

MÉTIS VOYAGEUR



After two decades the MNO is still making history



2013 AGA celebrates past achievements while breaking new ground

Story on page 15.



GREEN ENERGY CONTRACTS

The MNO and its investment partners are set to become a long-term owners of commercial-scale solar projects, earning income over a 20-year period while helping generate clean electricity across Ontario.

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A SUMMER OF DISCOVERY

Again this year, MNO Métis Summer Youth Cultural Program students connected with their roots and promoted Métis culture and heritage while also having a great time!

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MNO VETERANS' COUNCIL

"To educate, preserve and remember – MNO veterans and youth tour national war memorials.

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CANOEING THE RIVER CANARD

MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council members share Métis history and culture and enjoy amazing scenery during an excursion on the River Canard.

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THE MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

FALL 2013, NO. 77

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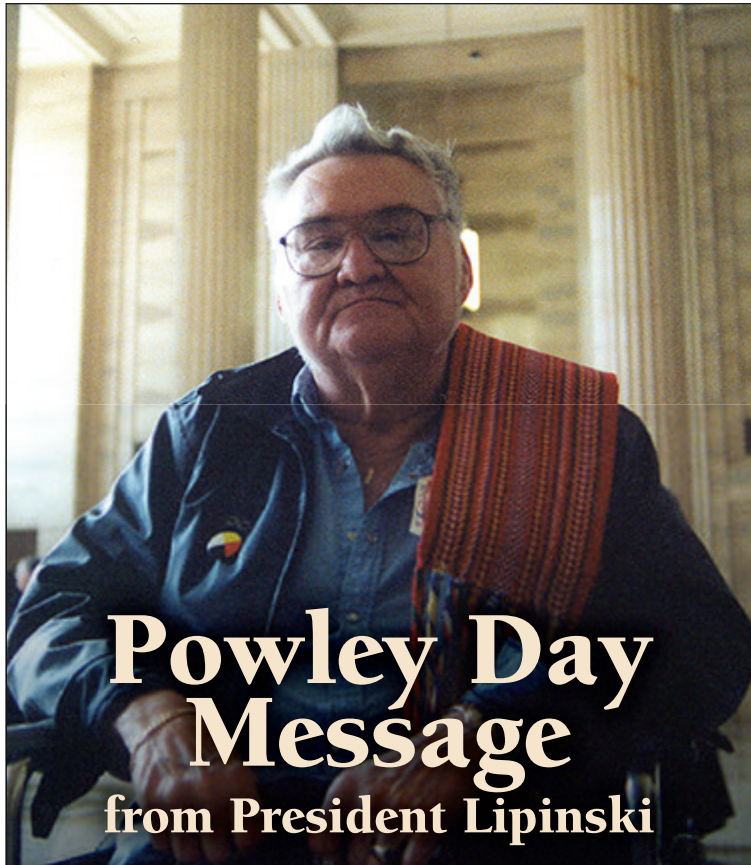
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Submission Policy:

MNO encourages contributions from MNO citizens and staff. All submissions are edited to conform to the Canadian press style guide as well as for grammar, repetitiousness, spelling and to accurately reflect the official names and titles of individuals, organizations, bodies and agencies referenced in submissions.

Excepting letters to the editor and submissions to the family and passages sections, submissions should not be written in the first person. Submissions written in the first person will either be changed to the third person or not published.

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



Powley Day Message from President Lipinski

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDMARK POWLEY DECISION

The following message was issued September 19, 2013,
by MNO President Gary Lipinski.

On September 19, 2003, after ten years of litigation, the Supreme Court of Canada, in an unanimous judgement, declared that Steve and Roddy Powley, members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis community had the Métis right to harvest and that this right is protected under section 35 of *The Constitution Act*, 1982. Because the Powleys had the courage of their convictions, Métis rights were recognized and affirmed by the Supreme Court for the first time.

Every year on September 19, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) holds Powley Day, to recognize that the ground breaking Powley decision ushered in a whole new era of Métis rights in Ontario and across the Métis Homeland. Especially important at

this time of the year, are the Métis harvesting rights, which are now recognized by the Province of Ontario through our harvesting agreement. MNO citizens take time on Powley Day to reflect on the pride that each of us feels when we look at what has been accomplished.

To recognize that 2013 marks the 10th anniversary of the landmark Powley decision, the MNO is holding special commemorations in conjunction with this year's Louis Riel Day ceremonies in Toronto on November 15. Part of this recognition will include a seminar where I will be joined by a panel of distinguished lawyers and scholars who will discuss the significance of the Powley case; past, present and future. It will feature a screening of the final version of *The Métis Nation of Ontario: 1993-2013*, the documentary film about the history of the MNO that also highlights the Powley case. In addition there will be a celebratory feast where those who played important roles in the Powley case are recognized. More information about

these events will be posted on the MNO website in the coming days.

This fall, as you participate in the harvest or in MNO community council events celebrating the harvest season, I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on how the Powley decision has raised the profile of the Métis, and contributed to the recognition of our rights as a distinct Aboriginal people within Canada. The affirmation of the right to harvest is a component critical to the already

rich fabric that defines Métis culture.

It is fair to say that in spite of a tremendous amount of hard work and sacrifice of many Métis, our pursuit for full recognition of Métis rights continues. There is still much work to be done with the province and especially with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) in ensuring

the acceptance of those rights when they are asserted. We will continue to push forward on the priority issues that you have raised with your Captains of the Hunt, your Provisional Council of the MNO (PC-MNO) representative or myself. We will continue to report progress and movement as it occurs, however each of us must do all we can to ensure that the collective rights of Métis to harvest is preserved through responsible management of the Métis harvest in Ontario. The work ahead of us is great and the journey will be long and hard fought. But on September 19, please take a moment to celebrate your Métis culture and heritage and to remember Steve, Rodney and the Powley family for their personal sacrifice and commitment to the ongoing struggle for Métis rights.

Sincerely,
Gary Lipinski, President

ACROSS THE HOMELAND



BRITISH COLUMBIA

MNBC & Parks Canada working together

In September, the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) signed an endorsement with Parks Canada in support of the Jasper Aboriginal Cultural Area – Guidelines for Traditional Use. MNBC represents one for the Aboriginal communities that makes up the Jasper Aboriginal Forum that is working closely with Parks Canada.

