are inconsistent throughout the province and were being arbitrarily applied to the Lepage family, even though they are an Aborigi-

nal commercial fishery that should be treated in a similar manner to First Nation commercial fishing operations.

**IT WAS VERY COMFORTING TO KNOW THE MNO, THE ONTARIO COMMERCIAL FISHERY ASSOCIATION AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, OUR COMMUNITY, WERE BEHIND US FROM THE BEGINNING.**

"It is unfortunate that Métis commercial fishing families continue to face this type of harassment and unequal treatment by the MNR," stated MNO President, Gary Lipinski. "Today's withdrawal of charges is a testament to the perseverance of the Lepage family. I congratulate them on pressing for justice."

The Lepage family, like many Métis families along the shores of Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and throughout the Great Lakes, have supported themselves and their communities for generations by fishing commercially and for food.

Commercial fishing was and remains fundamental to the culture and traditions of Ontario Métis. The industry also provides employment and a food source for all of Ontario. This case is important because Métis commercial fishing operations continue to be unfairly harassed by the MNR on a wide variety of issues, and are not dealt with as Aboriginal commercial fisheries, which essentially ignores the landmark Powley decision from the Supreme Court of Canada.

"I will be writing to the MNR Minister to once again press for a meaningful process to address these issues of importance to Métis commercial fisheries, along with other Métis land and resource issues, so these issues do not continue to be pushed to the courts," stated Lipinski.



The Métis, they share. To my dad it would come automatically. He'd shoot a deer but we couldn't keep it all because there was no refrigeration. So he'd give people some of the meat until it was gone; nothing spoiled. That's what I call "Métis".

Pete Grisdale, Métis Elder  
Moon River Métis Oral History Project, 2011

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# Métis young people raise funds for Kandahar orphanage

**J**ulia MacQuarrie, the ten year old granddaughter of Métis Elder Jo MacQuarrie, has raised funds for an orphanage in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Julia learned about the orphanage through her father Doug who is currently Chief of Staff to the Canadian Representative in Afghanistan.

Julia, her friends, and twin sisters, have donated \$400.00 to orphanage projects in Kandahar. They raised this money through shovelling drive ways, putting on plays, and a garage sale. Her donation has already been used to plant trees and rose bushes at the Shahid Karzai orphanage and to have clothing made for 45 other orphans at the Sana Orphanage in Kandahar City.



▲ Kindergarten students eating a meal in the Shahid Karzai Orphanage in Kandahar.

NEW FACES | MNO STAFF

## New IT Support for MNO head office

**A**llow me to introduce our newest MNO employee, Mark Vuotari. Mark has joined the Information and Communication Technologies Branch as Desktop Support Analyst and Ottawa Facilities Liaison.

Mark brings enthusiasm and experience in a wide variety of technologies as well as facilities experience from previous positions including Sears Canada. As Mark becomes more and more familiar with the MNO's ICT requirements he will be assuming responsibility for day to day user support.

Mark is anxious to connect with and assist all the MNO staff and will be rotating through several observation positions for hands-on experience with HATS,



▲ **Mark Vuotari**

the Registry Application and Database, Joesoftware and other MNO-specific applications and Mark Brunzell will continue to be available as well.

Please join me in welcoming Mark Vuotari to the Métis Nation of Ontario.

- Mark Brunzell  
MNO Manager, ITC

NEW FACES | MNO STAFF

## LRC introduces new Aquatic Habitat Tech

**O**n July 14, 2011, MNO hired Markus Tuohimaa as an Aquatic Habitat Technician. Markus, a graduate of Sir Sandford Fleming College, has accepted a contract position with MNO and is working with the Thunder Bay Métis Council (TBMC).

TBMC is working in conjunction with the Upper Great Lakes Branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources to conduct a lake sturgeon assessment and Markus is a member of the crew conducting this work. TBMC will introduce Markus to some traditional knowledge collection regarding the historic importance of lake sturgeon to the Métis way of life.

The Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch has



▲ **Markus Tuohimaa**

worked with Department of Fisheries and Oceans to access funding through the Aboriginal Inland Habitat Program (AIHP) to make this project possible. LRC looks forward to discussing the AIHP with other Métis communities for future projects.

- Melanie Paradis  
MNO Director of LRC

MÉTIS WOMEN

## Ending violence against women

**O**n June 17th, the Women of the Métis Nation (WMN) attended the Collaboration to End Violence: National Aboriginal Women's Forum in Vancouver (NAWF).

There are issues that stem from Métis women and girls not being identified as victims of violence within the information gathered during and after an incident. The lack of solutions and resources required to prevent and intervene for Métis women and families as well as the ongoing maintenance necessary needs to be addressed quickly. A Métis-specific approach when working with abused Métis women is the only way to ensure that Métis women and girls will not be forgotten.

President Omeniho said: "There is no way that we can come up with solutions if we are not identified. We are an unseen group—even here at this forum the reality is the same. Until Métis women are engaged in developing the solutions and working collaboratively with others to address the issues of violence against Métis women nothing will change."

Research data indicate that one in four First Nations, Métis and Inuit women has been a victim of spousal abuse, and an Aboriginal woman is seven times more likely than a non-Aboriginal woman to be a murder victim.

**“UNTIL MÉTIS WOMEN ARE ENGAGED IN DEVELOPING THE SOLUTIONS AND WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHERS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MÉTIS WOMEN NOTHING WILL CHANGE.”**

There are now new federal-provincial efforts to support law enforcement and social service agencies to prevent violence against Aboriginal women and to track down those who commit such violence. The federal government, last year, set aside funding for new databases to track missing Aboriginal women and is providing money for other anti-violence programs. It's not yet enough money but it's a start.

More than 500 Aboriginal women and girls remain missing.

### Working together to build a powerful future

Hydro One is proud to sponsor the Métis Nation of Ontario's 18th Annual General Assembly.

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BIODIVERSITY | MNO Partnership with Hydro One and Conservation Halton



# Traditional Métis knowledge a key aspect of forest conservation

On August 31, 2011, Hydro One, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Conservation Halton announced that they will partner on a project to establish 25 hectares of upland forest in the Glenorchy Conservation Area in the Town of Oakville as part of Hydro One’s Bruce to Milton Biodiversity Initiative.

The initiative will expand the existing adjacent forest associated with Sixteen Mile Creek and will replicate its natural topography, habitats and ecological functions, creating a contiguous green space for local wildlife. Tree species planted as part of this project include sugar maple, American beech, and various types of oak, hickory and ash.

Traditional Métis values and knowledge are a key part of establishing the upland forest. As such, Conservation Halton and the MNO will establish a working group to identify and select species for the upland forest that are significant for ceremonial and medicinal uses. Métis community members and elders will provide direction and advice ensuring those species selected are impor-

tant to the broader community.

The Biodiversity Initiative is an innovative mitigation approach that will create and enhance natural habitat in partnership with First Nations and Métis communities, and community-based organizations. The initiative shifts the company’s focus from its traditional compensation approach of “area for area” replacement of woodlots when constructing new high-voltage transmission lines. Hydro One was recognized by the Canadian Electricity Association (CEA) for this Biodiversity Initiative receiving the CEA 2009 Environmental Commitment Award.

“We are very proud of the Biodiversity Initiative and the opportunity it provides us to enhance the natural habitat and give back to communities as we modernize the electricity transmission system,” said Laura Formosa, President and CEO, Hydro One Inc. “Partnering with the MNO and Conservation Halton means that community values are reflected in the mitigation process, helping to ensure success while making sure Hydro One can deliver the electricity Ontario needs.”

“Hydro One and MNO have been working closely for the past

three years on the Bruce to Milton Project and we are extremely proud of the strong relationship we have developed. Hydro One’s unique approach to biodiversity has enabled MNO to partner with Conservation Halton and collaborate on what promises to be a groundbreaking biodiversity initiative. This is the first of its kind for the MNO, and we are very proud to share this success with Hydro One and Conservation Halton,” said Gary Lipinski, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

The engagement protocol signed between Hydro One and

the MNO for the Bruce to Milton Project was the first of its kind in the energy industry and the Biodiversity Initiative continues to lead the way.

“Conservation Halton is delighted to be working in partnership with Hydro One and the Métis Nation of Ontario on this important project to help restore biodiversity in Glenorchy. It will be designed to reproduce the natural topography of the area, through the creation of pits and mounds in the forest floor. This is key to restoring a diverse and resilient ecosystem,” said John Vice, Chair of Conservation Halton. “The innovative technique will also significantly increase breeding habitat that is essential for the survival of many salamander and frog species that are native to this area.”

This year, seven partners will receive funding from Hydro One to implement 22 locally-designed biodiversity initiatives. These

projects will help restore and enhance approximately 380 hectares of habitat and ensure there is net gain of woodlot and wildlife habitat within the four watersheds crossed by the new transmission line. Approximately 280 hectares of woodlots will be removed to enable construction of the Bruce to Milton Project.

The Bruce to Milton Project received Ontario Energy Board section 92 Leave to Construct approval on September 15, 2008, and Environmental Assessment approval on December 16, 2009. This new 180 kms double-circuit 500 kV transmission line from Kincardine to Milton will transfer more than 3,000 megawatts of clean and renewable power from the Bruce area to southern Ontario. This project represents the largest expansion to Ontario’s transmission system in 20 years. The new line is planned to be in-service in December 2012.

“  
**WE ARE  
EXTREMELY  
PROUD OF  
THE STRONG  
RELATIONSHIP  
WE HAVE  
DEVELOPED.**  
”

*Hydro One delivers electricity to homes and businesses across Ontario and owns and operates a high-voltage transmission network delivering electricity to industry and municipal utilities.*

*Conservation Halton is a community based environmental agency that protects, restores and manages the natural resources in its watershed.*

CUNNINGHAM v. ALBERTA | IN THE COURTS

# Supreme Court decision affirms Métis as distinct rights-bearing people

On July 21st, the Supreme Court of Canada handed down its unanimous decision in *Cunningham v. Alberta* which further affirms the recognition of the Métis Nation as a distinct rights-bearing Aboriginal people, and ensures that the Métis Settlements in Alberta will continue to be protected and controlled by Métis for Métis for generations to come.

The Cunningham case is about the eight Alberta Métis Settlements and the membership requirements of the settlements, which include provisions that exclude Indians from membership. These settlements are the only recognized Métis Nation land base in Canada, so far. As

such, they are important to the entire Métis Nation.

The Cunninghams were removed as members of the Peavine Métis Settlement because they registered as Indians under the *Indian Act*. Sections 75 and 90 of the *Métis Settlements Act* provide that if Métis Settlement members voluntarily register as Indians they automatically terminate their membership in the Métis Settlement. The Cunninghams argued that sections 75 and 90 of the *Métis Settlements Act* violated their Charter rights, including, their equality rights under s. 15 of the Charter.

At trial, the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench found that there

was no violation of Cunningham’s Charter rights. On appeal, the Alberta Court of Appeal found that the Cunningham’s s. 15 equality rights were violated and struck down section 75 and 90 of the *Métis Settlements Act*.

The Supreme Court has now overturned the Alberta Court of Appeal’s decision, finding that the exclusion of Indians from the Métis Settlements is constitutionally sound and connected to the objects of the Métis Settlements which include the establishment of a Métis land base, the protection of Métis culture and the creation of Métis self-government.

∞



▲ (right to left) Jo-Ann Wass, PCMNO Councillor for Region 6; Melissa Pigeau; Benny Michaud; Senator Reta Gordon; Senator Lois McCallum and, Daniel Gilbeau, President of the Ottawa Métis Community Council.

# MNO participates in Solstice celebration

The Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival is held every year in Ottawa as part of celebrations leading up to National Aboriginal Day. Over 10,000 people attended this year’s festival, held June 17-19. The festival included many vendors displaying Aboriginal art and great Aboriginal dancers and performers, both traditional and contemporary.

Among the displays was the

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) booth. The booth attracted a great deal of attention and there was much interest in the MNO and its programs. Erin Tomkins, a MNO staff member who helped organize the booth and participated in the festival said: “It was a great experience and we are really happy that we were able to raise the MNO’s profile at this awesome Aboriginal event!”



## EDUCATION

# MNO signs education partnership with Lakehead University

On September 8, 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and Lakehead University signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at the Lakehead University Thunder Bay campus.

The MOU strengthens and formalizes the long-standing positive working relationship between MNO and Lakehead University. The Memorandum of Understanding establishes several key areas for collaboration and partnership including:

- increasing Métis participation in, and access to, Lakehead programs and services
- engaging in joint Métis research initiatives
- promoting Métis content across the curriculum
- ongoing involvement in the development and implementation of the Faculty of Law

MNO President Gary Lipinski said, "Lakehead University is the tenth post-secondary institution in the province to recognize and address the unique needs of



◀ **Métis Nation of Ontario President, Gary Lipinski, (left) and Lakehead University President, Dr. Brian Stevenson, (right) sign a Memorandum of Understanding.**

Métis and to agree to work in partnership to ensure that programming offered at the university addresses those needs.”

The MOU with Lakehead University is part of a larger relationship building process of bilateral partnerships with post-secondary institutions that includes a MOU

signed between the MNO and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. According to President Lipinski, “this MOU is a significant achievement for the Métis people in Ontario because it demonstrates a commitment to forge a lasting relationship between post-secondary institu-

tions and the MNO Education and Training Branch. The agreement with Lakehead University builds on the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement*, which the province signed with the MNO over two years ago.”

Lakehead University has a longstanding commitment to fos-

tering leadership and development with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students, and advancing the understanding of Aboriginal cultures, heritage, and languages within the university and broader communities.

"We are justifiably proud of Lakehead's history in engaging Métis students, but we must do more, especially in expanding opportunities, increasing bursaries, and expanding research," says Lakehead University President, Dr. Brian Stevenson. "The MNO's active support for Lakehead's recent campaign for a faculty of law shows we can best accomplish this through collaboration and partnership. This memorandum is one more step on a long journey."

# Earn Your Degree *in a* Supportive Environment

Lakehead University is committed to helping Aboriginal people further their educational aspirations. Aboriginal programs at Lakehead offer academic, research, and cultural support services tailored to Aboriginal needs.

**Office of Aboriginal Initiatives**  
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HAMILTON-WENTWORTH MÉTIS COUNCIL | Community Outreach

# Métis Council President receives eagle feather

by **Alexander Young**  
Summer Career Placement Student  
HAMILTON

North American indigenous cultures have always venerated the eagle, a bird that is synonymous with strength, courage, wisdom, honesty, power and freedom. Métis culture contains this symbolic association, the eagle being considered sacred in our traditions and acting as the messenger to the Creator, carrying thoughts, prayers, and desires towards Him. Considering the spiritual significance and honour attributed to the eagle, receiving an eagle feather is amongst the highest honours that can be awarded in Aboriginal circles. The giving of the eagle feather acknowledges the hard work and achievements of the recipient, and today is used to pay tribute to individuals who greatly impact their surrounding Aboriginal community.

On June 21st in Hamilton Ontario, Jo Anne Young, President of the Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council, received such an honour, being given an eagle feather in a special ceremony run by the Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC) on behalf of the local Aboriginal community. The ceremony marked the start of Aboriginal Days festivities for the day, and showcased those who continually strive to serve Métis and First Nation people in the area.

Jo Anne is a 61-year-old mother of two, born in Alberta, raised in British Columbia, whose traditional homeland is in the Meadow Lake/Green Lake/Isle à La Crosse area of Saskatchewan. Aspects of Métis life including hunting, fishing, and preserving, were taught to Jo Anne from a young age, along with an understanding of the importance of education and life-long learning. As a young girl, Jo Anne was diagnosed with Scoliosis; as a teenager this condition required surgery and she was hospitalized for nine months. However this did not prevent Jo Anne from graduating with her own high school class and pursuing a career in nursing at the Ottawa General Hospital – where she met her husband. With the completion of additional courses Jo Anne began working with emotionally disturbed children until the birth of her first child.

At this point in her life Jo Anne switched careers, becoming first a Certified General Accountant (CGA) and then a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). It was during this time she had her second child and first became involved with the Métis Nation of Ontario, serving as the Financial Controller while the MNO Head Office was still located in Toronto. The MNO's move to Ottawa coupled with the onset of type two diabetes of her husband and type one diabetes of her son again prompted her to change careers. Jo Anne enrolled at George

Brown College in Toronto, graduating with a diploma in Culinary Management, allowing her to complete a post-graduate course in Food and Nutrition Management along with her Red Seal certification. This has lead Jo Anne to a position as the Food Service Supervisor at Iroquois Lodge, a long-term care facility on the Six Nations Reserve.

During this time, Jo Anne's commitment to the Métis community has never stopped. She has served as a council member, treasurer, and for the last several years President of the Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council. She has also served as an ambassador to the surrounding community, attending local meetings and events put on by other indigenous organizations, participating in land use and sustainable energy meetings with conservation authorities and the provincial government, and visiting local schools with Métis veterans—all as a volunteer. Jo Anne perfectly demonstrates the traits needed for a recipient of an eagle feather. The kindness, honesty, wisdom, and determination she shows day after day and year after year serves as inspiration for all those around her, and provides a role model for all Métis citizens throughout the MNO.

▶ **Jo Anne Young is President of the Hamilton-Wentworth Métis Council.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF: Alex Young

THUNDER BAY | MNO STAFF ACTIVITIES



## MNO staff in Thunder Bay hold annual golf tournament

On June 25, 2011, staff at the Métis Nation of Ontario office in Thunder Bay held their Annual Golf Tournament in cooperation with the local Thunder Bay Métis

Council. Participants competed in a golf tournament organized by Terry Desaulnier and John Falvo and were awarded prizes provided by sponsors. A BBQ at the home of Pat and Wendy

Landry (Council President) was held after the tournament to award the prizes. The event was a great success and all those who attended are looking forwarding to next year's event.

## Canadian Pageant Hall of Fame recognizes MNO citizen

Métis Nation of Ontario citizen, Joan Hart, of Sudbury was recognised by The Canadian Pageant Hall Of Fame for her years of hard work and dedication to the Miss Earth Canada organization and many other pageant related events.

Joan, the first cousin of Roger Giroux, the President of the Sudbury Métis Community Council, received her award at the final presentation of the Miss Earth Canada 2011 Pageant, on August 19, in Montreal, QC.

The Canadian Pageant Hall Of Fame provides a platform for dedicated pageant individuals to be recognized for their outstanding and professional accomplishments. It sanctions various awards all related to these commitments.

Miss Earth Canada is an annual



▲ **MNO Citizen Joan Hart**

competition with the objective of elevating young women who have great ideals and aspirations in their quest and concern over the preservation of the planet. They are given the opportunity to highlight those goals through events locally and internationally organized by Miss Earth.



COMMUNITY RENDEZVOUS | MNO Regions 8 & 9

# Métis gather at Rendezvous in Port Colborne

By **Lisa Scott**  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*  
HAMILTON

In addition to the people who made their own way to Port Colborne’s H.H. Knoll Lakeview Park, overlooking Sugarloaf Harbour and Gravelly Bay, two busloads of people arrived from Windsor and Grand River. “It’s a celebration of the Métis community,” said TerryLynn Longpre from Welland. “The day started off with the fishing derby and came to an end with a great feast.”

Everyone commented on the tremendous value and long-term benefit of the teachings and educational experience. Over the course of the day participants were treated to presentations, workshops and Métis cultural events, provided by the Healing and Wellness Branch staff. These included memory box making (see page 23), traditional physical activity and a game of double ball, diabetes information by



▲ **Métis Encampment Re-enactor.**

SOADI, spiritual health using the Seven Grandfathers teachings, birds of prey display and the very popular Métis settlement re-enactment. Meanwhile, a fishing derby, mock casino, activities for youth, sack relay race, a traditional pig roast, music, storytelling, dancing and vendors kept

everyone busy. Many MNO staff were part of the team that put this event together: TerryLynn Longpre, Tammy Wintle and Rebecca VanderSanden, all from the Welland MNO office; Lisa Scott, Hamilton MNO office; Simon Bain, Peel MNO Office; October Fostey,



▲ **Danielle Deneau (right), Community Wellness Coordinator, rallies the troops for the beginning of the sack race.**

Danielle Deneau and Jannatul Mawa, all from the Windsor MNO office; and Lisa Talbot and Vicky ChrisJohn from the Toronto office. Many thanks go out to this team for their dedication, time and hard work that made this event such a success. Special thanks go out to our

community supporters: Marvind Inc. (donated gifts for fishing derby gifts); City of Port Colborne and Mayor Vance Badawey; James Latham (donated fishing poles) and Erie Tracker Outfitters (donated 10 dozen worms for the fishing derby).

KENORA | VOLUNTEERS



## Warmth and Wellness Group keeps Kenora clothed

by **Cyndy Laliberte**  
*Warmth and Wellness Group*

The Kenora Métis Warmth & Wellness (WW) Group continues to help citizens in our community by knitting, crocheting and sewing items which provide warmth to anyone in need. The group of dedicated vol-

unteers has grown and we recently celebrated our third year together. We also have dedicated volunteers who work from their homes to help our cause. Our thanks go out to the community who continues to give us donations of wool. Their undying support is greatly appreciated. Our thanks also to

the Kenora Métis Council for their long standing support of our cause. “Kindness is a never ending road and the Warmth & Wellness Group will be there to help.”

**Upcoming Events**  
Oct. 15th - *Fall Harvest Dinner*  
Oct. 23rd - *Council Elections*

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VETERANS ASSOCIATION



▲ (left to right) **NAVA President, Alex Maurice CD; NAVA Vice President, Robert Thibeau CD; Joseph Paquette, Credit River Métis Veteran and MNO Veterans Council Secretary; and NAVA Ontario Director, John Jewitt CD.**

## Métis receives National Aboriginal Veterans Association medals

On National Aboriginal Day, June 21st, in Ottawa, Credit River Métis veteran, Joseph Paquette, was presented with many National Aboriginal Veterans Association medals. The ceremony took place in front of the National Aboriginal

Veterans Association Monument in Ottawa. The following NAVA medals were presented: Aboriginal Millennium Medal, NAVA Service Medal and the NAVA 5 Year Medal. Joseph is the Secretary for the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council.

DRYDEN | COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT COOPER PARK

## Aboriginal Day in Dryden

by **Carla Froome**

On June 24th, 2011, we were very proud to join the Dryden Native Friendship Centre to

celebrate Aboriginal Day in Dryden, Ontario at the Cooper Park. There were children’s activities, native dancers, drummers, vendors selling merchandise, and information booths explaining different types of programs that our community has to offer. The MNO sold a great many items that day, including Métis sashes, Métis cookbooks and traditional articles.

We also handed out candies to children and water bottles and cooler bags to the adults. Overall it was a beautiful day spent enjoying our Aboriginal culture.

▶ (left to right) **Carla Froome, Client Service Coordinator; Albertine Roussin; Nicholas Roussin, Office Receptionist.**





REGIONAL CONSULTATION PROTOCOLS | RCPS ensure Métis are effectively consulted

# Chapleau joins Regional Protocol Agreement

Amid all the work going on at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA), the Presidents from Region Three found the time to re-sign their protocol agreement in order to welcome the Chapleau Métis Council into the agreement. Regional Consultation Protocols help ensure Métis in the region are effectively engaged and consulted. The Chapleau Council had not signed the original agreement but is now a full member of the Protocol. The protocol agreement applies to the traditional Métis territories of James Bay and Abitibi/Temiskamingue.

MNO President Gary Lipinski and MNO Chair France Picotte joined local community council presidents, David Hamilton (Chapleau), Natalie Durocher (MNO Timmins), Urgil Courville (Northern Lights) and Liliane Ethier (Temiskaming) at the signing ceremony at the AGA in Parry Sound. The agreement formalized the traditional working relationship that exists among the Métis in the region.

“The signing of this Protocol is an important part of the MNO’s Consultation Framework, which was developed based on province-wide consultations on the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate back in 2008,” said President Lipinski. “It demonstrates the commitment of Ontario Métis to work together to ensure all citizens have input when projects related to land use planning, energy, mining and forestry on Métis traditional lands are proposed,” he added.



▲ **Participants in the Regional Protocol re-signing at the AGA:** (back row, left to right) **Natalie Durocher (President, MNO Timmins Council); Urgil Courville (President, Northern Lights Métis Council); Marcel Lafrance (PCMNO Region 3 Councillor), and Liliane Ethier (President, Temiskaming Métis Council)** (front row, left to right) **David Hamilton (President, Chapleau Métis Council); Gary Lipinski (MNO President), and France Picotte (MNO Chair).**



▲ **Participants in the Region Eight Protocol Signing:** (left to right) **Senator Alis Kennedy; Secretary/Treasurer, Marilyn Hew; Toronto and York Métis Council President, Donna Grenier; Chair, Robert Bird; MNO Chair, France Picotte; Jim Tolles; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; MNO Vice-chair, Sharon McBride; Richard Cuddy; Credit River Métis Council President, Debbie Alves; Senator Ray Bergie; Karen Derocher; Joyce Tolles; Talitha Tolles.**

# MNO signs ninth Regional Consultation Protocol

On June 28, 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed the ninth of its Regional Consultation Protocols in Toronto. The Protocol was signed between the MNO and two of the Métis community councils in Region Eight. These councils are The Toronto and York Métis Council and the Credit River Métis Council. Regional Consultation Protocols help ensure Métis in the region are effectively engaged and consulted.

MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and Vice-chair Sharon McBride, joined local community council presidents, Debbie Alves (Credit River) and Donna Grenier, (Toronto and York) at the signing ceremony in Toronto. The agreement formalized the traditional working relationship that exists among the Métis in the region.

“The signing of this Protocol is an important part of the MNO’s Consultation Frame-

work, which was developed based on province-wide consultations on the Crown’s duty to consult and accommodate back in 2008,” said President Lipinski. “It demonstrates the commitment of Ontario Métis to work together to ensure all citizens have input when projects related to land use planning, energy, mining and forestry on Métis traditional lands are proposed,” he added.

Métis Names

## What’s in a name?

A *Voyageur* reader shares some genealogical research

By **Réal Lavallée**

While reading the *Voyageur* paper, I often see the name “Lavallée”: J.J. Lavallée, the fiddler; Trina Lavallée, the jiggling teacher; Nicholas Lavallée, the new grad going to Nunavut.

I have studied a bit of history of the Lavallées and would like to share some. In 1965 the Lavallées were invited to Montreal to celebrate our tricentennial in Canada. In 1665, two brothers, Pierre and Jean Lavallée came to New France. From there, the Lavallées spread throughout Canada.

One famous Lavallée is Calixa Lavallée. He composed the music for “O Canada”, our national anthem.

On my branch of the Lavallée tree we are great cousins of Calixa’s mother, whose last name was “Paquette”. My mother’s last name was “Paquette”; we are probably related on both sides.

The words to *O Canada* were written in French by Adolphe-Basile Routhier and the English words were written by Thomas Bedford Richardson. Our national anthem is unique by the fact that the two versions are completely different. When you translate the French words into English they are not alike. Pretty unique I think!

I have more information on Calixa Lavallée and if any Lavallées would like to share information I would be happy to do so.

– *Réal Lavallée*  
(519) 836-2546



▲ **Fiddler J.J. Lavallee**



NEW MNO COMMUNITY COUNCILS | Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council

# Peterborough-area Métis sign MNO Community Charter

On, June 29, 2011, a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Community Charter signing ceremony took place in Peterborough. The signing ceremony officially established the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council.

“Métis citizens are the foundation of the MNO,” explained MNO President Gary Lipinski, “and at the local level they are represented through MNO Charter Community Councils. The councils are an important part of the MNO’s push towards its inherent right to self-government. The local councils are also communication hubs for the MNO and play a significant role in fostering community empowerment and development.”

The charter agreement was signed by Terry Bloom, Interim President of the Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council; MNO President, Gary Lipinski; and, MNO Chair, France Picotte. “We have worked hard,” stated President Bloom, “to put this charter in place and we are looking forward to using it to build an even stronger Métis Nation Community Council here in Peterborough.”

“I congratulate the Peterbor-



ough and District Wapiti Métis Council for all their efforts to get their Community Charter Agreement signed,” commented President Lipinski. “The dedication that brought us here today demonstrates what can be achieved by working together to

advance Métis rights and improve the social well being of Métis citizens, families and communities. The Métis citizens in the Peterborough area will be well served by those who have stepped forward to advance issues important to the community.”

▲ (front row, left to right): **Pauline Saulnier (PCMNO Councillor, Region 7); Terry Bloom (Interim President); Gary Lipinski (MNO President); France Picotte (MNO Chair).** Back row: **Brad Hodgson, Debra Malandrino, Andy Dufrane (Senator), Chrystal Lemelin, Steve Bloom, Jason Dufrane.**



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OSHAWA AND DURHAM REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL | Heritage Celebration

# Successful Métis Heritage Celebration number five!

By **Cecile Wagar**

On June 25th and 26th in Memorial Park Oshawa, our Métis flag flew proudly. Our blue teepee stood tall; our Red River cart stood guard, and our birch bark voyageur canoe welcomed over 4000 people to celebrate Métis culture together. As always, the short-lived rainfall was forgotten, and blue skies and beautiful weather reflected and enhanced our pride in being Métis.

Our entertainment included the return of J.J. Lavallee, two-time Aboriginal Music Award winner for Best Fiddle Album as our headliner; three young Manitoba fiddlers--Jason Appleyard, Brendan Chartrand and Ramsey Rae; our own Ontario youth fiddle sensations, Alicia Blore and Rajan Anderson; local fiddler Robert Didier; our beautiful PCMNO Senator, Ruth Wagner; our own Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers; and, our All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle. Memorable moments on the stage were: a surprised and touched J.J. who was serenaded by his Oshawa Métis Fiddling Class playing one of his own tunes, *Delima's Waltz*; women from the audience who joined the drum circle for the *Strong Women Song*; and finally, J.J., Alicia and Senator Ruth who fiddled together to close the festivities on Sunday.

Off stage there was plenty to engage attendees. Marcel Labelle and Christian Pilon were on hand on Saturday to talk about the construction of our voyageur canoe. Andre Bosse and Archie Martin displayed their many wonderful Métis artefacts and answered questions about historical Métis



▲ The Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers.



▲ Setting up the new birch bark canoe, Kokomis Tchiman, after its inaugural launch.

way of life. Senator Ruth brought her fiddle making display and Louise Vien demonstrated her finger woven sash technique. Claire Kearns, ODRMC Women's Representative, entertained children and parents with her interactive story of the Métis Giving "Cache". Children were also kept busy painting a mural and making crafts. Local high school students brought attention to the horrors of residential schools and how

they and other students are showing their compassion and are helping to make amends. Everyone, especially Métis, was reminded of opportunities for their advancement through local universities, colleges, Canadian Forces, and Durham Police. Services included MNO, Service Canada, Diabetes Awareness through the Oshawa Community Health Circle, and Durham District School Board Aboriginal Edu-



▲ Women join the drummers for "Strong Women Song".



▲ Fiddle students surprise instructor JJ Lavallee with one of his own tunes.

cation Advisory Circle with their Voluntary Self-Identification Program. The Oshawa Community Museum was also on hand to encourage local visitors to learn more about their own city history. Finally, to round out the celebration, there was a fine array of Aboriginal vendors.

This amazing weekend was made possible by our hard-working committee, volunteers, and council. Thank you all for your

dedication and perseverance. And of course, we could not have done a thing without the financial and in-kind services of our sponsors: Canadian Heritage, City of Oshawa, Ontario Power Generation, CIBC, Durham District School Board, and Peak Freans.

*Cecile Wagar is the Senator of the ODRMC and Chairperson of the 5th Annual Métis Heritage Celebration.*

BANCROFT | Community Rendezvous

## Successful Rendezvous held in Bancroft

Over 200 people of Métis ancestry arrived at Riverside Park in Bancroft, Ontario, on Saturday, August 6, to embrace their culture as part of a Métis Rendezvous. This event was organized by the Ottawa Métis Council with the assistance of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness staff from the MNO Ottawa, Bancroft and Renfrew offices. The Rendezvous featured numerous activities throughout the day ranging from building bird houses to traditional games and weaving.

The Rendezvous was held as part of the Town of Bancroft's 150th anniversary celebrations. This offered anniversary partici-



pants the opportunity to learn more about the Métis people by taking part in all the activities organized for the Rendezvous.

▲ Senator Reta Gordon (left) presents Bancroft Mayor, Bernice Jenkins, (middle) with a sash as Judy Simpson (right) looks on.

OWEN SOUND | Community Rendezvous



▲ Métis youth carry in a canoe during opening ceremonies.

## Métis gather at Owen Sound Rendezvous

Over 200 people of Métis ancestry participated in an exciting Métis Rendezvous in Owen Sound on Saturday, July 23. Events took place at the Grey Roots Museum and Archives in Owen Sound as well as at Discovery Harbour in Penetanguishine. This event was organ-

ized by the Great Lakes and Georgian Bay Councils with the assistance of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Healing and Wellness staff in Midland and Owen Sound. The Rendezvous featured numerous activities throughout the day ranging from fiddling to traditional weaving.



# ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Senators Porter and Wagner lead the delegates' procession to the Bobby Orr Community Centre.

PHOTOS BY Marc St. Germain EXCEPT WHERE NOTED.



PHOTO: THERESA YOUNG



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG



Louise Goulding



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG



## Métis stories come alive at AGA in Parry Sound

As they do every year, the Métis of Ontario gathered together on one glorious August weekend to share the stories at the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assembly (AGA). This year's AGA was in Parry Sound, a lovely community that sits on the beautiful Georgian Bay, an area that has been an important centre of Métis life and culture for over 300 years. Parry Sound was part of the great water routes of the fur trade and the historic northwest and provided the perfect back drop for sharing Ontario Métis stories, many of which still remain untold.

Most of the AGA events took place at the Bobby Orr Community Centre in Parry Sound, which is an impressive and practically brand new sports and meeting facility adjacent to the Seguin River that cuts through the town and leads to the Georgian Bay. Months of work and planning by MNO staff and the AGA host, the Moon River Métis Council, began taking shape on August 16th when MNO staff began arriving in Parry Sound. Prior to the formal opening on August 20th many citizens arrived to take part in pre-AGA sessions and meetings on August 18th and 19th, so, MNO staff and Moon River Council volunteers were kept jumping preparing for the AGA and facilitating the pre-AGA functions.

By the evening of Friday, August 19th, most of the over 400 MNO citizens and guests attending the AGA were in Parry Sound with many accepting MNO President Gary Lipinski's invitation to join him and the other members of the Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) at the nearby KOA campground for a delicious corn roast and campfire. Once people began to gather, it did not take long for the fiddles, banjos, guitars and harmonicas to come out and

the air was soon full of the sounds of lively music, singing and dancing, as well as the delectable aroma of freshly roasted corn. A special thank you goes out to all those who shared their talents at the corn roast, including Senator Ruth Wagner, Senator Bob McKay, Senator Verna Porter, Ken Simard, Rick Meilleur, Glen Lipinski, Loma Rowlinson and Janine Landry.