Parks Canada and the members of the Jasper Aboriginal Forum are working together to transform an eight hectare section of land in Jasper National Park into the Jasper Aboriginal Cultural Area. The site will provide a space where Aboriginal peoples can gather to reconnect, celebrate, and share. This project will also ensure that the wildlife continues to flourish and traditional practices continue for future generations.

Source: MNBC



ALBERTA

Métis Nation of Alberta receives \$250,000 for health monitoring

A \$250,000 grant from the Government of Alberta — as well as an agreement to share information — will enable the Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) to better monitor the health of Métis living in Alberta. This work will be undertaken by a new public health surveillance unit recently established by the MNA. The unit will work in collaboration with Alberta Health and Wellness.

This initiative will enable information to be compiled about the types of health issues and services being used by Métis and to monitor health trends over time. The confidentiality and privacy of participants will be protected at all times and Alberta Health and Wellness will not disclose personal information.

"This is an important tool that can help us to improve the health of Métis Albertans," said Audrey Poitras, President, Métis Nation of Alberta. "If a need or a concern is identified, we can take immediate steps to address the issue. It also enables us to proactively prevent illness and promote wellness among our members."

Source: Alberta.ca



SASKATCHEWAN

Stolen Métis bell of Batoche returned to Saskatchewan

Bell stolen 128 years ago

The longstanding mystery surrounding the whereabouts of Bell of Batoche was unravelled July 20, as the man who stole it from an Ontario Legion hall in 1991 came forward.

Billyjo Delaronde, a Métis man from Manitoba, shared his story with thousands as he gave the bell back to the Catholic Diocese of Prince Albert.

Cast in solid silver and standing about 30 centimetres tall, the bell is an important cultural relic of Canada's Métis.

The bell was seized from the church in Batoche as a trophy of war by Canadian troops who put down the Northwest Resistance of 1885. It was brought east and eventually ended up in a Royal Canadian Legion hall in Millbrook, Ontario.

In 1991, it was stolen from the Legion by unknown conspirators and wasn't seen publicly until July 20, 2013. Delaronde said he and four Métis accomplices travelled to Millbrook on a "gentleman's dare," determined to get the relic back. (See related story on page 6)

Source: CBC News Saskatchewan



MANITOBA

Land Claims Strategic Investment Committee

The months following the landmark 2013 *MMF v. Canada* ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada regarding a decades-long land claim case, Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) President David Chartrand put together a group of top Canadian business leaders to advise the MMF on all future business and development opportunities in anticipation of the settlement of those claims. The group will advise the MMF on how best to construct a Legacy Fund which will support the aspirations of the Métis people for generations to come.

Members of the Land Claims Strategic Investment Committee include the Right Honourable Paul Martin, Mr. Hartley Richardson, Mr. Sanford Riley, Mr. Harvey Selter and Dr. Eric Newell.

Source: MMF

NATION

MNO wins major green energy contracts

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), together with its investment partners, announced on August 22 that it is set to become a long-term owner of commercial-scale solar projects, earning income over a 20-year period while helping generate clean electricity across the province.

As Ontario's clean energy economy continues to grow the Ontario Power Authority (OPA) offered 951 new Small Feed-in Tariff (FIT) renewable energy contracts. These contracts represent enough megawatts to power more than 21,000 homes. OPA published a list of new renewable energy projects to be offered contracts in response to the province's recent call for applications sized up to 500 Kilowatts (KW) each. This list is available at www.fit.powerauthority.on.ca.

MNO – BrightRoof Solar Limited Partnership was formed between MNO Solar Inc. and BrightRoof Solar. It will be offered contracts for 36 FIT projects, with a combined generating capacity of approximately 8 MW AC. As well, the partnership has a minority interest in a series of projects, with a combined generating capacity of approximately 7 MW AC, which will be also offered

contracts.

"One of the Métis Nation's long-term goals is to be able to generate enough green energy for Ontario's electric system to meet the needs of every Métis household in the province," said MNO President Gary Lipinski. "This announcement puts

us on the path to achieving this goal, while also creating training opportunities, jobs and wealth for Métis communities in the province."

"Ontario is committed to building a clean, modern and reliable electricity grid," said Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy. "This partnership is a significant opportunity for the Métis Nation of Ontario to become active participants in the province's clean energy future while creating sustainable economic development in their communities."

"Today's announcement marks the next step in what is already very strong and productive relationship

One of the Métis Nation's long-term goals is to be able to generate enough green energy for Ontario's electric system to meet the needs of every Métis household in the province..."

— MNO President Gary Lipinski



▲ MNO President Gary Lipinski with Hon. Bob Chiarelli, Minister of Energy.

with the MNO," said David Oxtoby, a director of BrightRoof Solar LP, after the announcement. "We look forward to working together to ensure that the portfolio of solar assets is well designed, well-constructed and well maintained over the 20-year operating life of the projects."

"On behalf of the Métis Nation, I want to thank the Ontario Government as well as our partner BrightRoof Solar LP for working with us to enable the Métis to play an important role in building this province's green energy economy," concluded President Lipinski. ∞

Ontario Power Authority offered 951 new Small FIT renewable energy contracts. These contracts represent enough megawatts to power more than 21,000 homes. Métis Nation of Ontario - BrightRoof Solar LP, a limited partnership formed between the MNO Solar Inc. and BrightRoof Solar, will be offered contracts for 36 FIT projects.



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MNO hosts Children & Youth officials at Midland office

Over the next 18 months, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) will be working with the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) on the development of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy. As part of this partnership, representatives from the MCYS met with the MNO at the Midland office on July 17, 2013 for an overview of community projects and programs in the area.

MNO management in attendance were: Doug Wilson, Chief Operating Officer; Wenda Watteyne, Director of Healing and Wellness; Jennifer St. Germain, Director of Education and Training; and Scott Carpenter, Manager of Projects and Partnerships. MNO Senator Audrey Vallee and Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Region Seven Councillor Pauline Saulnier were also in attendance.

Ministry representatives included: Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic Policy & Planning Division; Stephanie

Prosen, Manager of Aboriginal Strategy Unit; and Ashley Collins, Senior Policy Advisor.

The MNO presented the Ministry with an overview of MNO programs and services provided through the MNO Midland office. This included information in the areas of healing and wellness, education and training and lands, resources and consultations. Presentations featured perspectives from MNO front-line staff; this was followed by an open dialogue with the Assistant Deputy Minister.


Ministry representative were also introduced to Métis culture and heritage. MNO Summer Cultural Students Alexandra Dusome, Katelyn LaCroix and Justin Blondin facilitated a beading circle, finger weaving lessons, live fiddle music and jigging lessons. Everyone enjoyed a traditional Métis feast.