Although the singing went long into the night, it did nothing to deter MNO citizens from attending the AGA Opening Ceremonies early the next morning. Hundreds were on hand to cheer and wave Métis flags as two voyageur canoes paddled by the MNO leadership and distinguished guests made their way down the Seguin River. The arrival of the voyageur canoes is a great tradition at AGAs and harkens back to the historic roots of the Métis in the fur trade. The canoes landed at a small dock where they were greeted by a colour party of Métis veterans and many citizens dressed in traditional Métis clothing supplied by Scott Carpenter, who has one of the most extensive collections of Métis artefacts in Canada. Playing a

traditional Métis fiddle, Senator Ruth Wagner accompanied by Senator Verna Porter on guitar, then led a procession of Métis veterans, Senators, PCMNO and guests from the dock to the Bobby Orr Community Centre where formal ceremonies began.

### State of the Nation

In his rousing State of the Nation address during the Opening Ceremonies, President Lipinski explained why telling Métis stories is so important. "It is up to us to tell our stories," he declared. "It is up to all of us, in our various leadership roles, whether with women, youth, council presidents, veterans, senators or whoever; collectively we must educate the public because for the most part people still don't understand us," he explained. "We have not yet had our stories told well enough." He went on to say, "we are not in enough history books and so our perspectives and visions have not been put forward enough--and that is our responsibility. It's up to us to make sure that gets done--that our stories are told."

Moon River Métis Council President, Larry Duval, touched on similar themes when he spoke at the Opening Ceremonies. "It is time for us to come together as a nation and share our Aboriginal traditional knowledge with the larger community," he stated. "Much will be taught, learned and experienced this weekend," he added. "Traditions that have been going for generations, traditions that could have been lost, but with the pride we all share will be remembered."

Ensuring that Métis traditions are remembered and continue into the future requires that Métis stories are passed down from elders to young people. Due to this

**“WE ARE NOT IN ENOUGH HISTORY BOOKS AND SO OUR PERSPECTIVES AND VISIONS HAVE NOT BEEN PUT FORWARD ENOUGH--AND THAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY.”**





MNO President Gary Lipinski during his State of the Nation address.



Minister Bentley presents President Lipinski with a copy of the Métis Voyager Development Fund agreement.



Senator Reta Gordon arrives in delegates canoe.

from page 12

fact, President Lipinski made a special point of noting there was a very large youth contingent at the AGA. He told the youth: “It is extremely important that you are here to hear the words, to hear the issues, to hear what was important to your ancestors, so you pick up these stories and they will become part of your own fabric for the day when it is your time and you are ready to pick up the torch.”

#### Youth and Elders

Appropriately, bringing youth and elders together to share knowledge was an important aspect of the pre-AGA sessions. On August 18, the youth met with the Captains of the Hunt and with the help of the Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch worked on developing traditional knowledge videos that will be produced by the branch for release later in the year (See page 14). On August 19, in a session facilitated by the Education and Training Branch, the youth met with the Senators to learn from their experiences, wisdom and knowledge. These types of sessions are yet another example of the endless dedication of the Senators to the Métis cause. As President Lipinski said: “You [the Senators] have been a mainstay within the MNO. Your endurance, your strength, your tenacity all go above and beyond. You are the first to arrive and you are always the ones here last; you participate fully and keep us moving forward.”

It was noted with sadness throughout the AGA that some of the Senators and founding members of the MNO had passed on in the last year. President Lipinski reminded the assembly that the work of these individuals in founding the MNO has been strongly preserved in the Statement of Prime Purpose. “What an amazing foundational document,” he



▲ Minister of Aboriginal Affairs Chris Bentley

explained, “as any leader struggles to know what direction they should be going; we need only read the Statement of Prime Purpose. It spells it out very clearly.” The Statement of Prime Purpose is in itself a way in which the wisdom of our elders has been preserved and continues to provide guidance into the future. Considering this, it was very fitting that during the presidents’ meeting prior to the AGA that each Community Council President was presented with a mounted Statement of Prime Purpose suitable for display in their council offices or similar facilities.

Many dignitaries also addressed the assembly during the Opening Ceremonies including Ontario Attorney General and Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Honourable Chris Bentley. Minister Bentley has been a regular participant in AGAs for several years now, and as is the tradition, joined President Lipinski in the voyageur canoe prior to the Opening Ceremonies. “I was absolutely delighted to once again join President Lipinski in paddling the canoe this morning,” he told the assembly. “President Lipinski was paddling slightly faster than me, so, we were in danger of



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG

▲ MNO Chair France Picotte

breaking up but he held it together because we have a good framework agreement and a foundation to work on.” Minister Bentley compared the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement to a good sturdy canoe and commented enthusiastically about the many achievements the MNO and Ontario Government have achieved by working together through the Agreement. Among the most recent achievements the Minister highlighted was the creation of the Métis Voyager Development Fund (MVDF) to which the Ontario Government has committed 30 million dollars over 10 years. Minister Bentley indicated that the MVDF will build on the Métis people’s traditions as explorers, voyageurs and entrepreneurs and strengthen not only the Métis but the whole province. “The strength of Ontario is very much tied to the strength of the Métis people within Ontario,” stated the Minister. Emphasizing that point, the Minister closed his speech by presenting President Lipinski with a framed copy of the MVDF agreement between the MNO and the province.

Part of Minister Bentley’s pres-



▲ Métis National Council President Clement Chartier

entation included remarks from Premier Dalton McGuinty. Although unable to attend in person, the Premier recorded a video message that was played at the assembly. “Thank you for exploring new opportunities, for giving your children and grandchildren the support they need to build on your success,” he stated. “All of this is a good start but there is much more that we can do together—to keep moving forward, honouring the traditions of the past and working to build a brighter future for all of us.”

#### Working Together

The theme of “working together” figured prominently in the speeches of all of the dignitaries that spoke at the Opening Ceremonies including Member of Parliament, Dr. Carolyn Bennett; Members of the Provincial Parliament, Norm Miller and France Gélinas; Clem Chartier, President of the Métis National Council (MNC); David Chartrand, President of the Manitoba Métis Federation; Keith Saulnier, Town Councillor for

## Opening Prayer

By Senator Verna Porter

Ani, Bonjour, Good Morning. As we assemble here today, united Métis brothers and sisters, let us take a moment to remember our Métis family members and family members whom the Creator has called to their spirit home, and also those who are ill and cannot be with us today. I would also like us to remember Roger Giroux who is ill and couldn't escort us in the parade this morning.

The Creator has helped us live our stories. Stories are our protectors. They are the connective tissue between culture and nature, life and death. Stories sew the Métis together. Like the weaving in a sash, in telling our stories around the camp fires, the soul quickens and comes alive. By not sharing our Métis stories, there will be no hope for the future; the past will remain unreceived and misunderstood.

We have been tested throughout many seasons, but we are still here. These tests on our path are difficult, but we also know they make us stronger.

When we're through living on this earth and leave all our problems behind, we know we don't have to come back. But, as long as we are here, we have a job to do and a purpose to fulfill, and that means living our lives as our ancestors would have wanted us to—proud Canadians—living in our Métis culture, a life in harmony with Mother Earth and with peace and love in our hearts.

This is the greatest gift we can bestow on our youth, our grandchildren, and generations to come.

We are given the opportunity once a year, here at the AGA, to share our story, to meet and greet and to leave with more than we came with.

continued on page 15



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR | Senator Gordon Calder

# Sunset Country's Senator Calder named Volunteer of the Year

“Such a good man! Such a kind heart!” Those are the words that Executive Senator, Reta Gordon, used to describe this year’s winner of the *Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award*, Senator Gordon Calder of Fort Frances—the Sunset Country Métis community.

Since 2006, one of the highlights of the AGA has been the presentation of this prestigious award that recognizes an individual who contributes as a volunteer to the Métis Nation of Ontario year round, and has done so for a number of years.

Senator Calder was among the founding members of the Sunset Country Métis Council and continues to work to promote the Métis way of life. In addition to fulfilling the role of senator since the 1990s and serving on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO), Senator Calder has taken it upon himself to look after his community.

Every morning he visits the local MNO office where he has the coffee ready, the heat turned up, and if there’s snow, he sees that



walkways and parking areas are cleared when staff arrives. He even assembles the Christmas tree. If something needs to be repaired, he looks after it in a cheerful and optimistic manner, no matter the task at hand.

He freely donates his time to community events and workshops, even those outside the MNO. Whether setting up chairs and tables at the Métis Hall, cutting the grass at a church, organizing horseshoe tournaments, pitching in at the Legion and Elks, or visiting the elderly at Raincrest, there could not be a better ambassador or role model than Senator Gord.

LANDS, RESOURCES AND CONSULTATION | Youth & Elders Activities

# Métis Youth learn about Traditional Knowledge

By **Kristin Randall**  
*Lands, Resources and Consultation*

The 2011 Annual General Assembly in Parry Sound provided a perfect venue for holding AGA pre-meetings. The LRC Branch’s *Way of Life* division was pleased to be involved in the planning and execution of the “Youth & Captain of the Hunt Traditional Knowledge Exchange Workshop” on Thursday, August 18th, 2011.

This workshop would not have been possible without funding from Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). We would like to extend thanks to the DFO for giving youth delegates from the Métis Nation of Ontario an opportunity to learn from their knowledge holders and preserve the Métis way of life for future generations.

In total, six knowledge holders and 22 youth delegates from across Ontario participated in the full day workshop.

During the morning the youth were paired with a knowledge holder and exposed to some of the traditional knowledge (TK) videos from past TK studies. The first part of the day also focused on teaching the youth the technical aspect of collecting traditional knowledge data. This included training on various data collection equipment such as video cameras, voice recorders, geographic information systems and digital mapping tools. Next, the delegates were introduced to the more intricate aspects of TK data collection such as different methods for collecting TK; tasks to do before, during and after the interview to ensure accurate data representation; and the types of questions to ask during a TK interview. Once the technical training was completed, the youth delegates worked as research teams to interview the knowledge holders along the



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG



▲ (bottom left) **Kristin Randall**, MNO’s **Lands, Resources and Consultations branch**. (bottom right) **Melanie Paradis**, **Director of the MNO’s LRC branch**.

banks of the Seguin River. Afterwards, the cameras were turned on the youth delegates, and they were interviewed by the knowledge holders about what it means to be a Métis youth and what cultural Métis way of life traditions they value. After the interviews were completed, the youth delegates were assigned a video project where

they could put their newly acquired skills to work.

As an observer, it was wonderful to see the enthusiasm exhibited by all of the delegates. The level of pride the youth placed in this important task was obvious to onlookers, and the stories and laughs shared were heart warming.

∞

## CAN YOU SPOT THE MÉTIS SENATOR?



In 1952 the Fort Frances Canadians Senior Hockey Team won the Allan Cup and was subsequently inducted into the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame. Senator Gordon Calder, winner of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award, was a member of that team. Can you spot Senator Gord in this team photo?

Answer: Third row, second from the left.





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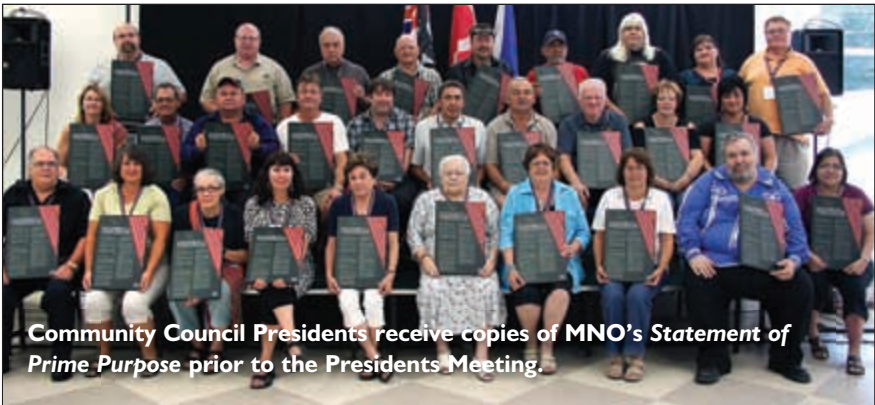
**KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON 24/7**

IN ONTARIO





Moon River Métis Council's Larry Duval



Community Council Presidents receive copies of MNO's Statement of Prime Purpose prior to the Presidents Meeting.



Manitoba Métis Federation President David Chartrand.



Métis lawyer Jean Teillet gives an overview of current Métis rights court battles.

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Parry Sound; Rick Birmingham, a Vice-President with Union Gas, and a video message from the Honourable Tony Clement, the President of the Treasury Board.

In his remarks, MNC President Chartier paid special attention to Métis veterans. He indicated that the MNC had declared 2011-2020 the decade of the Métis and that 2011 is the year to specifically recognize Métis veterans. (See page 20) In support of that theme, President Lipinski stated: "It goes without saying that all of us in this room, all Canadians, and all Ontarians, and many beyond our borders, owe a debt of gratitude to you [the veterans], for all you have done, for all the services you have provided and all the sacrifices you have given." Later in the AGA the MNO Veterans Council presented Eagle Feathers to Métis veterans, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy and Peter Grisdale. President Chartier also presented Mr. Grisdale, a World War II veteran, with the Order of the Métis Nation. The MNC is presenting all Métis veterans of World War II with this Order, which is the highest honour the MNC can bestow.

The hundreds of hours of hard work that went into the AGA were not forgotten by any of the Opening Ceremony speakers, who thanked the MNO staff and Moon River Métis Council volunteers for their dedicated efforts. Throughout the entire AGA, MNO citizens frequently thanked the staff and the volunteers for their service to the Métis Nation.

Once the formalities of the Opening Ceremony were complete, the assembly got down to its business. Facilitated ably by MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, the assembly dealt with an array of important issues over the next two and a half days. This included a detailed Financial Report from the



▲ Métis citizen and WWII veteran Peter Grisdale accepts his honours from Presidents Lipinski and Chartier.

MNO Auditor and the MNO Director of Finance, Judie McKenney. What they reported was that because the MNO leadership had made tough decisions since 2008 that the measures the MNO had taken to stabilize and improve its financial situation are paying off. "In this past year," stated President Lipinski, "we have been able to wipe off a million dollars in debt." The Financial Report was followed by a PowerPoint slide show titled, "Helping Our People, Our Families, Our Communities," which highlighted branch activities and achievements in the last year. This slide show can now be viewed on the MNO website under the AGA section. The business day on August 20, finished with MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wilson providing a report on the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (a full update on the MVDF appears on p.25).

#### Métis Rights in the Courts

On August 21, the assembly heard from Métis lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden, who provided an extensive review of what is going on across Canada in terms

of Métis rights court cases and the implications of these cases to Métis rights in Ontario. They also explained the work the MNO is currently involved in to advance the Métis rights agenda in Ontario including Mattawa/Nipissing Historic Research, continuing negotiations on the Harvesting Agreement with the Ontario Government, an intervention at the Supreme Court in the Manitoba Métis land rights case and the working group with the Ontario Government on Métis rights. Mr. Madden delivered a powerful message to the assembly about the importance of Métis rights litigation. "Services are good; there is no question about that," he said, "but at any time the government can stop funding services. Rights on the other hand are forever. They can't be taken away."

Later in the day, Mr. Madden also provided an overview of the Consultations on Métis Identification and the Registry that had taken place in 2010-11. He reviewed the "What We Heard" report that had been compiled from the views expressed during the consultations and highlighted the improvements made to the

## A Message of Gratitude

By Marie-Claire Ethier Vignola

This was my very first Métis Annual General Assembly  
Honoured was I to be part of such a united family  
Amidst wise elders, youth and children  
Noble veterans, staff and administration  
Knowledge-seekers and tradition-keepers  
Soldered by language, heritage, and culture.

Marci pour les présentations animées  
Apportant avec respect, précisions et clarté  
Répondant aux multiples questions  
Créant espoir, courage et vision  
Invitant à l'amour de notre nation.

Moon River Council, many congrats  
In hospitality and warmth, unsurpassed  
In planning and organizing, number one  
Going all the way to make it flowing and fun  
With good memories, we're homeward-bound  
Energized, inspired, by the AGA in Parry Sound  
Confident in a future that's bountiful  
How blessed we are, how grateful!

Marie-Claire Ethier Vignola is a Métis citizen from the Sudbury Métis community. She attended the AGA with her sister and guest, Elmire Corbeil from Storville, ON. They are maternal descendants of Louis Rondeau, voyageur, and Marie-Marguerite Bois-Brûlé (alias Boucher). Any distant cousins? vignolamc@gmail.com

Registry in the last year including the additional tools on the MNO website, the new "Researching your Métis Ancestors in Ontario: Standards and Sources" book and the new FAQ Guide to help citizenship applicants.

While there was plenty of work to do at the AGA, it would not be a Métis gathering if there was not also plenty of time for socializing and celebrating Métis culture. During the evening of August 20, nearly 500 MNO citizens and guests boarded the Island Queen, and sailed out into the Georgian Bay. The ship travelled through the same islands that were once navigated by voyageur canoes and provided many scenes of breathtaking beauty. Entertainment was provided by Senators Verna Porter

and Ruth Wagner whose fiddling and guitar playing got everyone on the boat clapping and sometimes even jigging! Loma Rowlinson also serenaded the passengers with her dynamic vocals. The highlight of the cruise for most, however, was the presentation of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award to Senator Gordon Calder of Fort Frances. (See the full story on the award on p.16).

#### Celebrating Métis culture

Sunday, August 21, proved to be the biggest day for celebrating Métis culture. During the afternoon the Healing and Wellness Branch with other MNO staff and

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2011 MNO ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY | RESOLUTIONS



PHOTO: ALEX YOUNG

RESOLUTION Developing a MNO Economic Development Approach

WHEREAS the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose identifies economic development and self-sustainability as a priority for the Métis Nation and its communities;

AND WHEREAS the MNO wants to promote economic development at the local, regional and provincial levels in order to achieve the goals and aspirations of the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose;

AND WHEREAS the MNO and its Communities Councils are increasingly being presented with economic development opportunities at the local, regional and provincial levels;

AND WHEREAS MNO wants to create a consistent, effective and transparent economic development model to ensure:

1. Assistance, facilitation and supports for Métis economic development at the local, regional and provincial levels;
2. Local, regional and provincial economic development can be pursued in an efficient manner that limits the legal liabilities of those entities as well as all MNO citizens and the MNO Secretariat;
3. Assets and profits from Community economic development remain at the local level and are reported on in a transparent manner;
4. Assets and profits from local, regional and provincial economic development remain collectively held and are used for the benefit of the collective (i.e., cannot be transferred to specific individuals);
5. Assets and profits at the local, regional and provincial levels are identified and reported in a transparent manner to MNO citizens;
6. The MNO Secretariat is aware of and can ensure appropriate corporate and tax filings are completed by provincial, regional and local economic development entities so it does not become liable for failures to make corporate filings and/or file and pay required taxes that are outside of its control;
7. Protects the MNO's not-for-profit status and makes effective use of tax planning;

AND WHEREAS other Aboriginal groups have developed economic development approaches for their nations at the local, regional and provincial levels that might be of assistance to the MNO;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Directs the PCMNO to review the current economic development approach the MNO uses in order to identify needs, challenges, gaps, etc. as well as other Aboriginal economic development models used across Canada;
2. Directs the PCMNO to develop a consistent Métis economic development approach that is aligned with the principles identified above in order to improve, assist and facilitate Métis economic development at the local, regional and provincial levels across the MNO.

RESOLUTION Adoption of Children

WHEREAS the Métis child and the Métis family are the heart and soul of Métis communities and the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS Métis have customs, practices and traditions of adopting children without Métis Nation ancestry and raising them in Métis homes and in Métis culture and traditions;

AND WHEREAS these adopted children are raised as Métis and may self-identify as Métis like the rest of their family.

AND WHEREAS the Métis National Council's National Definition of Métis and the MNO's Definition of Métis, which is consistent with the National Definition of Métis, does not provide for the ability of individuals who are adopted as children and raised in Métis homes to register as MNO citizens.

AND WHEREAS the issue of adoption was identified as a priority within Phase I of the MNO's consultations on Métis identification and registry and there was broad-based support that individuals who have been adopted as children and raised in Métis homes should have the ability to register as MNO citizens, if they self-identify as Métis and as a part of the Métis Nation;

AND WHEREAS other Métis Nation governments such as the Métis Nation British Columbia have moved forward on the adoption issue already;

AND WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada in the Powley case has recognized that an individuals can be ancestrally connected to Métis communities through birth or adoption;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Direct the PCMNO to develop a policy and required bylaw changes that allows for individuals who have been adopted as children and raised in Métis homes to be able to register as MNO citizens based on specific requirements being met, and that this policy and associated bylaws changes be brought to the next MNO AGA for consideration.
2. Direct the MNO's leadership to bring this position forward to the Métis National Council for discussion and action by the Métis Nation as a whole.

RESOLUTION Ministry Of Natural Resources Discrimination Against Métis

WHEREAS Métis communities emerged, as a part of the larger Métis Nation, throughout what is now known as Ontario and the historic Northwest prior to Canada becoming Canada;

AND WHEREAS these Ontario Métis communities had land interests and a special relationship to the land, along with traditional territories that sustained their identity, culture and way of life;

AND WHEREAS these Métis communities are a fundamental part of the history and fabric of Ontario and have exercised their rights on their traditional territories for generations;

AND WHEREAS Ontario Métis have been recorded in Ontario's history and have asserted and pushed for the recognition of their rights through civil disobedience, petitions, litigation, etc. with just some examples of this including:

- The Mica Bay Uprising that led to the Robinson Superior and Robinson Superior Treaties around the Great Lakes;
- Petitions from Métis for lands in and around Lake Huron, Georgian Bay and Penetanguishene;
- Petition for lands to be provided to Métis as a part of the creation of Treaty #9;
- Requests for the recognition of Métis rights and equality in the Mattawa/Nipissing region;
- Petitions and demands for Métis recognition in the Lake Superior/Nipigon/Michipictoen region;
- The Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty #3

AND WHEREAS both levels of government were largely indifferent to the identity and rights of Ontario Métis and ignored their duties owing to Métis that flow from the honour of the Crown;

AND WHEREAS based on the Métis Nation's ongoing push for justice the Aboriginal and Treaty rights of Métis were finally protected within Canada's Constitution in 1982;

AND WHEREAS s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 was meant to be a turning point, but was largely ignored with respect to its protections to the Métis until the historic Powley case;

AND WHEREAS for much of this 200+ year period the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has denied the existence of any Métis rights and interests with respect to access to lands and resources in Ontario, and has continuously harassed, bullied and prosecuted Métis for exercising their traditional customs, practices and traditions;

AND WHEREAS this MNR denial has resulted in Métis being criminalized while exercising constitutionally protected rights, Métis traditional economies being decimated, and to many Métis commercial fisheries, trap lines and other resource based businesses being lost to other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples;

AND WHEREAS, even in the face, of the honour of the Crown, the Constitution, the Powley case, the MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement, the Laurin case, historic research and a continuing willingness for the MNO to meaningfully negotiate, the MNR continues to deny Métis rights and harass, bully and prosecute Métis hunters, fishers, trappers, commercial fishers and traditional resource users;

AND WHEREAS this modern day MNR indifference can be seen Métis exclusion from the benefits of most of its policies that purport to include all "Aboriginal communities", including, the Waterpower Site Release Policy, trapping policies and procedures, commercial fishing policies, consultation and accommodation policies and processes (i.e., Forest Management Plans, River System planning, Mattagami Extension Coordinating Committee, etc.);

AND WHEREAS MNR continues to harass and bully Métis people and communities by charging Métis and hoping they do not have the financial resources or perseverance to defend themselves, as can be seen in the recent Lepage family trial where MNR refused to drop all of the charges against the Lepage family commercial fishery until the trial began and the weaknesses of the MNR's case began to be examined under the light of justice;

AND WHEREAS the MNR continues to operate as "business as usual" despite:

- Being directed by the Ontario Court of Appeal in Powley to incorporate Métis rights into its regulatory regimes;
- Being criticized by the Ontario Ombudsman in 2007 for its "ad hoc" approach to dealing with Métis commercial fishermen fairly and equally to other Aboriginal peoples;
- Being directed by the Ontario Court of Justice to uphold the spirit and intent of the 2004 MNO-MNR Harvesting Agreement, but refusing to increased the 1250 cap that was to be on the agreement for the first year only and charging Métis harvesters who make use of incidental cabins; and
- Having actual and constructive knowledge of Métis Aboriginal rights claims throughout the province, but refusing to include Métis in Aboriginal committees and calling Métis communities "unsubstantiated".

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Authorize the MNO's leadership to formally demand a provincial or federal judicial inquiry into the MNR's harassment and discrimination against Métis in Ontario, if real and meaningful progress cannot be made on Métis land and resources related issues with the MNR over the next 6 month;
2. If progress is not made with MNR in the next 6 months and Ontario and Canada refuse to initiate a judicial inquiry, that the MNO meet with the Ontario Ombudsman as well as the Ontario Human Rights Commission to outline the situation Ontario Métis face and request that these institutions initiate a full scale review of the MNR's actions against Métis in Ontario; and
3. Direct the MNO to re-engage the Métis Legal Defense Fund and begin fundraising for it in order to initiate litigation against the MNR for its failure to uphold the honour of the Crown and s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 in relation to Métis rights and interests in the province.

RESOLUTION Métis Children And Family Services

WHEREAS Métis children and the Métis family are the heart and soul of Métis communities across the entire province of Ontario;

AND WHEREAS the protection of Métis children and raising them in Métis homes and ensuring they have opportunities to participate in Métis culture is fundamental to the continuation and preservation of Métis communities;

AND WHEREAS Métis governments in other provinces across the Métis Nation Homeland participate in the provincial child welfare system in order to protect the interests of the Métis child and the Métis family;

AND WHEREAS Ontario's current child welfare system largely ignores the unique realities and needs of Métis children and Métis families in this province;

AND WHEREAS pan-Aboriginal approaches to child welfare services are dominated by First Nations and non-Aboriginal peoples and do not understand or serve the unique interests of the Métis child or Métis families;

AND WHEREAS the recently tabled Children First: Report on the Status of Aboriginal Child Welfare in Ontario completely ignores the welfare of the Métis child and the perspectives of the Métis Nation and its communities in Ontario;

AND WHEREAS on August 15, 2011, the MNO President has written to the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services criticizing the Children First report for its complete exclusion of the Métis perspective as wells requesting an urgent meeting to discuss and remedy this exclusion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2011 MNO AGA:

1. Rejects the Children First report because it does not provide the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services any information on the Métis perspective with respect to the child welfare system in Ontario;
2. Supports the MNO President's letter to the Ontario Minister for Children and Youth Services dated August 15, 2011 and directs the MNO to work with the Ontario Government in order to attempt to secure funding in order to prepare a supplemental report to the Children First report that addresses the unique rights, realities, interests and perspectives of Métis children, families and communities in relation to Ontario child welfare system;
3. Authorizes the MNO to explore and identify legal options, including, the use of the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Ombudsman or the courts, to ensure that the Métis child and Métis family are considered and protected in relation to Ontario's child welfare system; and
4. Directs that the MNO initiate a fundraising campaign, as a part of the Métis Legal Defense Fund, in order to litigate for the protection of the interests of the Métis child and Métis family if the Ontario Government refuses to consider and include the Métis perspective in the child welfare system.

Thanks to the following **Friends of the MNO** for their support of the 2011 MNO AGA:

- McNabb Home Building Centre
- Ontario Public Service Employees Union
- Great Lakes Power Transmission
- Hunter-Courchene Consulting Group
- Township of Georgian Bay
- Aboriginal Circle
- MKI Travel



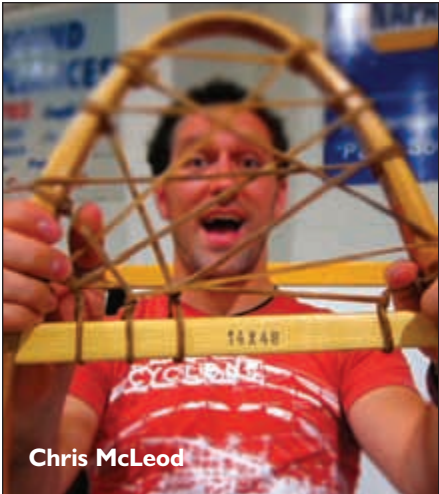


Métis youth give an impromptu dance performance.

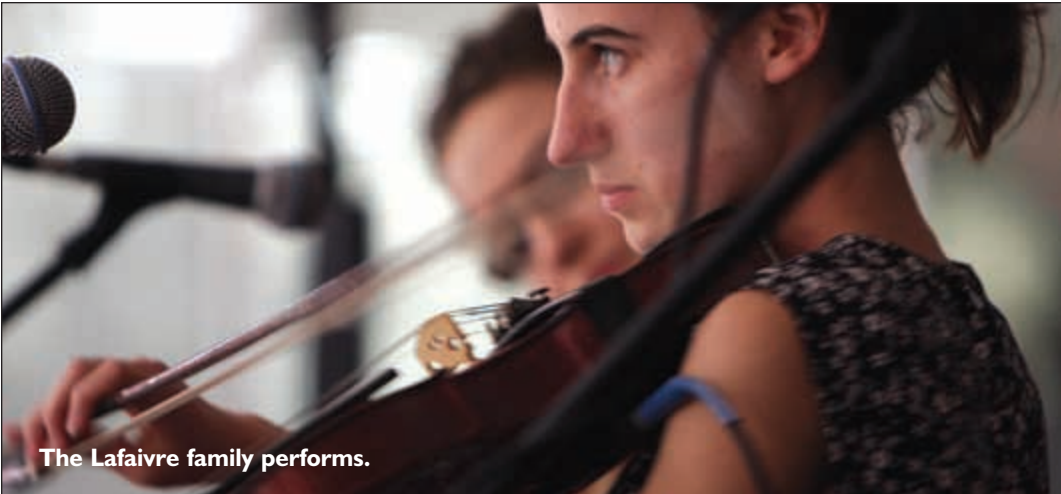
## Reflections on AGA 2011

By **Senator Ruth Wagner**

I let my name stand for election for PCMNO because I wanted to have a say in the “functionings of the MNO”. This year at the AGA, I was very aware of the youth contingent. Everywhere I went, and at every function I attended, there was at least one, if not several, smiling youths present. This was not just to help an “old lady”, but to give input, ask questions, and offer encouragement. I have been left with the overwhelming feeling that the future of the Métis Nation of Ontario will be in good hands. I give thanks to our Creator for our wonderful Youths. Miiigwech.



Chris McLeod



The Lafaire family performs.



Lorna Rowlinson



Bernie Lepage minds the fryer.



Lisa McCron during her medicinal plants workshop.



Métis Youth volunteers demonstrate historic games.

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volunteers offered a series of Métis cultural and educational workshops as well as a mock casino from the Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Program. Workshop topics were beading, net making and fish cleaning, Nettie doll making, bannock making, finger weaving and embroidery, fiddle making, medicinal plants, medicine wheel teaching, Michif language, nuts and berries, diabetes awareness, sprouts, and mental health. There was something for everyone and everyone had a great time.

Between these sessions as well as throughout the first two days of the AGA, citizens could also visit the amazing MNO Trade Show Village. Under the capable leadership of Education and Training’s Guy-laine Morin-Cleroux, the ice surface of the Bobby Orr Community Centre was transformed by over 30 different displayers and vendors representing a wide variety of services and businesses. The biggest

display was from Scott Carpenter who brought a large portion (although not all) of his collection of Métis artefacts. This included tents, furs, household effects and traditional clothing.

Sunday night concluded with an incredible fish fry supper staged by AGA hosts the Moon River Métis Council. The Moon River Council’s fish fries are legendary so even after increasing the number of tickets they could sell, they had been sold out for weeks! The amazing volunteers of the Moon River Council fed 400 people in less than an hour and then took the time to honour, one of their citizens, Peter Grisdale. According to Louise Goulding, the Chair of the Moon River Council, who organized the tribute, Mr. Grisdale, like many Métis people grew up being denied his Métis heritage. “When he asked his father questions like, ‘why is our skin so dark?’ she said, “he was told that he spent too much time in the sun. He knew in his heart he

was Métis but was never able to openly be proud of who he was or where he came from.”

In his 85th year, Mr. Grisdale learned of a meeting of the Moon River Métis Council and even though he had just undergone a second leg amputation, with the help of the council he was able to attend a meeting and apply for his citizenship card. He has been a citizen since then and is now 91, Moon River’s eldest citizen.

“We honour you tonight,” said Ms. Goulding, “for proudly serving your country in World War II as a Royal Engineer. We honour you for your life and all of your accomplishments. Pete loved to hunt and fish; was a formidable trapper; a guide and a boat builder. He is an amazing gunsmith, even making his own gun stalks. He loves wood-working and does unbelievable leather work. He is even quite the artist. Six years ago Peter became a published author as well, having written his autobiography at age 85.” President Lipinski added his

congratulations to Mr. Grisdale commenting that he proves that it is never too late to re-claim your Métis heritage.

Following this tribute, MNO citizens retired to the ice surface again where the Moon River Council had set up a stage and had a night of dancing and entertainment planned. Everyone kicked up their heels to the music of Louis Lefave and Family and the Good Old Boys. A group of Métis youth got especially into the spirit of the occasion and learned a couple of traditional Métis dances that they performed for the crowd.

### Resolutions

Despite the late night, MNO citizens appeared in full force early in the morning of August 22 for the last day of AGA business. A number of resolutions were brought forward and discussed, including several from the youth representatives in attendance. The four major resolutions that were passed by

the assembly concerned: taking a strong stance in negotiations with the Ministry of Natural Resources; starting the process to change citizenship requirements to allow children adopted by Métis families to become citizens; assisting and facilitating Métis economic development; and rejecting the Ontario Government’s Children First report because it does not include the Métis perspective. (Copies of all these resolutions can be found on p.18)

After a productive and highly enjoyable AGA, MNO citizens went home confident that their stories-- Métis stories--will continue to be told. As Senator Verna Porter said in her opening prayer, “This is the greatest gift we can bestow on our youth, our grandchildren and generations to come. We are given the opportunity once a year, here at the AGA, to share our story, to meet and greet and to leave with more than we came with!”





PHOTO: TEDINE HENRY

OSHAWA AND DURHAM REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL | The Grandmother Canoe is launched!