The MNO would like to thank the Ministry and the Government of Ontario for partnering with the MNO in the development of a multi-year Children and Youth Strategy. ∞




▲ Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) officials with MNO staff at the MNO Midland office. (Left to right) Back row: **Wenda Watteyne**, MNO Director of Healing and Wellness; **Jo-Anne Parent**, MNO Regional Employment & Training Coordinator; **Lorraine Mountney**, MNO Community Support Services Coordinator; **Stephanie Prosen**, MCYS Manager of Aboriginal Strategy Unit; **Darryl Sturtevant**, MCYS Assistant Deputy Minister of Strategic Policy & Planning Division; **Tera Lynn Copegog**, MNO Community Wellness; **Debbie Ferris-Giamattolla**, MNO Community Support Services/Aging at Home Coordinator; and **Alden Barty**, MNO Consultation Assessment Coordinator. Front row: **Shirley Dorion**, MNO Aging at Home; **Jodi Blue**, Healthy Weights Connections Coordinator; **Tracy Bald**, Community Wellness; **Mary Mackie**, MNO Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children; **MNO Senator Audrey Vallee**; and **Ashley Collins**, MCYS Senior Policy Advisor.





Innovation at work

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MNO well represented at Métis & Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable

FOCUS ON ABORIGINAL CHILD & YOUTH STRATEGY



▲ (left to right) **The Hon. Teresa Piruzza**, Minister of Children and Youth Services; **Sheila McMahon**, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres; **MNO President Gary Lipinski**; **Dr. Dawn Harvard**, Ontario Native Women's Association; and the **Hon. David Zimmer**, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

On June 10, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski and Chair France Picotte represented the MNO at the Métis and Urban Aboriginal Leadership Roundtable in Toronto with the Honourable Teresa Piruzza, Minister of Children and Youth Services and the Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The purpose of the meeting was to launch discussions with Métis and Urban Aboriginal leaders regarding the creation of an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy.

The meeting presented an opportunity for Minister Piruzza and Minister Zimmer to hear about key priorities from Aboriginal partners.

MNO Chief Operating Officer Doug Wil-

son, Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne and Healing and Wellness Manager Shelly Gonneville were also in attendance.

Along with the MNO, Aboriginal partners represented were the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and the Ontario Native Women's Association.

Outcomes of the meeting included endorsement of the proposed 18-month engagement approach on developing an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy in Ontario. Aboriginal partners expressed a desire to have a formal written commitment by the Ministers on the development and implementation beyond the 18 months on an Aboriginal Children and Youth Strategy to advance opportunities for Métis, First Nation and Inuit in Ontario. ∞

CANADIAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

MNO demonstrates leadership at national health conference

From June 10-11, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff made three presentations on MNO's ground-breaking Chronic Disease Surveillance Project (CDSP) at the 2013 Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Annual Conference in Ottawa.

MNO representatives were among 900 delegates from health bodies from across Canada attending this prestigious conference. It was important that the MNO had a strong presence at the CPHA conference because all the key decision makers and stakeholders in Canadian public health attended the event. The MNO's goals were to increase awareness of the health issues encountered by Métis and demonstrate that the MNO is the leader in seeking solutions to address these issues. The MNO was able to present at the conference because a strong proposal submitted by MNO staff demonstrated the value of the MNO's work in CDSP.

A first of its kind in Ontario, CDSP is a health surveillance initiative being spearheaded by the MNO that focuses on gathering Métis specific data on health and health care, specifically in the area of chronic disease. Part of the project includes population based studies to determine the rate of chronic disease in Métis people in Ontario as well as outcomes from healthcare.

The MNO was approached by the Public Health Association of Canada to conduct this Métis specific research due to MNO's reputable Registry. The studies are in partnership with the Public Health Association of Canada (funders); the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), a government supported scientific research institute dedicated to understanding illness rates and treatment outcomes; the University of Toronto; and the University of Waterloo.

Panel members included MNO Director of Healing and Wellness Wenda Watteyne, MNO Senior Policy and Research Analyst Storm J. Russell, MNO CDSP Research Coordinator Yvon Allard; Saba Khan of ICES; David Henry of ICES; Martin Cooke of the University of Waterloo; and Clare Atzema of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

The workshop, based on the method of collection and approaches for CDSP, provided participants with applied knowledge and skills to support more effective public health research and interventions with 'at risk' Métis populations, using 'best practice' research examples that are contributing substantially to building the

current knowledge of Métis public health issues.

Along with the workshop, two presentations were held on different aspects of CDSP by MNO staff Russell and Allard.

Russell presented MNO's research on mental health related illnesses among Ontario Métis entitled *Mental Illness and Addictions in the Métis Population of Ontario*. In this presentation, she provided an overview of the project as well as the findings thus far.

MNO's research in this field is critical for first steps to further understanding the underlying issues affecting the Métis people in Ontario.

Allard presented MNO's research entitled *Burden of Chronic Respiratory Disease in the Métis Population in Ontario*. This landmark research represents the first population based study of respiratory disease among Métis of Ontario. The research focused on rates of adult asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer in approximately 14,000 Métis citizens in Ontario by linking health related data from four provincial databases

with the MNO citizenship Registry data.

While the public health challenges among Indigenous populations in Canada are widely recognized there are important gaps in the current knowledge of how best to design and implement public health research and interventions to maximize their effectiveness in improving public health outcomes in Métis, First Nations and Inuit populations. This is especially true of Métis populations where the data are significantly lacking, largely because Métis cultural identity information is not routinely collected in population and public health research, despite the large and growing numbers of Métis in Canada.

MNO's research in this field is critical for first steps to further understanding the underlying issues affecting the Métis people in Ontario. The findings will be useful in allowing the MNO to determine the health priorities of Métis people in Ontario as well as to develop and deliver health programs tailored to their specific needs.



▲ MNO CPHA workshop panel members (left to right) Storm Russell, Wenda Watteyne, David Henry, Clare Atzema, Saba Khan, Martin Cooke and Yvon Allard.

By making CPHA delegates more aware of the issues facing Métis and of the MNO's leading role in addressing these issues, it is hoped the decision makers will provide additional and new supports for the MNO in its efforts to improve the health of Métis people. ∞



▲ As part of the CPHA Conference, MNO Senator Lois McCallum starts off the MNO presentation "Understanding and Enhancing Métis Public Health Using Participatory Action Research" by reciting the MNO Statement of Prime Purpose.