# Kokomis tchiman

**T**his past summer, the Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council launched kokomis tchiman (grandmother canoe). This was clearly a major event and I wish I had been there. It inspired a number of people to write to the Voyageur as a way of sharing this very meaningful experience with the rest of the Métis Nation. Their stories follow. — Editor

By **Robert Pilon**  
PRESIDENT, Oshawa & Durham  
Region Métis Council

It's not often that you have the chance to experience history—to see first-hand what your ancestors did; to have the same sensation that a voyageur had when travelling through the Great Lakes; to hear familiar tunes from a Métis fiddle accompanied by the sounds of waves hitting the side of a birch bark canoe. For those of us who gathered in south Oshawa in late June to see the launching of “kokomis tchiman”—the Grandmother Canoe—it was one of

those once in a lifetime opportunities.

In the park just south of GL Roberts School, Marcel Labelle, master canoe builder worked on an authentic 26 foot birch bark canoe with his apprentice Christian Pilon and students from the school. Dignitaries, parents, community members, elders and children now gathered to participate in its launching. The ceremonies included speeches from our special guests; fiddling by JJ Lavallee and one of his students, Bailey Lavallee; jigging by the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, as well as the All My Relations Drum group.

After the ceremonies the kokomis tchiman was carried down the embankment and into the water to take its maiden journey on Lake Ontario. Accompanied by the drum group, Marcel and Christian led a selection of special guests on the first trip out on the lake. The evening continued with more trips, allowing anyone interested to have their opportunity to experience a piece of our history. And capping off this special evening, a potluck meal was shared by all, celebrating a very special and moving event in our community.

This momentous occasion could not have been possible

without the support of many, including the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Durham District School Board and G.L. Roberts Collegiate and Vocational Institute, Colin Carrie MP, and the City of Oshawa. We are particularly grateful to Marcel Labelle who brought his expertise and wisdom to this project, and became a valued friend and part of our community. And finally our thanks to the many, many people who came out to celebrate an event that became one of those special times that bring us together and remind us of the richness and importance of our shared history.

## A Glimpse into the Past



By **Ted McNally**

On June, 24th, 2011, I, and many more of my fellow Métis citizens, had the unique opportunity of stepping into a time machine, and having ourselves transported back to the early 1800's. This time machine, manufactured of birch bark, cedar and spruce root, was skilfully crafted by Marcel Labelle and his very capable student apprentices, in a high school shop run by the Durham Board of Education.

My wife Kathy and I, drove to the event in a car, and parked in an asphalt paved lot beside a brick and glass high school. We hopped on a shuttle bus that took us down to the park by the lake, where the people were milling about, laughing and talking over the ringing of cell phones and amplified fiddle music. We followed the smell of the gas barbecues and placed our part of the feast upon the tables

that were already groaning under the weight of many fine dishes brought by our fellow citizens.

We watched as there were a few short speeches, a couple of presentations, and dancing to fiddle and drum music. It was then that we all caught the wonderful smell of burning sage in the air. Marcel had begun smudging the canoe. As he did so, a woman walked amongst us holding a box of tobacco from which we each took a small pinch to offer to the spirit of the canoe. My offering, I took to the edge of the water, and sprinkled upon the waves while asking the spirit of the lake to take us gently upon its liquid back.

The command to lift was barked, and the canoe rose from the ground and headed towards the element it was intended for. The few trees that grew in the park now seemed a virtual forest hugging the shore of ancient waters. The sun was completing

its day's journey in the west, and to the east, a most magnificent rainbow arched across the sky. A light mist or haze began to rise from the water as women with drums in hand stepped into the surf and began to sing something mysterious, something old, something very old. One of the younger girls carrying the canoe kicked off her foam rubber sandals as she walked, and a pair of moose hide moccasins dropped onto the sand behind her. The sleek craft, still smelling of the forest from which it came, was placed upon the water. They began to climb over the cedar gunnels, Elders mostly, some quite out of shape from living too long in the city. But now as they took their positions with paddle in hand we only saw young men with muscles rippling through a tight skin browned either by race or the sun. The women in the canoe also held paddles, their long black braids glistening in the

lowering sunlight.

The captain of the brigade wearing a red shirt, barks out another order in French, paddles flash and the canoe shoots from the shore and out into the lake. One of the young men stands up in the bow and tucks a fiddle under his chin. They begin to sing, their voices keeping tempo with the splash of the paddles. Whether they sang in French or Ojibway, our minds are not clear, but our souls are, and they understand every word of the song as the Métis voyageurs glide away and disappear into the mist.

Sound a little crazy? Has my imagination run away with me? I suppose that could be true; I'm not the most level headed person at the best of times. But was I alone in what I saw? No! Many of you were standing on dry land long after the canoe had been brought ashore. Yet you were still staring out across the water completely oblivious to everything

“One of the younger girls carrying the canoe kicked off her foam rubber sandals as she walked, and a pair of moose hide moccasins dropped onto the sand behind her...”

around you. What were you looking at? Could you see them? The ancestors?

They were with us that day, and we will remember this day for the rest of our lives.



MNO HEALING AND WELLNESS | Community Rendezvous

# Rendezvous family fun

By **Judith Baxter**  
*Niagara Region Métis Council*  
SECRETARY

On Saturday, July 16, 2011, the Métis Nation of Ontario's Healing and Wellness Branches from the Niagara Region, Windsor-Essex, Hamilton-Wentworth, and Toronto & York Region, together with their respective councils, hosted their first Métis Rendezvous; they were joined by the council from Grand River. The Rendezvous took place by the shores of Lake Erie at the H.H. Knoll Park in Port Colborne; it was a beautiful place to share our culture and heritage with the whole community.

The day was started by our fantastic Master of Ceremonies, Glen Lipinski, who continued to keep the event running smoothly. It was sunny and warm, perfect for our fishing derby, various workshops and our children's activities. There was a silent auction with beautiful prizes that were donated by the over 25 craft vendors who attended the Rendezvous. The Mock Casino was a popular booth, where the importance of responsible gambling

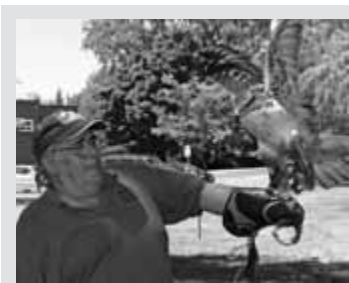


▲ **Senator Earl Scofield; President, Niagara Region Métis Council, Stephen Quesnelle and Mayor of Port Colborne, Vance Badawey.**

was taught in a fun and interactive way. Another unique booth was the Birds of Prey, where we were able to learn about and get a close-up look at many of these beautiful and rare birds, such as the nine year old American bald eagle named "Baby", as well as various hawks and owls. Entertainment was one of the main attractions, with Métis fiddler, Alicia Blore, the Olivine Bousquet Métis Dancers, from

“  
**THE NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS RENDEZVOUS WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, WITH OVER 300 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.**  
”

Oshawa, the Niagara Olde Tyme Fiddlers and the Pan Drummers, filling the park with lively music and dance that had feet tapping. The Council set up an authentic Métis encampment and invited the community to stop by to ask questions about the Métis and their way of life. The Lands, Resources and Consultations Branch also set up a booth to inform the community about the branch's process with proponents for the MNO. We were joined by guests Mayor Vance Badawey of Port Colborne, Mayor Barry Sharpe of Welland, Councillor Paul Grenier of Welland City Council and from the MNO, Chair, France Picotte; Vice Chair, Sharon McBride; Manager of Community Relations, Hank Rowlinson; Provincial Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator, Loma Rowlinson; Region 9 Councillor, Peter Rivers and Senator Earl Scofield. The Niagara Region Métis Rendezvous was a great success, with over 300 people in attendance and the event ended with a beautiful feast, including fire roasted pig, baked beans, fresh salads, fruit and delicious cake.



By **Stephen Quesnelle**  
*Niagara Region Métis Council*  
PRESIDENT

At our Rendezvous at Knoll Park in Port Colborne, I was given the privilege of handling a bird of prey; I believe it was a red tailed hawk. I would like to share my experience in handling such a powerful hunter. As the hawk was being transferred, I was unaware of what would happen. As it tried to fly off, I could feel the power in its wings as it brushed my arm, but as the hawk relaxed, I felt its weight and the grip of its talons. I could not believe the power in its talons and how heavy the bird was. Being this close to such a magnificent bird of prey was an experience I will never forget.

NIAGARA REGION MÉTIS COUNCIL | Welland Rose Festival Parade



## Niagara Métis take a step back in time

By **Judith Baxter**  
*NRMCM Secretary*

The Niagara Region Métis Council (NRMCM) celebrated our history by recreating an historic Métis encampment the weekend of June 4th and 5th at the Welland Rose Festival Days in the Park. The council has been planning this event for months under the guidance of President, Stephen Quesnelle. The site included two A-frame canvas tents, a lean-to, a Red River Cart and many display racks filled with furs and Métis artefacts. Citizens and family dressed in traditional regalia, including beautiful ribbon dresses and sashes, cooked meals using a tripod over a fire. It was a great time to sit and reflect on how our ancestors lived all of those many years ago. We experienced first-hand how challenging everyday

life was for the Métis, especially when Mother Nature gave us a taste of some of the harsh weather conditions that they had to endure. On Saturday morning there was a severe thunder storm that dumped buckets of water on our camp, and the high winds, lightning and thunder rattled our tents and sent us home soaked and thankful that we had a dry house to go to. The time spent at the encampment taught us that our ancestors worked hard to get camp set up and running, but when everything was in place--and the storm was over--it was nice to enjoy the peace and simplicity of being around the fire. Council member, Pierre Carre, spent many hours building the wooden boxes used to move goods from one camp to the next. Lumber for tent poles, pegs and structures used to display the furs and hold pots and pans was

harvested by Senator Garry Laframboise and Chair Derrick Pont. These same citizens were assisted by Treasurer Suzanne Matte, Secretary Judith Baxter, Reg Bernier and many family and friends to set up and participate in camp life over the weekend. Special thanks go to Glen Lipinski, MNO Consultation and Community Relations Coordinator, whose guidance and expertise with the Métis re-enactment were of great value. It was a wonderful time to gather and share our culture with the community. We are so proud to be Métis and are blessed to have a great family of brothers and sisters that work together to promote our rich heritage. We want to extend a special thank-you to Walker Industries who came through at the last minute with a truck, trailer, and driver for our float.

FORT GEORGE | Community Outreach

## Echoes of Niagara's past

By **Stephen Quesnelle**  
*Niagara Region Métis Council*

On August 27th and 28th, Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake held an event called "Echoes of Niagara's Past". It showcased over 200 years of Niagara's military history and heritage--a re-enactment of living history--and the Niagara Region Métis Council was asked to set up a Métis encampment. The camp was set up just outside the fort entrance so that

everyone had to pass the camp before entering. The council was kept busy answering questions and sharing our culture with a great many visitors. Some of the council worked hard Friday evening setting up the camp and two of our volunteers spent Friday and Saturday night at the camp sleeping in the tents. The event at Fort George was such a success that we have been asked to set up our camp again next year and at other events that may come up.



▲ **Scenes from the Niagara Region Métis Council's Métis camp.**



## MÉTIS VETERANS

Métis Veterans  
invited to Batoche

By Jean Camirand and Joseph Paquette

**T**his year's *Back to Batoche* was dedicated as a celebration of World War II and Korean War veterans. To this end the Métis National Council (MNC) invited a few veterans from across the Métis Homeland, and a number of escorts to accompany and assist them with the travel and day to day issues they would face.

What an incredible honour it was for both Joe Paquette and I to be asked to escort the veterans from Ontario. These gentlemen were: Cpl. Joseph Gagnon; Sgt. Jack (John) Cadeau and George Kelly. Although both Joe and I were also veterans, the incredible experience of sitting and sharing the stories and experiences of these men was something we will never forget. The stories extended into our dinnertime and into the late evening, and followed us on the bus trip to and from Batoche.

So, let's start this off from the first day and share with you our journey *Back to Batoche*.

As I left home for the airport, I heard on the radio that the storm the previous night had blown the roof off the Thunder Bay Airport and it might be closed. WHAT! This can't be happening; I am really looking forward to this trip. Well, the airport had considerable damage to its roof, but it was still operational and I was off to Toronto. While waiting for everyone to arrive I decided to have breakfast. As I was eating I noticed that a Toronto Fire and Rescue team was tending to an elderly lady just across the main hallway from where I was sitting. Right off

the bat this situation flashed before my eyes and I automatically knew it to be a heart problem or serious breathing difficulties. How wrong I was! What I was witnessing was Joe Gagnon's wife, Aida being tended to for a fall. After taking the long automatic sidewalk, she had reached the end and not noticing the big step, her walker had flipped up backwards throwing her to the ground onto the still moving walkway. Although she suffered considerable bruising to both her arms and severe scrapes to one, she was well cared for and ready to continue. As I had yet to meet Aida and I hadn't seen Joe for a few years I was oblivious to the fact that this was the couple I was to escort. Great start eh?

Thank goodness everything from this point on was all good. We were met in Saskatoon by Craig David, a youth rep from Kapuskasing, Joe's hometown. What a fantastic young man. He was full of information for us; ensured we had transportation to the hotel and arranged for special transportation for Joe Gagnon and Aida.

Leave it to Craig, he was at the hotel to meet us and make sure our registration went without a hitch. Then he showed us where

to go for the meet-and-greet. There we met Robert McDonald, the event coordinator. I must say, he did a superb job over the entire weekend. Both Craig and Robert found time to share a meal with us and join in the telling of stories and experiences.

Friday morning we were on the bus for a one hour ride to Batoche and the commencement of the weekend celebrations. The ceremonies commenced with the Grand Entry of the veterans to a place of prominence on the stage. The parade of veterans was led by none other than the veterans from Ontario. All veterans were individually introduced during entry and the crowd was absolutely unanimous in their appreciation for each veteran as they made their way to the stage. I escorted Aida and sat with her throughout the opening. It was so obvious how proud she was of her husband and she shared special moments of their lives that I will treasure forever. The speeches from visiting dignitaries were quite appropriate, especially as it was made clear that politics were to be left outside. There were dignitaries from all federal political parties as well as a number of provincial politicians and Métis dignitaries. Ontario was well represented by France Picotte, Chair of the MNO. Following the Grand Entry and speeches, the video from Juno Beach 2009 and the video "No Longer Forgotten" were played in the Elders Lounge. The lounge was standing room only and even then space was at a premium. By mid after-

noon, the veterans were ready to return to the hotel and rest up because Saturday's events would be even longer.

As I witnessed the pride in these veterans it was easy to see how remembrances of friends past were hard for them all.

Saturday started with a promise of rain. But I can assure you, rain didn't matter during the war years and it sure wasn't going to delay proceedings on this day. Once back at Batoche, the veterans were asked to join the youth representatives in attendance at the BC Pavilion. The youth were given an opportunity to pose questions that any veteran could stand and address. Both Joe and I were allowed to attend as observers. The questions were very appropriate and after short delays, a veteran would stand and answer, drawing from a long way back in their memories. We were completely in awe of these men and the respect they were afforded by our youth. I was especially touched when a gentleman rose to respond to a question. He recalled how when he arrived overseas he could neither read nor write and that his parents had to sign his recruiting papers because he was only 17. His parents signed with X's as they could not write either. He explained how he met his wife. She was a young lady who wrote his letters for him and taught him how to read and write, bit by bit. He wrapped up his recollections with the following advice. "No matter how tough things seem, no matter how much

you feel like you're unable to go on, do not rely on drugs to help you. Help is out there; seek it out but leave the drugs alone."

Shortly after the youth and veterans' gathering, we were on the bus to Batoche for the Métis Veterans' commemorative ceremony. During the ceremonies the rain arrived in a downpour. Each veteran was presented with a special plaque commemorating the event and four individuals from WW II each received the "Order of the Métis Nation" from the MNC President, Clément Chartier. This was followed by a reading of the "Commitment to Remember".

The following morning we bid each other warm farewells and wishes to meet again at the fall AGA. This was one of the most memorable events we have ever had the honour of attending. We extend a special thanks to the MNC for inviting us to be a part of this event and a very special thanks to both Robert and Craig for the amazing job they did keeping us all together, on time.

I would like to say (and I quote from a message written by J. Robert LaFontaine) that, "the Métis are a unique and passionate Nation of people who have evolved to love and respect the land, the people, and its resources". One of our greatest resources is our veterans and elders. Respect them; engage them; and record their stories as they will lay the foundation and route for our evolution as a people and as a Nation.

To all Métis Veterans, I pledge to NEVER FORGET!

“  
**ONE OF OUR  
GREATEST  
RESOURCES IS  
OUR VETERANS  
AND ELDERS,  
RESPECT THEM;  
ENGAGE THEM;  
AND RECORD  
THEIR STORIES...**  
”



▲ Joseph Gagnon, Jack Cadeau, Jean Camirand and Joseph Paquette on their way to Batoche.



▲ Métis veterans and friends on the bus to the *Back to Batoche* celebrations in Saskatchewan.



ABORIGINAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING | Youth Video Released

Métis Youth Speak Out

“Métis Youth Speak Out” is a new exciting DVD about responsible gambling featuring four Métis Youth. It is up close and personal as they share their own experiences with gambling and the impact it had on their lives and those around them. You will be surprised at what they have to say and how honestly they give you a glimpse into their lives.

The DVD has been posted on the MNO website and can be viewed at the following link: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org).

Copies of the DVD are available to MNO citizens at no cost by contacting:

**Loma Rowlinson**  
Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator  
Tel: 613-798-1488 xt.150  
Toll Free: 1-800-263-4889 xt.150  
[lomar@metisnation.org](mailto:lomar@metisnation.org)



TIMMINS | SEASON'S CHANGE



Snow Snakes

By **Cheryl D. Macumber**  
AHBHC Coordinator  
TIMMINS

Here in Timmins, north eastern Ontario winter weather begins long before the official first day of winter, December 21st, and usually lasts long past the first day of spring. We pass the months at temperatures below zero and spend most of our time in our homes. Not only humans but animals hibernate or stay in their shelters; birds migrate south, and all is quiet in the frozen north.

It's not only freezing but we also experience shorter days--more dark time; it seems we get up in the dark and return to our homes in the dark. We long for the sun, even a glimpse of it. Winter seems unending and school boring. To break up winter's monotony, we northerners have come up with a number of ways to keep our sanity.

We go ice fishing, skiing, sliding, snowshoeing, curling, skat-

ing, ski-dooing and we play hockey and hold winter carnivals and festivals. One game that we enjoy playing is an old Iroquoian game called “snowsnakes”. This traditional game is played by racing long smooth sticks of wood along iced tracks in the snow. Here's how to play.

1. Make two tracks side by side in the snow about 15 cm (6”) a part and about 10 giant steps long. You can form the tracks by dragging a tin can filled with ice behind you.
2. Spray the tracks with water to make them more slippery.
3. Find two broom handles to use as snakes. Two players stand at a “starting line” and throw the snowsnakes along the tracks.

The one that goes furthest wins, and the winner challenges the next snowsnake thrower. This is a great game that you can play as a family in your back yard.

ABORIGINAL RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING | Online Resources

Responsible Gambling Slot Machine

By **Loma Rowlinson**  
Aboriginal Responsible Gambling Coordinator

Always looking for fun and interactive ways to provide information about Responsible Gambling, the MNO now has its own on-line trivia slot machine. Sign in; join the fun; learn about responsible gambling; test yourself and play for free. All responses remain anonymous and data collected will be evaluated to identify trends, needs, and assist the MNO with future responsible gambling initiatives.

Your input is important so please share your thoughts about our trivia slot machine with us: Visit [www.metisresponsiblegambling.ca](http://www.metisresponsiblegambling.ca).

Once you have your results share the link with your friends and family. This will assist in promoting positive information about responsible gambling in an entertaining way. It is a fun exercise for all participants.



MNO launches Direct Toll-free Number for Registry

As part of the continuing improvements to the Métis Nation of Ontario Registry, we now have a dedicated Registry phone line. The number for the line is:

**1-855-798-1006** (toll free) or **613-798-1006** for local (Ottawa) calls

The advantage of using this line is that calls are not routed through the MNO reception desk but enter an automated system that enables callers to quickly and easily access the correct individual to assist them. The automated system provides three options:

|  |                     |                                       |
|--|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Line 2</b>                                | <b>Line 3</b>       | <b>Line 4</b>                         |
| Citizenship applications or replacement card | Genealogy inquiries | Harvest applications or Harvest cards |

In addition to improved access, calls to the Registry may now be monitored and recorded for training and quality assurance purposes.



WRITING FOR WELLNESS

# JOURNALS

What interests you? What might you want to work on in your life? What are your dreams for the future? What do you want? Is there somewhere you want to go or something you want to be? Journaling can help...



By **Danielle Deneau**  
Community Wellness Coordinator  
WINDSOR

Like everything in life, there is a beginning, middle and a physical end. With this relation to life, you already have an understanding of the journaling process and are on your way to *Journaling for Your Wellness*.

**The Beginning**

The best thing about journaling is you can write about anything and everything. This is your beginning.

What interests you? What might you want to work on in your life? What are your dreams for the future? Ultimately, it is your choice what you want to talk about, how you want to do it and when; that is the best part about it being your wellness.

Once you have an idea of what you want to do, it will guide you to setting your goals. There are so many different types of journals; there are just too many to list. So below, I thought it would be help-

ful for you to see some different ideas some people journal about.

*Gratitude Journal:* Helps you focus on and think about all of the things for which you are grateful and helps keep a positive attitude.

*Weight Loss Journal:* Helps you stay more focused on your progress by tracking weight loss goals, the food you are eating, how you are feeling and the exercise you have accomplished.

*Goal Journal:* Did you know that goals that are written down are more often met? When you track how well you are doing in your journal it helps keep you motivated.

*Wellness Journal:* This type of journal can provide an outlet for you to express what you are experiencing physically as well as emotionally over a period of time. With this type of journal you are free to express emotions such as anger, confusion, fear, or hope.

*Self-Discovery Journal:* Used for self-reflection and problem solving. What you do is write down your fears and what's holding you back and then you replace these thoughts with encouraging ideas.

*Sobriety Journal:* Helpful

through alcohol and drug addiction recovery. You can write about your thoughts, feelings, experiences, and coping strategies to keep alcohol recovery and/or drug recovery a priority in your life, and prevent relapse.

*Dream Journal:* Can be helpful to begin understanding your dreams, and in turn, yourself. It can lead you to creative ideas.

*Spiritual Journal:* Involves writing down your personal understanding of a spiritual or religious subject. It can be used as a source of strength and comfort during tough times. It can also be used to help record growth and change.

*Prayer Journal:* Record your favourite prayers and/or daily thoughts. It will provide support through difficult times.

**The Middle**

*Setting goals helps you succeed*

At the beginning of life, your parents had goals for you. They wanted you to succeed and do things better than they did, and they wanted you to grow and be happy and productive.

As you begin to develop and

grow, you start setting goals and you don't even know it. When you were young you might have wanted to be a parent, a doctor, or maybe even work with children. What do you want? Is there somewhere you want to go or something you want to be? Great! Since you already have your beginning with what you want to journal about, you are starting to form ideas for goals. You are in the middle.

The middle can be a very long process. You might end up going back to the beginning and starting again with a new journal or even have more than one. That's ok; it's what works for you. It's very similar to achieving balance within yourself and your life. You have to keep working on making that balance work by focusing on your mind, body and spirit. Sometimes you have to go back and start over, or you may have completed something and now you need to start your journey on something else. The middle is similar to that process.

How do you think you are going to get to where you want to be or what you want to achieve? The steps below on how to set a goal can provide you with the opportunity to achieve what you want. Goals can be made any way, written down in any form, or just remembered to follow your traditions, but how you set up your goal is the most important part.

- through the emotion
- Don't worry about grammar or spelling – just write
  - Don't force yourself to write. If you don't want to write, try drawing

**The Physical End**

I say 'physical end' because we all leave our bodies but continue on in a different way. Therefore I don't want to use the superficial 'the end' as that's not the case. You may continue journaling for the remainder of your physical time here on the land; you may achieve many of your goals along the way through your journaling and you may have not completed some. Again, that's ok. You served the purpose of your time and hopefully have received some benefits along the way and hopefully you were able to pass them along for teachings.

Some Benefits:

- 1) Encourages appropriate release of emotions (positive or negative)
- 2) Encourages you to look at yourself
- 3) Improves communication skills
- 4) Encourages you to grow as an individual
- 5) Helps you look at things differently after the fact

**Journalling for Communities**

Not only are there personal benefits, but journaling can also lead to the changing/growing of a community.

Journaling can teach a community to heal. Different groups can be set up to help provide support to those in need for different things. This can change from community to community and what works in one community might not work in another. You can always suggest trying this to your local workers if it's not something already within your community.

Journaling can preserve history. Some cultures and traditions might do their story telling through books and words. These journals can preserve history and stories for not only many generations of a family to come, but to the greater community as a whole.

Journaling can impact the community as a guide for ways to maybe handle certain emotions. Journaling can also help a community to promote individual healing and wellness.

If journaling interests you, don't hesitate to contact your local Healing and Wellness Coordinators for further direction and support.

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- S – Specific  
M – Measurable  
A – Attainable  
R – Realistic  
T – Timely
- Specific:* Be clear and concise about your goal. (i.e.: I want to lose 20 lbs. in three months.)
- Measurable:* You should be able to see exactly how you are measuring up as you proceed with your goal. (i.e.: You have a set time to lose the 20 lbs.)
- Attainable:* Make sure your goal is something that you can really accomplish (i.e.: Three months is not too short a period of time to lose the weight.)
- Realistic:* You should be able to reach your goal with the resources that you have available to you. (i.e.: Walking daily or doing sit-ups at home is free of charge.)
- Timely:* Set a time to achieve your goal. (i.e. Three months)
- Some tips to help you along the way:
- Only write when you feel up to it
  - Find a comfortable area to journal that makes you feel safe with no interruptions
  - Don't stop writing if it's making you emotional-write





Métis Nation of Ontario  
**Health Needs Survey**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) needs your help to identify the health needs of Métis people in different areas of Ontario. To participate, please complete the survey enclosed with this edition of the *Voyageur* (postage paid addressed envelope is also enclosed) or go to the following website:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/MNOhealth](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MNOhealth)

**Sondage de la Nation des Métis de l’Ontario sur les besoins en matière de santé**

La Nation des Métis de l’Ontario (NMO) a besoin de votre aide pour identifier les besoins des clients autochtones dans différentes régions de l’Ontario. Pour participer, svp remplir le questionnaire inclus avec cette édition du *Voyageur* ou allez à l’adresse de site Web suivante :  
[www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMOsante](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMOsante)

Si vous avez besoin d’une copie imprimé, contactez  
Natalie Lloyd par téléphone au **1-800-263-4889**  
ou par courriel à [nataliel@metisnation.org](mailto:nataliel@metisnation.org)

WELLAND | JOURNALING FOR WELLNESS

# Memories in a box

By **Lisa Scott**  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*  
HAMILTON

Sometimes, the greatest gift of all is the gift of memories; they last forever and the fun of “opening” them never disappears! Preserve your most treasured moments by creating a family keepsake box. From baby steps to Thanksgiving recipes, seal your legacy with love.

That’s just what a group of people did at a *Journaling for*

*Wellness* workshop during the Welland Rendezvous! The group gathered in the shade and spent a few hours making their memory boxes, talking about what they might put into the boxes, the stories behind the decorations, and sharing laughs while snacking on cold watermelon. Memory boxes contain hidden objects and are meant to act as visual reminders of incidents or events one may want to remember. Memory boxes might hold items that are sentimental or broken but still meaningful. In the

box the item can remain special and tangibly become a catalyst for memories in the same way a smell or taste can conjure up memories. For many people, even the smallest item can hold a precious memory. This can often result in drawers and cabinets filled with a clutter of ticket stubs, photos, dried flowers and high school love notes. One popular solution for organizing these items is to create a scrapbook. However, these are time consuming projects that require the purchase of

paper, stickers, glue, photo corners and page protectors, not to mention the book itself. Once you've begun a scrapbook you may also find that some of your most precious items aren't flat, and therefore don't fit onto a piece of cardstock. A memory box is the perfect way to store your treasured items. This project is quick, easy and inexpensive. Your memory box will keep your items safe for years to come and provide a wonderful rush of nostalgia every time you revisit them.

## MAKE YOUR OWN MEMORY BOX:

**Things You'll Need:**

- Several keepsakes
- Box
- Wrapping paper or magazine clippings
- Glue or rubber cement
- Tissue paper
- Photo sized envelope

**Gather** your keepsakes. This may include pictures, magazine and newspaper clippings, seashells, rocks, ticket stubs or any number of other items. Consider a wide variety of objects. Anything that you don't want to get rid of but rarely use is a candidate. A bottle of perfume with one squirt left that you keep because the scent reminds you of a special trip, or a scarf, hair clip, or piece of jewellery that you will never wear but want to keep for its sentimental value, these are perfect candidates for your memory box.

**Sort** your items. You can use any system that makes sense to you. You may want to sort them by year, event, location or the person the items remind you of. Try to avoid keeping all of your mementos jumbled together.

**Collect** the appropriate number of boxes. You may have gathered treasures for one memory box or for several. Select an appropriately sized box that all your items will fit into. Shoe boxes are good, but you may want to use a shirt box, jewellery box, hat box or any other container that meets your needs.

**Decorate** your memory box. Be creative. You can cover your box with a collage of magazine clippings, wrapping paper, fabric or even leftover wallpaper. Select

a medium that is appropriate for the contents. If you are filling a box with Christmas memories, wrap it like a present. For a box of beach memories, put together pictures of sand and seashells from a travel magazine. Don't forget to put a label on the front or top to remind you of the contents. This can be a general title such as “Christmas 2000” or “Grandma's Beach House.”

**Fill** your box with memories. If you have a lot of pictures, keep these in an envelope, folder or even a small photo album to prevent folded corners and bent edges. Wrap dried flowers or breakable items in tissue paper. If you are including jewellery, consider keeping it inside a smaller box, or tape it to a piece of cardboard so it doesn't get tangled. If you have a special scent associated with the items, spray this onto a handkerchief and fold it neatly in the box. Memories are associated strongly with scent, and a whiff of pine or cinnamon when you next open the box may take you right back to a special time and place. Your items should fit snugly, but not stuffed in. Arrange them so that a few special things will be front and centre when you revisit your box. You may want to tape a special picture to the inside of the lid so that this greets you first, or put a special seashell right on top.

**Store** your box in a cool, dry place. Heat and humidity are never good for storing things. Keep your memory boxes in the back of a closet or under the bed. Revisit them and add to them as often as you like.



This cake recipe will take you out of this world. It's moist, easy to make and freezes well. The name of this cake is derived from the buttery brown sugar topping that sinks into the cake as it bakes and forms a crusty layer reminiscent of a lunar landscape.

### LUNAR CAKE

- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1 - 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups sifted all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 cups of your favourite fruit
- 1 tablespoon of flour

**Topping:**

- 1/4 cup butter or margarine
- 2 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar

**Directions:**

1. Batter: Cream together butter and white sugar until smooth and creamy.
2. Add egg and vanilla.
3. Sift together dry ingredients and add to butter and sugar mixture along with buttermilk (if no buttermilk you can make your own with 1 cup of milk and add 1 tablespoon of lemon juice)
4. Toss the fruit you chose with 1 tbsp flour and fold into the batter.
5. Spoon batter into a greased 9x13 inch cake pan and smooth the surface.
6. Topping: Blend together topping ingredients and sprinkle evenly over batter.
7. Bake at 350 F for 45 minutes or until cake has risen, browned and comes away from the edges and skewer (or toothpick) inserted in the centre comes out clean.

Enjoy!

SAULT STE MARIE | ART JOURNALS

# The art of leaving a legacy

By **Shawna Hansen**  
*Community Wellness Coordinator*  
SAULT STE MARIE

Throughout the ages people have been passionate about recording and reporting events in their daily lives. Some of these recordings were done on cave walls or animal hides; later came parchment and ink. Today we use computers and cell phones to express and share our daily comings and goings. With internet sites like Facebook and Twitter a person can share what is going on every second of every day, which is a far cry from the methods of our ancestors. There is something to be said for getting back in touch with your roots, though. In Sault Ste Marie a group of individuals came together to learn different ways to get in touch with their emotions and share their experiences. Discussed first were emotions and whether or not they were good, bad or ugly. The group was taught that no emotion is “bad” or “ugly” but simply an emotion that a person is experiencing. Positive expression of emotion was discussed and then the group moved on to

journaling. Whether a person is recording their daily events for future readers or creating poems for personal enjoyment, there is something to be said for putting pen to paper and letting creative juices flow. For those group members who were not comfortable putting their thoughts and feelings into words the art journal was introduced along with mandala drawing. Mandalas are usually a round drawing with an intricate design created in its centre. The group members were encouraged to create designs or inspiring verses and just be creative! Any medium--whether it is paint or crayons, paper, canvas or even a cave wall--can help people express their emotions. By positively expressing emotions and then working through them, individuals are more prepared to handle stress or other events going on in their personal or professional lives. Leave a legacy; start a journal with thoughts and lessons, your own observations and struggles so that in generations to come your story is still remembered and passed on.



## MÉTIS SENATORS

# Senators carry the standard



### SENATORS' SPOTLIGHT

BY **RETA GORDON**  
PCMNO SENATOR

**D**uring the year I have had the great fortune to meet with or communicate with our Nation's, 29 proud and strong Community Council Senators, three PCMNO Senators, and four esteemed Honourary Senators. I am honoured and humbled to be in such company.

As we gathered at this year's AGA and we took stock of what has passed before us in the last year, and indeed in nearly two decades, we must ask ourselves:

"Have we been successful?"

While it could be argued that it is the elected members who sit on the PCMNO and presidents and citizens who sit on community councils who set the goals, it is the Senators who keep us focused and on track. Their experience has taught us that goals cannot be set in stone. We must remain flexible as we move forward; we need a plan.

Climbing a ladder is a good thing, but our Senators remind us how it felt to have our toes

stepped on. Their experience and wisdom has taught us to fight to the finish but to choose our battles carefully; we may have to fight many more battles before all our goals are achieved. It is the Senators who wave the standard for all to rally behind.

Have we been successful? "Yes"

Have we achieved all our goals? "No"

In taking stock of what has unfolded we must give thanks to all who have had a part in the successes, no matter how large or small that contribution may have been. I for one would like to single out and applaud the efforts and contributions of our Sena-

tors past and present. As keepers of our traditional knowledge, they have stood up to show who and what we are, not only as individuals, but as a people, and as a Nation.