To view the research findings or for more information visit: <http://bit.ly/17JVJ7f>

Research focused on
14,000
MÉTIS CITIZENS
in Ontario

The research focused on rates of adult asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and lung cancer in approximately 14,000 Métis citizens in Ontario by linking health related data from four provincial databases with the MNO Citizenship Registry data.



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TD celebrates the 20th anniversary of the MNO Annual General Assembly

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Métis to appeal harvesting case

TEN YEARS AFTER LANDMARK POWLEY DECISION ALBERTA MÉTIS STILL "HUNT FOR JUSTICE"

On July 4 the Alberta Court of Appeal refused to overturn the conviction of Métis harvester Garry Hirsekorn for hunting in the Cypress Hills in 2007. The case *R. v. Hirsekorn* is a harvesting rights "test case" for Alberta Métis as a part of the Métis Nation of Alberta's ("MNA") ongoing "hunt for justice" in the courts.

MNA President Audrey Poitras stated, "While we are disappointed with today's decision, we are not deterred. Similar to the Manitoba Metis Federation land claim case, which suffered multiple losses in the Manitoba courts but was ultimately successful before the Supreme Court of Canada, we believe we will ultimately have our constitutional rights recognized and affirmed."

"Our people are committed to seeing this case through to the end, so we have now instructed our lawyers to ask the Supreme Court of Canada to hear this case that is important to the entire Métis Nation. It's also timely that on the ten year anniversary of the Supreme Court of Canada's release of the landmark Powley decision, the Métis Nation will be back before the highest court of the land asking for the promise of s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to be given meaning for Métis on the Prairies," said President Poitras.

MNA Legal Counsel Jason Madden said, "We don't believe this Alberta decision can be reconciled with how the Powley case has been applied in other jurisdictions such as Manitoba and Saskatchewan. We believe the Supreme Court of Canada needs to address the perverse way in which the Alberta courts have essentially used the Powley test against the Métis on the Prairies."

Madden added, "The Court of Appeal's decision that the most well-known face of the Métis Nation, the Métis buffalo hunters of the Plains, don't have harvesting rights on those Plains undermines the promise of s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* to the Métis. We believe this is case of significant importance in the development of Métis jurisprudence."

BACKGROUNDER ON HIRSEKORN CASE

R. v. Hirsekorn is the result of the Alberta Government's cancellation of the Interim Métis Harvesting Agreement (IMHA) in July 2007.

In September 2004, the pre-

vious Klein Government executed the IMHA with the Métis Nation of Alberta in order to implement the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Powley* in Alberta. The IMHA remained in place for over 2 ½ years until Ted Morton, then Minister for Sustainable Resource Development, cancelled the IMHA and implemented a unilateral and regressive policy that denies Métis harvesting rights in

Our people are committed to seeing this case through to the end... this case that is important to the entire Métis Nation..."

— MNA President Audrey Poitras

much of central Alberta and all of southern Alberta.

In August 2007, Alberta Métis rejected Ted Morton's policy and unanimously passed their own Métis harvesting rights action plan and harvesting policy. Métis community hunts were organized and held across Alberta in the Fall of 2007. The current trial involves a Métis harvester who participated in those community hunts (Garry Hirsekorn) in southeastern Alberta.

This trial in southeastern Alberta is to act as a "test case" for the entire province, since there are over 25 other Métis harvesters charged across the province and Métis continue to reject Alberta's current harvesting policy. The issues raised in the appeal will also determine whether Alberta's current policy and interpretation of the Powley case is correct.

In this test case, Mr. Hirsekorn is arguing that there is a historic rights-bearing Métis community called the Métis of the Northwest and that he is a member of a modern day Métis community that spans southern and central Alberta and extends into northern Alberta and other parts of the modern day Métis Nation, which is the continuation of the Métis of the Northwest. Mr. Hirsekorn asserts this contemporary Métis community possesses food harvesting rights that are protected by s. 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

Additional information is available at www.albertametis.com. See a related story on page 10. ∞

President Lipinski attends MNBC Annual General Meeting

Photo credit: Angel Fisher

From September 28-30, the Métis Nation of British Columbia (MNBC) held their 16th Annual General Meeting in Richmond, British Columbia.

As is tradition, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski was among the invited dignities that attended and provided welcoming remarks.

One of the highlights of meeting was the first ringing of the Marie Antoinette "the Bell of Batoche" in British Columbia. MNBC Regional Director Marilyn Taylor, a direct descendant of the Caron's and Fayant's of Batoche was selected to be the first Métis citizen in British Columbia to ring Marie. ∞



▲ MNBC Annual General Meeting delegates with the Bell of Batoche. (Left to right) MNO President Gary Lipinski, "Keeper of the Bell" Billyjo Delaronde, MNA Vice President Toby Racette, MNBC citizen Sadie Lukan, MNA President Audrey Poitras, MNBC President Bruce Dumont, and North Island Métis Nation Community President Michael Dumont.



◀ MNO President Lipinski providing MNBC President Bruce Dumont with the gift of a MNO Hudson Bay blanket after providing welcoming remarks at the MNBC AGM.



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MNO leaders predict new northern law school will advance Métis people and communities

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is one of the partners in Ontario's first new Faculty of Law in 44 years that officially opened its doors September 4 at Thunder Bay's Lakehead University.

MNO President Gary Lipinski, MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile (who also serves on the Lakehead University Board of Governors) and Senator Bob McKay were among the dignitaries present that also included Premier Kathleen Wynne, Minister of Northern Development and Mines Michael Gravelle and Member of the Provincial Parliament of Thunder Bay-Atikokan Bill Mauro. The new law school was launched with a large ribbon cutting ceremony at Lakehead's Port Arthur Collegiate Institute (PACI), home to the University's newest Faculty, in front of an audience that included the school's first cohort of 60 students. President Lipinski was among the guests who brought greetings during the ceremony.

The new law school will serve the communities in Northern Ontario and smaller centres throughout Canada and will focus on Aboriginal law and understanding Aboriginal issues, the needs of small practitioners and natural resources law.

"The new law school is exciting news for Métis people and communities," stated President Lipinski, "it will mean new opportunities for Métis and other Aboriginal young people that will break down some of the obstacles they face when pursuing post-secondary education. It means Métis youth will have more chances to become lawyers and Métis lawyers will be able to serve their communities."

"The new law school is exciting news for Métis people and communities, it will mean new opportunities for Métis and other Aboriginal young people"

— President Lipinski

The MNO's partnership with the Lakehead University Faculty of Law is another example of the success of the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and the subsequent Memorandum of Understanding between the MNO and the Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities. "The MOU the MNO and Lakehead University signed in 2011," explained President Lipinski, "was possible due to the Framework Agreement and laid the groundwork to the MNO's involvement in the new Faculty of Law."

In July 2011, Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) committed to support Lakehead University's Faculty of



▲ MNO President Lipinski participating in opening of new Faculty of Law at Lakehead University. (Left to right) Natural Resources Minister Michael Gravelle, President Lipinski, Premier Kathleen Wynne, Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy.

Law. The MTCU fully funded the Faculty of Law with a \$1.5 million investment for capital improvements made to the historic PACI building in Thunder Bay where the Faculty of Law is housed. "The Province of Ontario is making a good investment in this law school," concluded President Lipinski, "one that will pay dividends long into the future by realizing enormous positive intergenerational effects." ∞



▲ (Left to right) Minister Gravelle, President Lipinski, Lakehead University President Brian Stevenson and Member of the Provincial Parliament Bill Mauro (pictures courtesy of Lakehead University).

President Lipinski meets with Minister of Training, Colleges & Universities

On May 30, 2013, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) President Gary Lipinski had a cordial and productive meeting with the Honourable Brad Duguid, the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in the government of Premier Kathleen Wynne.

Minister Duguid is very familiar with the MNO having previously served as Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, and during his tenure in that position he signed the historic MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. The Framework Agreement

was signed in 2008 and Minister Duguid indicated that the government is committed to renewing the agreement and continuing the positive working relationship with the MNO that was established with the Agreement.

In the meeting, President Lipinski updated Minister Duguid on the strength of the MNO's current employment and training delivery structure and the MNO's success in delivering job training that is having positive impacts on both Métis people and the overall Ontario economy. President Lipinski

"It is very important that we provide every opportunity for young Métis to become all they can be."

— President Lipinski



▲ MNO President Lipinski with the Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities on May 30.

stressed that in light of statistics that show that the Métis population in the province is continuing to grow, it is increasingly important the MNO receive funds and support to build on its successes.

President Lipinski also explained

the MNO's children and youth priority that has been a major focus of MNO efforts since the 2012 Annual General Assembly. "It is very important," stated President Lipinski, "that we provide every opportunity for young Métis to become all they can be." ∞

MNO AND RAINY RIVER RESOURCES SIGN MOU

Relationship-building key for Duty to Consult

(TORONTO, July 10, 2013) - The Métis Nation of Ontario ("MNO") and Rainy River Resources Ltd. ("Rainy River" or the "Company" (RR. TSX)) are pleased to announce that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") to guide their working relationship in regard to the development of the Rainy River Gold Project in the Township of Chapple, approximately 65 kilometers northwest of Fort Frances, Ontario.

"The MNO is pleased with the positive relationship-building efforts that Rainy River has demonstrated by signing this agreement," stated MNO President Gary Lipinski. "We developed this MOU collaboratively to guide engagement and consultation with the regional rights-bearing Métis communities in the Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy Lake traditional territories. I am pleased that the MNO was able to foster a strong foundation upon which consultation and accommodation can take place with Rainy River and I applaud Rainy River's efforts in working with the Métis Nation. This initial agreement represents a milestone in our continuing working relationship with the Company."

Raymond Threlkeld, President and CEO of Rainy River Resources Ltd. added: "We are delighted to have reached this milestone agreement with the Métis Nation

of Ontario. We thank the MNO for working in collaboration and consultation with us to develop this strong foundation for continued partnership."

The MOU lays out the way in which the local Métis community, as represented by the MNO's Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy Lake Regional Consultation Committee and the MNO Community Councils that are part of the committee, will be consulted regarding the development of the project. It also provides details about how the parties will work together to address potential impacts on Métis' rights, interests and way of life.

MNO Regional Councilor Theresa Stenlund, Chair of the Region One Consultation Committee commented: "Our regional Métis community would like to acknowledge Rainy River Resources in working with the Treaty #3/Lake of the Woods/Lac Seul/Rainy River/Rainy

Lake Consultation Committee. Through this MOU, the MNO will continue to strengthen its relationship with Rainy River while protecting our traditional values and way of life."

Subject to the project impacts on Métis rights and interests (if identified through the consultation process), the parties also agreed to negotiate an Impact Benefit Agreement ("IBA") based on the goals and objectives of the MOU.

ABOUT RAINY RIVER

Rainy River Resources Ltd. is a Canadian precious metals exploration company whose key asset is the Rainy River Gold Project, a large gold system centred in Richardson Township (part of Chapple Township). As at March 31, 2013, the Company had approximately \$90 million in cash and cash equivalents, and it remains well funded for its ongoing activities, including: 1) commencement of basic and detailed engineering work and ongoing permitting and environmental assessment work; 2) continuing to grow the existing resource through exploration; 3) conducting a condemnation program in areas identified for potential mine facilities. RRG is very well located in Northwestern Ontario. It is accessed by a network of roads and is close to hydro-electric infrastructure. The Rainy River district has a skilled labour force and is one of the lowest-cost areas for mineral exploration and development in Canada. Ontario has low political risk and, according to the annual Fraser Institute global survey of the mining industry, has consistently ranked as one of the top jurisdictions embracing mineral development. ∞

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This release includes certain statements that may be deemed to be "forward-looking statements". All statements in this release, other than statements of historical facts, that address events or developments that management of the Company expects, are forward-looking statements. These statements include the possible conversion of inferred resources into higher confidence categories of resources. Although management believes the expectations expressed in such forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such statements are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results or developments may differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to update these forward-looking statements if management's beliefs, estimates or opinions, or other factors, should change. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in forward-looking statements, include market prices, exploration and development successes, continued availability of capital and financing, and general economic, market or business conditions. Please see the public filings of the Company at www.sedar.com for further information.



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▲ MNO Consultation Committees touring proposed site for new OPG project. (Left to right) Region 2 Captain of the Hunt Ken Simard, William “Torch” Gordon, MNO staff member Kevin Muloin, Heather Brown, PCMNO Region 2 Councillor Cameron Burgess, Gerry Adams, MNO Thunder Bay Métis Council President Jean Camirand, MNO Superior North Shore Métis Council President Trent Desaulnier and Joe Heil.