The task before us is not always an easy one. Senators, veterans, elected officials, youth, women, council members, citizens, office and field staff are all bound together in a common purpose--setting goals—and we must be ever mindful of what lays before us and where we come from.

Together we are a Nation, united and focused. Our successes will be judged in our Nation's future.



**IN TAKING STOCK OF WHAT HAS UNFOLDED WE MUST GIVE THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE HAD A PART IN THE SUCCESSES, NO MATTER HOW LARGE OR SMALL THAT CONTRIBUTION MAY HAVE BEEN.**



TORONTO | GENERATIONAL FRIENDSHIP

## An Unlikely Friendship

It was by chance that we met; it was by choice that we became friends

by **Joseph Poitras**  
PCMNO Senator

**T**o me, Louis Riel Day is a top of the list event in our MNO calendar. In addition to our remembrance of the dark days of our history, it gives those of us who live in a large urban area an opportunity to let others know who we are, including our provincial politicians. It also gives us the chance to meet with old friends and new people--sometimes people who will become new and cherished friends.

I have attended every Louis Riel Day event in Toronto since I became an MNO citizen. At the last one, I had the great pleasure of meeting Paul Seaman, a Métis articling law student with an interesting and impressive resumé.

While Paul now lives and works in Toronto, he was born and raised in Regina, a descendant of the Marion and Boucher families of Red River and Batoche. Following an eight-year career in telecommunications, he completed his Bachelor of Business Administration at the University of Regina and First Nations University of Canada. He then attended the Native Law Centre in Saskatoon and completed his law degree at the University of Victoria's Faculty of Law. During law school, Paul served as President of the Indigenous Law Students Society and as a Director for the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria. He also received several awards for his academic achievements and community involvement, notably including the Roger Carter, Q.C. Award from the Native Law Centre, given to an Aboriginal law student in consideration of "past and expected contribution[s] to furthering the



▲ **PCMNO Senator Joseph Poitras (left) and Métis law student Paul Seaman.**

needs, concerns and aspirations of native people and their communities in Canada". In 2009, Paul was selected by the Métis Nation of British Columbia to appear in posters as a Métis youth role model and carried the Olympic torch on behalf of MNBC youth in Nanaimo, B.C.

As I'm especially interested in doing what I can to encourage Métis who aspire to a higher education, I was delighted to have a conversation with Paul and learn about his past and present endeavours. To my surprise, and sincere delight, he later contacted me and afforded me the great honour of being his platform guest when he was called to the bar.

Being called to the bar is obviously an important time in one's life and career, so I felt very privileged and humbled to be asked to come as Paul's guest on stage at the Law Society of Upper Canada's bar call ceremony at Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto. I witnessed the presentation of his diploma and we exchanged traditional gifts to signify Paul's pride in his Métis heritage. Paul pre-

OTTAWA | Community Outreach

## MNO Elder appointed to Ottawa Police spiritual team

**J**o MacQuarrie, an Elder with the Métis Nation of Ontario, was recently appointed to the Ottawa Police Services Spiritual Team.

The Ottawa Police Services (OPS) recognized the need to expand the Chaplaincy Program to be more inclusive. Consequently, the Chaplain/Spiritual Program now has members who represent the Christian (Anglican and Catholic),

Sheikh, Muslim, Jewish faiths and the Métis Nation.

While the Police Chaplains/Spiritual Leaders represent different religions and denominations they provide support to any member requiring it, regardless of religious background. They have the honorary rank of Inspector and are considered volunteers and, therefore, are subject to the Volunteer Involvement Policy.

The purpose of the program is to support the spiritual and emotional well being of members and their families. The program is comprised of volunteer clergy in good standing who are appointed by the Chief of Police. The Ottawa Police Association and the Ottawa Police Senior Officers' Association are consulted regarding the selection of members to the Team.



▲ **Jo MacQuarrie (centre with sash), Elder with the MNO.**

sented me with tobacco and cloth and I presented him with a medicine bag containing the four sacred medicines--a bag made by our Elder, Olivine Bousquet Tiedema. Needless to say, this exchange triggered numerous questions afterwards and provided us with a wonderful opportunity to educate others on Métis history and culture.

Paul is about to embark on a career as an "energy, Aboriginal, and technology lawyer" with Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP ("Gowlings"), one of Canada's largest law firms and a firm with a distinguished record in Aboriginal law in Canada. While articling at Gowlings, he assisted senior counsel in successfully acting for several First Nations appellants in tax appeals subject to Canada's Indian Act, including a reported

Tax Court of Canada decision in which over 20 years of income taxes were successfully appealed. A piece of Paul's academic work titled, "Betting on Reconciliation: Law, Self-Governance, and First Nations Economic Development in Canada" was also recently published in the U.S. journal, "Gaming Law Review and Economics".

I consider it very much an honour to know Paul Seaman--a young and promising lawyer, a proud Métis and a friend. And I look back at this chance meeting as one of those unexpected pleasures in life when we're presented with the opportunity to get to know someone new along with the privilege of participating in a momentous occasion--something particularly enjoyable and rewarding for someone at my stage of life!



**I'm especially interested in doing what I can to encourage Métis who aspire to a higher education, I was delighted to have a conversation with Paul and learn about his past and present endeavours.**





# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

The creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund is the result of years of effort and work by the MNO to create an economic development arm that will be able to support Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in Ontario.

# Anything is possible



GARY LIPINSKI  
Métis Nation of Ontario • President

**I**n my extensive travels across Ontario, previously as the Chair of the PCMNO and now as MNO President, I have always been struck by the entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen of our people. This ‘can do’ attitude and ability to spot and fill ‘opportunities in the marketplace’ is a part of who we are as a people. From the days of the fur trade, our people have been fundamental to Canada’s economic engine. We have and continue to take great pride in our entrepreneurial roots.

Flowing from this proud heritage, we see Métis entrepreneurs and businesses participating in almost every sector of the economy. From our historic Métis commercial fishing operations to modern day technology companies run by young Métis entrepreneurs, our people are fundamental to the economies of Ontario and Canada. When Metis entrepreneurs and business do well, Ontario and Canada do well too through job creation and economic growth.

Unfortunately, over the last 18 years, the MNO has not been able to offer adequate support to our Métis entrepreneurs and businesses. While we built impressive program and service capacities in the areas of training, education, housing and healing and wellness, we could never secure the funding to really address economic development. I have always believed the MNO needed to take a targeted and focused approach to in order to achieve real results in this area.

When I was elected as MNO President in May 2008, I set out the goal of expanding the MNO’s programs and services in the economic development sector as a major priority for my mandate. Similarly, the newly elected PCMNO was united in wanting to see real progress in enhancing Métis economic development – not just more talk about economic development.

### “Real results” in economic development sector

Based on this direction, we have focused our efforts on getting “real results” in the economic development sector. As everyone will appreciate, simply saying you want something doesn’t make it happen, especially when dealing with other governments. It takes time, commitment, hard work and a concerted effort to even get a foot in the door. Over the last three

years, your leadership and our staff and advisors have spent thousands of hours working with both the provincial and federal governments on getting something tangible in place for Métis entrepreneurs and businesses. These discussions have taken place under the commitments in the *MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement* and our tripartite process with Ontario and Canada.

Also, as a part of this overall process, the MNO consulted extensively with citizens on what you saw as priorities in economic development. The results from these consultations were captured in the MNO’s Economic Development Strategy, entitled, *An Agenda for Self-Reliance and Sustainability*. This Strategy was unanimously adopted by the 2009 MNO Annual General Assembly. In the Strategy, the creation of an Ontario Métis capital corporation was identified as a key recommendation. Notably, these types of Métis capital corporations have been successful in assisting Métis entrepreneurs and businesses in western Canada for many years, but Ontario Métis did not have any such entity to assist them.

Based on this approved Strategy, and after lengthy negotiations with Ontario, the MNO successfully concluded both a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ontario on Economic Development, and, more importantly, a 10 year funding agreement worth \$30 million for the creation of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (“MVDF”). These negotiations were confidential at the request of our partners and at the end, time sensitive because any agreement had to be finalized prior to the end of that session of Parliament. It is worthy to note that Ontario’s commitment to the MVDF represents the second largest funding agreement, the MNO has ever negotiated with another level of govern-



▲ Ontario Aboriginal Affairs Minister, Chris Bentley (left) and MNO President, Gary Lipinski (right) during a media event announcing the creation of the new Métis Voyageur Development Fund.

ment (second only to our 5 year agreement with Canada for the delivery of Employment and Training services).

On June 20th, 2011, I had the pleasure of formally signing the MOU with Minister Bentley, Ontario Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, and making the public announcement on the creation of the MVDF and Ontario’s financial commitment to it. A copy of the press release as well as the signed MOU is available on the MNO’s website at [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org). It was truly an exciting day to finally see so many years of work by so many people culminate in success. It was even more exciting to realize that through the MNO’s efforts, the MVDF will be able to start providing much needed assistance and support to Metis entrepreneurs and businesses in Ontario. Additional details about the type of assistance and supports the MVDF will be able to provide is also available on the MNO’s website.

### Interim Board of Directors

Now that the approvals are in place there is still much work to be done in making the MVDF fully operational. Similar to the Metis capital corporations in Western Canada, the MVDF is set up as an arms-length, for-profit corporation with an independent Board of Directors. The MNO is the sole shareholder of the MVDF, but the MNO is not responsible for the day-to-day management of the MVDF and cannot interfere with the MVDF’s operations. This type of independent board structure is standard for this type of investment

by governments and has allowed other Métis capital corporations to thrive by being able to make sound, business-minded decisions, rather than being influenced by politics.

Pursuant to the terms of the negotiated arrangement, an initial 3 person Interim Board of Directors incorporated the MVDF on June 3rd, 2011. The Interim Directors of the MVDF are: Paul Devillers (lawyer, MNO citizen and former Member of Parliament for Simcoe North), Karen Drake (lawyer and MNO citizen living in Thunder Bay) and Clint Davis (President and CEO of Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business). Full biographies for these individuals are also available on the MNO’s website.

### Permanent Board of Directors to be hired in fall

This Interim MVDF Board of Directors is now undertaking an open, province-wide call for additional MVDF Directors. They are also hiring a full-time Chief Executive Officer for the MVDF. The deadlines for these posting are in September 2011. These postings have been sent out to the PCMNO and all Community Councils. They are also available on the MNO’s website.

I encourage those MNO citizens who are interested in assisting Métis entrepreneurs and businesses, to consider applying to be a Director of the MVDF. All of the MVDF’s Directors will be selected based on skill and ability to contribute to the objective and goals of the MVDF, regardless of whether they are Métis, non-Aboriginal or citizens of the MNO. We want to

have the best MVDF Board of Directors possible, so if there are non-Aboriginal business people you believe could positively contribute to the MVDF Board, please forward these postings to them.

Based on this open call, in the Fall of 2011, the Interim Board of Directors will make recommendations to the PCMNO on additional appointments to the MVDF Directors. The PCMNO has the responsibility to ratify all Directors to the MVDF Permanent Board of Directors. Further, all Directors must meet the requirements for Directors pursuant to the Ontario Corporations Act and the criteria set out in the MVDF’s by-laws and policies.

Since the Permanent Board of Directors will not be in place and the Chief Executive Officer and staff for MVDF will not be hired until the Fall of 2011, 2011/2012 will be a developmental year for the MVDF. It is very likely that an initial call for applications and funding will not be made available to Métis entrepreneurs and businesses until 2012. It is important that MNO citizens and communities be aware of these timeframes in order to manage expectations.

One other point that it is important for MNO citizens and communities to be aware of is that Ontario’s financial commitment is only available to Metis businesses involved in the resource sector (i.e., mining, energy, forestry, etc.) or businesses that provide services and support to the resource sector. For example, a Métis catering company that provides services to



# Sleeping Giant

by **Stephanie Stringer**

Tufted trees and rows of rock,  
Are ridges on the giant's back.  
Tiptoe softly, do not shake him  
Time is dreaming, do not wake him.

Mole and vole and flickering bat,  
Crouching lynx and tufted cat,  
Fox in den and hare in burrow,  
Frog in fen and mouse in furrow,  
Chipmunk, skunk and scampering squirrel  
Toad and tortoise, tiny turtle,  
Little things with pattering paws,  
Chattering tongues and tiny jaws,  
Slitherer, slider, scaly creeper,  
You will not awake the sleeper.



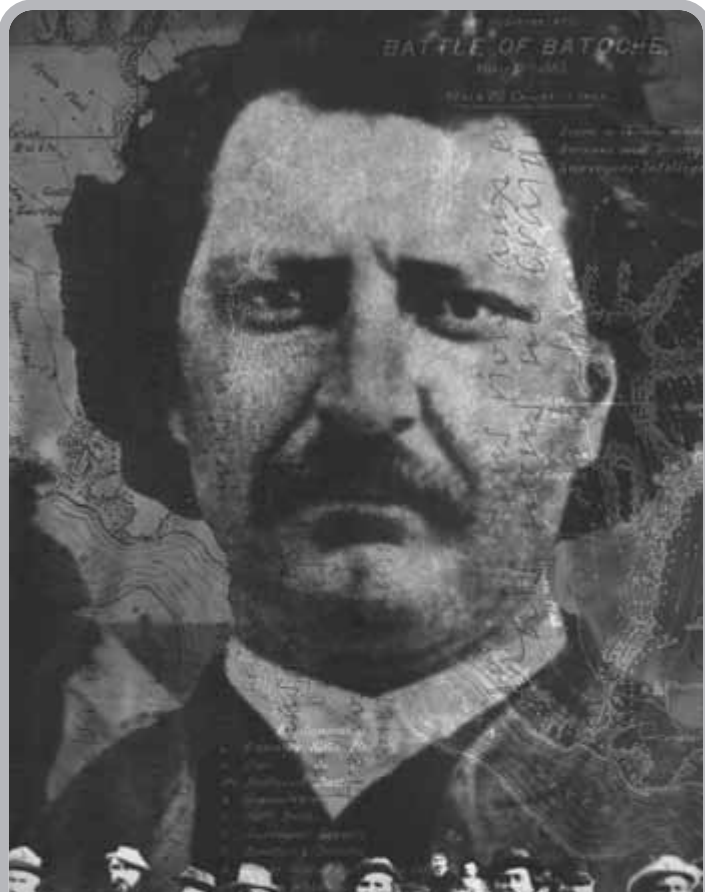
Busy beaver cunning builder,  
Easy otter in running river,  
Sea-lion, salmon with flashing tail,  
Hugeous whale and sluggish snail  
Diving dolphin, playful porpoise,  
Inky octopus, and walrus  
Deep-dwelling squid and sparkling eel,  
Dugong, orca and bobbing seal,  
All that swim in swell and billow,  
Will not turn Time on his pillow.

Squabbling seagull, eagle soaring,  
Hoary falcon, floating halcyon  
Plover, plunger, pecker, diver,  
Cawing crow and keen-eyed hawk,  
Shrike and rake and long-legged rail,  
Clattering grouse and timid quail,  
Hummingbird and bumble bee,  
Fluttering moth and chickadee  
Flapping, feathered, or fluttering things,  
Bring sweet slumber on your wings.



Cougar crouching, wary, wilesome,  
Bear in bush and roving bison,  
Musk-ox, moose and mountain-ewe  
Antlered elk and caribou,  
Clambering goat on cliff and crag,  
Fleet-footed doe and horned stag,  
Graceful fawn in glen and glade,  
Panther spread in dappled shade,  
Silently, they roam the wild,  
While Time sleeps gently as a child.

Now you and I, their clumsy kindred,  
Must of them learn lightly to tread,  
Too soon we shall, if still we blunder  
On rough paths, break the giant's slumber,  
Before the day when Time must wake,  
To sound his horn and heaven shake,  
Let billows leap and fires fail,  
And stars fall down as silver hail,  
Plunge sun and moon in darkness deep,  
And all things wake at last from sleep.



## Louis Riel Day

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Commemorate our history  
Celebrate our culture

Provincial Ceremony at 11:30 a.m.  
at Queen's Park in Toronto

## Niagara Region Métis Council Upcoming Events

- October 27:  
**Harvest Dinner**  
...

November 6:  
**Veterans Memorial Day parade** to the Cenotaph at Chippewa Park, Welland  
...

November 16:  
**Louis Riel Day:** We will be raising our Métis flag in memory of Louis Riel at Welland City Hall, St. Catharines City Hall, Niagara Falls City Hall, Port Colborne City Hall and the Town-
- ship of Wainfleet. We are asking our citizens in these areas to contact the office and get involved.  
...

November 19:  
**Ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the Métis display in the Welland Historical Museum.** We are asking our citizens if they have any Métis memorabilia, stories or artefacts, to donate or loan us for the museum display, to please contact us.

**Niagara Region Métis Council**  
Phone 905-714-9756 xt.305 or 1-866-826-2116  
[www.niagararegionmetisCouncil.org](http://www.niagararegionmetisCouncil.org)

LANGUAGE | FIRST CONTACT

# How are we identified?

By **Donn Fowler**

Sociologists tells us that, “we are who we think other people think we are!” Therefore, if we were--for instance--classified by the whites as being, say, an “Algonquian” Ojibwa, because we speak--or don't speak--Ojibwa, and perhaps defined by a written word such as Ojibwa, or Ojibwe, or as Ojibway, or even as Chippewa or “O’chippewa, as may be seen in the old American college dictionaries, therefore, such words may be in error. Why so?