MNO Consultation Committee tours proposed OPG Hydro Electric project

Submitted by: **James Wagar,**
MNO Consultation Assessment Coordinator

Building relationships with proponents requires ongoing work and learning about the companies that MNO partners with. Part of this important work is made possible by Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Consultation Committees.

Recently, the MNO Lakehead/Nipigon/Michip-

icoten Consultation Committees, along with Métis knowledge holders and Métis commercial fisherman, toured the Ontario Power Generation (OPG) proposed site for the Little Jackfish River Hydro Electric project.

The committees work in collaboration with MNO staff to ensure inclusive, transparent and meaningful Métis consultation and accommodation processes are in place. ∞

Appointment of new Veterans’ Senator

Submitted by: **Joseph Paquette,**
President of the MNO Veterans’ Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans’ Council Executive has appointed Dr. Alis Kennedy CD, OMC, to the position of Veterans’ Senator.

Veteran, Senator Dr. Kennedy brings a wealth of experience to the council. She has served as a MNO Senator for the MNO Credit River Métis Council and the MNO Toronto and York Region Métis Council for several years. Being very active in her home community of Toronto, she also sits on several local, provincial and national committees and is a member of a local branch of the Royal Canadian Legion.

The swearing in ceremony took place at the MNO Veterans’ Council meeting held in Ajax on June 30, 2013.

The MNO Veterans’ Council welcomes Senator, Veteran Dr. Kennedy CD, OMC, to her new position with the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans Council. ∞



▲ Swearing in Ceremony of new Veterans’ Senator. (Left to right) MNO Veterans’ Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC and President Joseph Paquette.

TORONTO 2015 Games

ParaPan Am TORONTO 2015

MNO SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ORGANIZERS

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee (TO2015) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding Métis participation in the largest multi-sport games Canada has ever hosted.

The MOU outlines how the MNO and its citizens will participate and be recognized in the games, including: appropriate dignitary recognition, access to economic development opportunities and involvement in torch relays and the TORONTO 2015 Arts and Culture Festival, presented by CIBC.

“We’re delighted to work with the Métis Nation of Ontario and its leadership to ensure our games are inclusive and respectful of the Métis people,” said Ian Troop, TO2015 Chief Executive Officer. “MNO President Gary Lipinski and the Métis Nation have been tremendously supportive of our efforts since we first met at the 2011 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in Guadalajara.”

MNO President Gary Lipinski added: “The Métis people of Ontario look forward to welcoming athletes and other visitors from the Americas and the Caribbean to the games and sharing our unique history and culture with them. The TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games are a once-in-lifetime opportunity for all of us here in Ontario to come together, celebrate and share our diversity, culture and dreams.”

In January 2012, TO2015 officially launched its 14 Aboriginal Leadership Partners, drawn from the games’ Host Region, which includes the MNO.

The group, which is comprised of key Aboriginal leaders, communities and organizations, will drive planning, engagement and communications efforts between TO2015 and the Aboriginal community to deliver successful games. The partners will create an engagement strategy for economic development, volunteer recruitment, arts and culture, as well as youth engagement.

TO2015 is also pursuing similar MOUs with the Six Nations of the Grand River and the Mississaugas of New Credit First Nation.

“We are pleased to see the Métis Nation of Ontario and the TORONTO 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games Organizing Committee working together to ensure that the Métis and First Nations peoples are playing key roles in the ‘People’s Games’,” said the Honourable Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport).

“As Ontario prepares to welcome athletes and spectators from the Americas and Caribbean for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games, it is essential that Aboriginal peoples and their culture are celebrated and showcased as Ontario hosts this once-in-a-lifetime event,” said Michael Chan, Ontario Minister Responsible for the 2015 Pan and Parapan American Games.

About TO2015

The wwOrganizing Committee (TO2015) is tasked with the responsibility of planning, managing and delivering the Games. Its mission is to ignite the spirit through a celebration of sport and culture. The TORONTO 2015 Pan American Games will take place July 10–26 and the Parapan American Games August 7–14.

The 2015 Games are funded by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, as well as other partners and sponsors. CIBC is the lead partner of the games.

For more information about the Games, please visit TORONTO2015.org



◀ MNO Infinite Reach facilitators, MNO staff and MNO community members at the University of Ottawa. (Left to right) front row: **Wanda Botsford, MNO Education Officer; Chantal Cote, MNO Educational Analyst/Officer; Sahra Maclean, Carleton University; Brianne Gosselin, Hearst University; Tegan Mandeville, Loyalist College; Senator Lois McCallum; and Senator Roland St. Germain.** Second row: **Sheila Grantham, MNO Education Officer; Nikki Doucette, Sault College; Christine Skura, Ryerson University; Alicia Blore, University of Waterloo; Marie-Louise Lariviere, Wilfrid Laurier University; Kian Connor, Laurentian University.** Third row: **Mitch Case, Algoma/Shingwauk University; Katelyn Lacroix, Wilfrid Laurier University; Jesse LaFleur, Seneca College; Jessica Maclean, University of Toronto; Kailyn Wilson, Lakehead University; and Melody Chislett-Morris, Sault College.** Back row: **Mathew Lafreniere, University of Ottawa; Elijah Cardarette, St. Clair College; Brad Lafortune, University of Ottawa; Tera Beaulieu, University of Toronto; Kevin King, University of Guelph; and Jesse Donovan, University of Toronto.**

Back to school Métis style

From September 13-15, Métis post-secondary students from across the province assembled in Ottawa for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Infinite Reach Facilitator orientation session.

New and returning Infinite Reach Facilitators were given a three-day orientation session to familiarize themselves with the MNO, the MNO Infinite Reach Program, go over the facilitator manual, code of conduct and tips to prepare themselves for the new fall semester at their respective institutions.

As part of the orientation, students were given tours of the three Ottawa post-secondary institutions: Carleton University, Algonquin College and the University of Ottawa. Each school provided a representative who guided the tour and shared the different services provided to Aboriginal students. The tour of the University of Ottawa was provided by one of the schools MNO

Infinite Reach Facilitators, Brad Lafortune who added a facilitator perspective to the tour. MNO staff, some local Métis youth and Senators Lois McCallum and Roland St. Germain also attended the orientation.

Cultural activities and a feast were enjoyed on the Saturday evening. Jaime Koebe provided a jigging workshop and Alicia Blore played traditional Métis fiddle music. Some of the youth in attendance had participated in the MNO Summer Youth Cultural Program from this past summer and showcased their dancing skills and shared their experience in the program with the other students. The feast was a great bonding experience for the students as well as a great opportunity for new facilitators to meet and chat with senior facilitators.

To thank them for their time as volunteers, students were given MNO swag which included a MNO travel bag, a MNO Infinite Reach Network shirt, a stapler, pen and MNO padfolio.

Infinite Reach

The MNO Infinite Reach program is comprised of incoming and upper year postsecondary students who have the common goal of working together to enrich and enhance their postsecondary education experience. Members form a community of Métis learners within their college or university and support each other in their academic pursuits. Infinite Reach facilitators are upper year students who can offer assistance to incoming students by helping them adjust to university life. Infinite Reach facilitators also

work to create and maintain a sense of community among Métis students. Throughout the year Infinite Reach facilitators will host/facilitate cultural and informative events to connect students to the local Métis Nation of Ontario community councils and to the various programs, services and events of the MNO. The MNO Infinite Reach: Métis Student Solidarity Network will serve as a community of learners with the ability to inspire Métis students to achieve their full potential and provide the support of the Métis community.

POWLEY TEST ‘INCOMPREHENSIBLE AND INACCESSIBLE’ TO PRAIRIE MÉTIS

Alberta Métis ask Supreme Court to hear harvesting rights test case

(See related story on page 6)

Edmonton, AB (September 30, 2013) – Ten years to the month after the Supreme Court of Canada released its landmark decision on Métis harvesting rights in *R. v. Powley*, Alberta Métis are asking the high court to once again turn its attention to the issue of Métis harvesting rights. This time the test case *R. v. Hirsekorn* is about how to apply the Supreme Court’s test in *Powley* to the descendants of the well-known Métis buffalo hunters of the plains.

The *Powley* case dealt with the Sault Ste Marie Métis community on the Upper Great Lakes, who largely lived at the same settlement and hunted in the environs of that location. The *Hirsekorn* case deals with the Métis buffalo hunters who maintained a nomadic lifestyle following a migratory herd across the prairies and who rarely or never returning to an established settlement. The key question in the case is: does the *Powley* test need to be modified or is it flexible enough to fulfill the promise of s. 35 of the *Constitution*

Act, 1982 to the prairie Métis?

Since 2003, courts of the prairies have struggled to apply the *Powley* test to the prairie Métis. Notably, in Mr. Hirsekorn’s case, each level of court in Alberta re-interpreted and re-applied the *Powley* test differently than the court below. This legal uncertainty is compounded by conflicting court decisions in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta that cannot be reconciled. In one situation, a Métis fishing right is recognized by the Manitoba courts and the Manitoba government on one side of a lake, with a Saskatchewan court denying any Métis fishing right on the west side of the same lake.

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras said, “Our people do not believe that the recognition of our harvesting rights should be dependent on political whim or whether we are before a judge that decides to apply the *Powley* test in a flexible manner.”

“Constitutional rights should not be dealt with in such an arbitrary manner. The current situation results in the promise of s. 35 to the

prairie Métis being incomprehensible and inaccessible to our people on-the-ground. We believe guidance from the Supreme Court is needed to avoid injustice,” added President Poitras.

Jason Madden, Legal Counsel for Mr. Hirsekorn and the MNA, added, “It’s perverse that the test the Supreme Court established to ‘recognize and affirm’ the rights of different Métis groups is now being used to deny the rights of one of the best-known faces of the Métis Nation in Canada the descendants of the buffalo hunters of the plains but the prairie courts are saying *Powley* ‘ties their hands.’”

“We believe the Supreme Court will want to provide clarity and guidance on this important legal issue in order to ensure the promise of s. 35 to the largest Métis population in Canada the prairie Métis is not rendered meaningless courts by rigidity of form triumphing over substance.”

Additional information and a copy of the Application for Leave to Appeal in the *Hirsekorn* case is available at www.albertametis.com.

Residential Schools

THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL’S STATEMENT

Vancouver, BC – (September 22, 2013) With the second last national event of the The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) now concluded, and the last one being scheduled for March 2014 in Alberta, Métis National Council (MNC) President Chartier calls upon the federal government to reconsider its position with respect to Métis boarding/residential schools and include such excluded schools in the reconciliation process.

“If the federal government continues to exclude Métis residential schools from the reconciliation process including the government’s apology and settlement agreement, a stain will remain in its efforts to correct its past racist assimilation efforts” stated President Chartier, concluding that “if all Aboriginal peoples are not included in the reconciliation initiative, then it will ultimately remain as incomplete and exclusionary”.

President Chartier also calls upon the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to carefully craft its final report to ensure that it does not inadvertently leave the impression that Métis residential schools were part of the reconciliation effort under their mandate, while at the same time making note that a small number of Métis were fortunate to have attended an Indian residential school and were therefore included in the process.

“The work of the TRC is both important and critical to the evolving relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canada” stated President Chartier, re-affirming that “in the case of the Métis Nation and the exclusion of Métis residential schools, the TRC must be extremely vigilant in its conclusions that this issue must be addressed head-on, with a direct statement that such residential schools were excluded, and that the federal government must work positively to rectify this exclusion”.

While attending parts of the TRC event in Vancouver, President Chartier also noted the need for sustained work with those former students covered by the settlement agreement and mandate of the TRC and calls upon the federal government to continue its support for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, the Healing Centres and the TRC itself.

Welcome Aboard

MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF THE MNO TEAM



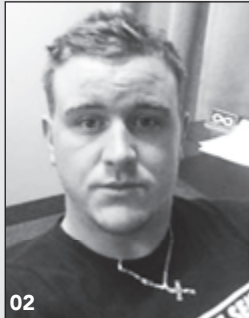
01: WANDA BOTSFORD

Submitted by: **Jennifer St. Germain,**
Director of Education and Training

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Wanda Botsford to the Fort Frances MNO office in the position of Education Officer.

Wanda has been very active with the MNO Sunset Country Métis Council in Fort Frances where she generated great enthusiasm for Council projects and activities.

In her new position she will focus on K-12 education. She has a passion for telling stories about Métis ancestors and reinvigorating Métis culture, closing learning gaps, creating positive school environments and building partnerships.



02: SCOTT FRANCE

Submitted by: **Jennifer St. Germain,**
Director of Education and Training

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Scott France to the Hamilton MNO office in the position of Employment Developer.

Scott France has been actively involved with the Métis Nation of Ontario for many years. He has been a staple at past MNO Annual General Assembly's working in various capacities including being actively involved in demonstrating the Métis Voyageur games.