Concerning Aboriginal people, many such writers write about “Indians, Inuit and Métis”, the three words presently used in the 1982 Canadian Constitution, and writers are using their own spellings of our Aboriginal words. Indeed, it is possible for any one of us to make mistakes in our personal word-usage regardless of the languages spoken. However, consider this one example: is it possible that, following contact with Europeans during and after the 15th century, and especially the early contacts made with the indigenous North Americans, by these Spanish and French settlers, that their foreign understanding of the native sounds of our words were incorrectly spelled and used by these same immigrants?

Were we ever properly aware of that European means of recording our true native “facts” by these white writers? I don't think so, because our ancient means of communicating was mostly oral and that was aided by our community trustworthiness and by our collective memory. We once were solely a trustworthy and helpful people in regard to these few and new immigrating “visitors”, with their very interesting trade goods. They soon became permanent settlers who depended entirely on our altruistic nature, especially during the dreadful North American winter months.

Consider the first French-speaking arrivals in our western hemisphere. They not only had to learn to speak our respective languages, but also to scribble down our native sounds in their own language using their own alpha-

“  
**OUR ANCIENT MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WAS MOSTLY ORAL AND THAT WAS AIDED BY OUR COMMUNITY TRUSTWORTHINESS**  
”

betic letters to represent our native sounds as full words. And because the French were here well before the arrival of the Anglo-Celts from the United Kingdom, a native word such as Ojibwa or Ojibwe could easily be spelt in French as “Ojibwé” with the French accent “é” used to give the same sound of Ojibwa, pronounced only as “Ojibway”.

Therefore, is the language spoken not Ojibwa, and the collective identity of the people not Ojibwe? That is to say, the French “Ojibwé” and the English Ojibwe? (Much the same as the English word “Metis” as seen in the constitution but remaining as the French word spelled “Métis”). Perhaps this is a question for a professional Aboriginal lexicographer. Possibly the word “Ojibway” is now redundant because it has the exact same sound as the French word “Ojibwé”; unless, of course, the English sounding [French] word “Ojibway” means to “roast” and to “pucker” things for one purpose or another! As an aside: Did some of the original Ojibwé or was it some of the original Ojibwe, change their identity, so as to become known in the future as the “Mississauga”, such as in the instance of the Hiawatha First Nation in Otonabee Township where I was born? Why was that change necessary?

*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.*

from page 25

a mine would be eligible. Also, a hydro project that is partially owned by the MNO or a MNO Community Council is eligible. However, this funding would not be able to be used to open a hair salon or buy a building.

It is the ultimate goal of the MNO to secure additional financial commitments for MVDF from both levels of government in order to expand the Fund's services and funding to all Metis businesses. However, this initial commitment from Ontario to resource sector businesses was

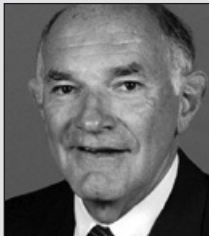
seen as an important starting point from which we can build. For example, over the next few months, the MNO's leadership will also continue to work in an attempt to leverage a federal government commitment to the MVDF, which will allow MVDF to increase the funding available to Métis entrepreneurs and businesses.

I remain optimistic that the federal government will ultimately decide to make an investment in the MVDF, similar to how it has made investments in the Métis capital corporations in Western Canada. As outlined in

our MOU with Ontario, the provincial government is committed to working with the MNO on this issue. The MNO's leadership will continue to provide regular updates to MNO citizens on its efforts to secure a federal government commitment.

In closing, I look forward to this new era of finally being able to assist our entrepreneurs and businesses. I want to thank the PCMNO, MNO staff and all of those MNO citizens who have continued to advocate for this issue over the years. Once again, we have proven anything is possible when we work – together.

## Métis Voyageur Development Fund Interim Directors



**Paul Devillers**  
Lawyer, MNO Citizen and former Member of Parliament for Simcoe North.



**Karen Drake**  
Lawyer and MNO citizen living in Thunder Bay.



**Clint Davis**  
President and CEO of Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business.



BOOK REVIEW | AUTHOR PROFILE

# Up and coming writer tells Aboriginal stories

by **Christine McFarlane**  
*Special to the Voyageur*  
TORONTO

Toronto Métis author, Cherie Dimaline, never thought that her first book, “Red Rooms”, would be as successful as it has been.

Dimaline says: “Honestly, I was shocked when my publisher, Theytus Books, called to tell me the book was completely sold out, backlogged in the order department and being reprinted. I had no idea that this little book would get so much traction with the readership it has.”

With *Red Rooms* in its second printing, Cherie says, “it gave me the opportunity to go in and revise those areas that made me cringe after it came out--all the little niggling mistakes and rough patches a writer stays up at night thinking about. It was also a great opportunity to get a foreword by the book’s editor and my mentor, Lee Maracle.”

The characters in *Red Rooms* are all drawn from people, Dimaline knows, she says. “And before people go combing through the pages looking for familiarities and law suits (lol) they are each compilations of the most interesting people I have come across. The inspiration is not hard to find. In the Aboriginal community, there are stories--hilarious and heartbreaking--at every turn. I honestly can’t believe that there are not more Aboriginal writers, which I think speaks to the lack of artistic supports and validation rather than inclination and inspiration.”

The success of *Red Rooms* has opened many doors and given Dimaline more opportuni-



▲ Cherie Dimaline is a Métis writer living in Toronto.

ties than she ever thought possible. “*Red Rooms* has made it around the globe, which always surprises me. I am invited out to speak at colleges and universities around the world and I am always taken aback by the honour. I have also had the great pleasure of speaking to Aboriginal students and high-risk kids. It’s something that I don’t take lightly (even though the stories I pick to read them may be light and funny). Inspiring them, encouraging them and reaching out to them is a big responsibility that I am blessed to have.”

Dimaline has numerous projects on the go at the moment. She has just published in two new McGraw-Hill books destined for high school English

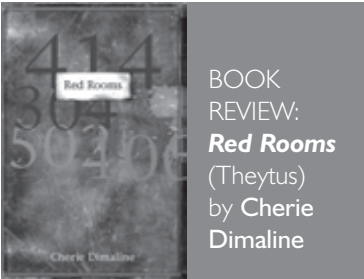
classes. One was in a compilation of Aboriginal works (*Strength and Struggles*) and the second was a story written completely in social networking site updates (iLit). In the spring of 2012, she will have a gothic tale published in a UK anthology and is at work on her next novel which strangely enough involves an obese Chihuahua and a lithopedian (stone baby).

Besides writing, Dimaline is an editor for *Muskrat Magazine*, (www.muskratmagazine.com) and the in-house magazine of the University of Toronto’s First Nations House (www.fnhmagazine.com). “The Girl Who Grew a Galaxy”, is a full length novel about a Métis girl who has manifested an entire universe around her head and

will be published in August, 2012, by Theytus Books. “A Gentle Habit” a book of short stories has just received support from the Canada Council for the Arts and will soon be at the publisher.

Dimaline now has a website (www.cheriedimaline.com) and will be at the Weaving Words Festival in October in British Columbia and at the Aboriginal Writers’ Gathering at Georgian College in October as well, in Barrie Ontario.

Dimaline encourages others who are emerging writers to “write, write, write, and get your work out there. Yes you will be rejected. Yes it will hurt. But yes, eventually you will figure out what needs to be fixed and/or changed, get better and get published.”



*Red Rooms* is a fiction book written by Métis author Cherie Dimaline. First published in 2007, due to its success, it is now in its second printing.

Naomi is a Native chambermaid who works in a mid-sized, busy downtown hotel. She tells stories by imagining the past, present and future of five hotel guests, whom she has observed in the hotel lobby, and through relics left in their rooms. She weaves tales of infatuation, love, infidelity, illness, death and family, into a narrative that has the reader not wanting to put the book down.

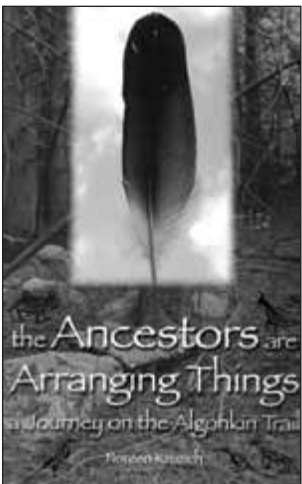
Characters include a young prostitute, and the invasive spirits that surround her, a terminally ill couture collector who is about to end his life, a photographer looking for a home-grown identity in a foreign land, a business-woman who discovers the diary of a jingle dress dancer, and a woman who is emerging from an obsessive affair. They all check into the hotel and their lives play out through the eyes of Naomi and her sharp narrative.

Dimaline says the characters in *Red Rooms* are “compilations of interesting people I have come across.” The stories are amusing and sad, rich in metaphor, and almost poetic in language. Published by Theytus Books, *Red Rooms* was the 2007 winner of the “Fiction Book of the Year Award” and “The Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival and Books Award”.

— Christine McFarlane

“THEIR NAMES SEEMED LOST TO THE HISTORY BOOKS OF CANADA”

# The ancestors are arranging things



BOOK REVIEW:  
**The Ancestors Are Arranging Things: a journey on the Algonkin Trail** (Borealis) by **Noreen Kruzich**

Anyone who has uncovered their Algonkin or Nipissing ancestral roots will find the author’s journey in this new book from Borealis Press, Ottawa, a must read. “I was drawn to write this book after speaking to so many people who were discovering their native ancestral roots, but beyond this I could not believe recorded history had omitted the voices of Algonkin and Nipissing Grand Chiefs, who lived at the time of great change during the height of colonization. Their names seemed lost to the history books of Canada. I couldn’t let that be,” says author Noreen Kruzich, who researched and wrote the entire book on the traditional territory of the Algonkin and Nipissing. Those

historical figures are Grand Algonkin Chief, Pierre Louis Constant Pinesii (1768-1834) his son, Jean Baptiste Kigonz (1793-1879) and Nipissing Chief Francois Kaondinoketch Papineau (1807-54).

“It’s my hope the book will instil a greater understanding and respect for the Algonkin and Nipissing peoples and so too for their ancestral homeland.”

Kruzich chose to bring the past to life through traditional story telling set around a campfire in Mattawa, Ontario, for the first part of her book, and adding conventional academic research. Her circle includes descendents of the chiefs with expanded insight by scholars/academics from the Hudson’s Bay Company, Library

and Archives Canada and other institutions.

William Allen, a well-known archaeologist in and around Algonquin Provincial Park, reviews the book with this message: “With archival documents and a passion for justice as support, Noreen Kruzich takes us on her personal journey. She embraces traditional circle, story and vision to provide a narrative which appeals to mind, heart and soul. By following Chief Constant Pinesi’s mocasin footprint and dip of paddle, and the later journey of his son Kigonz, Kruzich evokes glimpses of some of the language, history, spirit and defining character of the Algonkin and Nipissing people. Along the path she poses penetrating questions which

modern society has not yet answered adequately.”

The book, an historical literary non-fiction, retails for \$19.95 and is available at Chapters (Borealis Book Publishing). Part of the proceeds will go to Algonquin Cultural activities.

For more check Noreen’s website: [www.noreenkruzich.com](http://www.noreenkruzich.com)

*Noreen Kruzich is a writer and teacher, a former television and radio reporter and has taught writing and headed-up the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators in Canada. She is learning the Algonquin language; practices native spirituality; enjoys First Nation celebrations, events, workshops and teachings across Ontario.*



# Métis Warrior - My Son

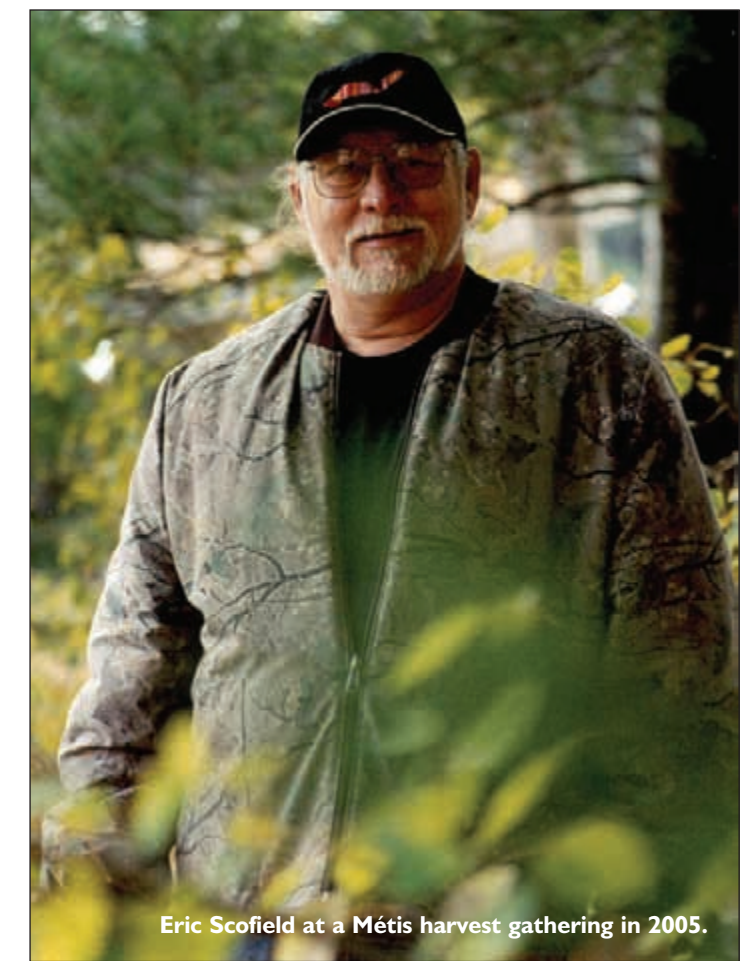
Former PCMNO member Eric Scofield passed away on July 16th, 2011. Eric was the son of Senator Earl Scofield, and served as Region 9 Councillor on the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) and as Captain of the Hunt for Region 9.

“Eric was a firm believer in Métis rights and worked hard to advance our cause. His efforts contributed significantly to the advancement of Métis rights in Ontario and across Canada. He was passionate about the land and loved to hunt and fish. These activities brought him to the Timmins area where he was able to get back to the land. He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends,” said MNO President, Gary Lipinski.

by Senator Earl Scofield

His Métis service started as a council member on the community council of Windsor-Essex/Kent counties, before being elected as president. He was Captain of the Hunt and a certified instructor of gun safety. Eric was then elected Regional Councillor for Region 9 and became a member of the PCMNO. At the AGA he volunteered on the sports committee, primarily on the horse shoe events as well as fund-raising for the fish fry.

His immediate family moved to Connaught, ON, where they were all active in the community. To show his pride in the MNO a flag pole was erected on the busy road at the shoulder. At their home, the



Métis flag flew all year long until two severe storms demolished it. As President of the Windsor Community Council he was successful in obtaining three deer from the cull of the herd at Point Pelee National Park. The meat was shared amongst needy people of the council and for pot luck socials.

Eric and his soul mate Anne, own a cottage at Gibson Lake, near Matheson, ON. From there many a moose hunt took place. He loved to hunt with his sons,

brother, father and friends. He became very good at calling moose, as well as dressing down a moose or bear carcass. He loved to ride his motorcycle or ATV as well, or drive his Dodge truck through the bush to explore the north country. Eric enjoyed fishing--summer or winter--especially at the cottage for splake.

Eric retired from the Chrysler Corporation after 30 years of service. He was a good electrician, well liked by the men he worked with. Some of his friends from work

came to his celebration of life at the Branch Number 12 Legion in Windsor.

While in the hospital, he was called on the phone by the first and former MNO President, Mr. Tony Belcourt, who paid Eric a great tribute. Many friends called him to wish him well and to pay their respects. Eric was first diagnosed with melanoma with a spot on his head the size of a quarter dollar coin. This was removed by surgery, but came back the size of a toonie coin! It was removed again. He continued to fight cancer for 17 years.

Eric could not sit still for long; he was hyper, always busy doing something. He loved to play darts, horse shoes, and work cross-word puzzles. He also enjoyed contacting his friends by e-mail, collecting pictures and information. Eric and Anne loved animals. They had dogs and cats and a variety of bird feeders to feed God's birds as they came in flocks to feast.

The Creator blessed us with 63 years to enjoy Eric's company. Anne had him for 42 years of married life; she knew him the best of all. I enjoyed sharing a can of pork and beans with him-- eating that can of beans with one spoon--while we worked hard transporting our moose out of little Carty Lake near Foleyet, ON.

I will always remember my first born son.

“Eric the Great”, is what I called him when he was born in Timmins in 1948. I hope to see him again in the big happy hunting ground called “heaven”.

Chee Miigwetch, Manitou.

Eva Elma  
1920-2011

The Métis Nation of Ontario and the *Métis Voyageur* would like to express our condolences to Donn Fowler, a frequent contributor to this publication and a respected Métis veteran. Donn's wife of 62 years, Eva Elma (nee Hynes), passed away on July 23rd.

Eva died at the Arbor Heights Long Term Care Residence in Kingston. She was 90 years of age and the mother of Malcolm D. Fowler of Montgomery, Texas. Eva was the sister of Doris Marjorie (McCaw) Parkin of Brockville and is survived by a cousin, Milton Phillips (Doris) of Smiths Falls and a sister-in-law, Shirley I. Hynes of Ottawa.

Eva was predeceased by her parents, John and May (Phillips) Hynes; brother, Donald C. Hynes, all of Brockville; and, a sister, Ruby Mae Fischer, of Pembroke.

Messages of condolence may be sent on-line at: [www.barclayfuneralhome.com](http://www.barclayfuneralhome.com)



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