In Scott's new position as an Employment Developer in Region 9 he will bring his longstanding connection to the Métis community and his understanding of the importance of experiential life-long learning to his work with clients and employers.

03: MARK BURNS

Submitted by: **Jennifer St. Germain,**
Director of Education and Training

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Mark Burns to the Sudbury MNO office in the position of Employment Developer with the MNO Métis Mining Strategy.

Mark graduated with Honours as a Community Service Worker (CSW) from the Canadian Career College in Sudbury in February 2013. His CSW training included a practicum with the March of Dimes in the Employment Services Office, which provided him with hands-on experience in the employment services field.

As a self-identified Métis, Mark is excited to help Métis people advance their career goals in the mining field and is looking forward to learning more about his heritage and culture.



STEWART BROWN

Submitted by: **Mark Bowler,**
Director of Lands, Resources and Consultation

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to announce that Stewart Brown has joined the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch as Bruce Power Liaison Coordinator based out of the MNO Owen Sound Office. Stewart comes to the MNO after a thirty year career in secondary and post-secondary education including classroom teaching, program development, and liaising with community partners in cooperative education. He has also worked on-site at Bruce Power as High School Cooperative Education coordinator for the local boards of education for two years.



CHERYL MOROZ

Submitted by: **Mark Bowler,**
Director of Lands, Resources and Consultation

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Cheryl Moroz to the Toronto MNO office, in the position of MNO Consultation Intake Clerk with the MNO Lands, Resources and Consultation Branch.

Cheryl self-identifies as Métis and is very excited to start her new role with the MNO. She is looking forward to building on the MNO's success. She brings six years of relevant experience to the position.

04: WHITNEY MONTGOMERY

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteyne,**
Director of Healing and Wellness

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is pleased to welcome Whitney Montgomery to the Ottawa MNO office, in the position of Project Coordinator with the MNO Chronic Disease Surveillance Program.

Whitney graduated with from Brock University in June 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Kinesiology. She then went on to complete a Master of Science in Human Kinetics at the University of Ottawa, graduating in April 2013. During her studies, Whitney worked as a Research Assistant at The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre, and after graduation, as a Fitness Instructor at the YMCA/YWCA.

Whitney is excited about her new role with MNO and is looking forward to learning more about Métis heritage and culture while applying her keen interest in health to improving healing and wellness outcomes for Métis people.



05: AUDREY BAYLISS

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteyne,**
Director of Healing and Wellness

Audrey Bayliss joins the MNO as a Community Wellness Coordinator working out of the MNO office in Windsor.

Audrey come to us from the Welcome Centre Shelter for Women and also volunteers at the Distress Centre of Windsor-Essex.

Audrey has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from the University of Windsor. She is experienced dealing with crisis situations and providing support to those in need

06: CARLA CSORI

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteyne,**
Director of Healing and Wellness

Carla joins the MNO as a Métis Healthy Babies Healthy Children Coordinator working out of the MNO office in Thunder Bay.

Carla comes to the MNO from Dilico Anishinabek Family Care Centre in Thunder Bay where she worked in Assessment and Brief Treatment Residential Services. There she provided counselling, prevention and support to the overall needs of the child while also including the family.

Carla has her diploma in Child and Youth Work from Confederation College. She is experienced in working with children, youth and their families in the areas of mental health addictions, emotional, social, behavioural difficulties, and in developing and applying therapeutic interventions.

07: MEAGAN HODGE

Submitted by: **Wenda Watteyne,**
Director of Healing and Wellness

Meagan joins the MNO as a Community Wellness Coordinator working out of the MNO office in Owen Sound.

Meagan comes to the MNO from Second Avenue Lodge, a residential facility for people dealing with mental health issues and previous to that worked in Community Living residential group homes.

Meagan graduated from the Social Service Worker program at Fanshawe College. She is experienced in working with people who have disabilities and mental health issues.

The MNO is very excited to have these new staff members join the team!

FAMILY

We laughed until there were no tears left

By: **Roger Giroux**

It was such a good feeling to see so many youths at the Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly this year. I was able to have lunch with one of our youths from the Soo, who told me his name was Dave. He had a Mohawk haircut. I couldn't get over how proud he was to be Métis and it reminded me of my two grand kids who my wife Rose and I took camping a few weeks ago.

We take them fishing every year and they really look forward to it. Henri who is eight can't wait to shoot his first partridge this fall. He has been practicing for the past three years with my four-ten shot gun. Theo is my other grandson who is six and who has also been practicing for the last two years. I think Theo will be ready to shoot his first partridge in two years.

While fishing, these Métis boys brought in some big Pike all by themselves. They take turns as one reels the fish in, while the other nets it. It is a thrill to watch.

Having spent four days in the bush and telling moose stories every night the boys were all wound up for sound by the time we got home.

The next morning, my 3 year old son Ty was also on Memere Ros's babysitting list. So with Ty listening, Henri tells Rose, who is a certified barber and has been cutting their hair since they were born, I want an Iroquois cut Memere." Memere, reminiscing a little remembered that only a few weeks before when she asked Henri's Mom, Lyne, what kind of haircut

she should give Henri for the summer, she said: "He is old enough to know what he wants."

Guess what kind of haircut Henri wanted and guess what kind of haircut Memere gave him?

So on the next day when they were going to a birthday party at their other Grandma's, there were no sparks flying but it was close. Memere reminded Lyne what she had said about Henri's haircut and that went

"I couldn't get over how proud he was to be Métis and it reminded me of my two grand kids..."

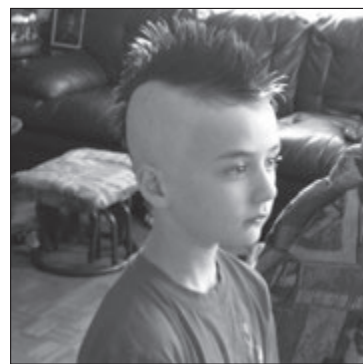
—Roger Giroux



▲ **Roger Giroux with his grandsons Henri and Theo.**

pretty much without comment but when she told her what Ty said; that broke the ice. Ty after seeing Henri's haircut says to Memere: "I WANT A DINOSAUR CUT TO MEMERE."

We laughed until there were no tears left. ∞



OBITUARIES

LINDA MITCHELL

Submitted by: **MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council sadly announces that Linda Mitchell passed away on August 22, 2013 at the age of 59 after a brief battle with cancer. Linda was predeceased by her mother, the late Senator Helen Bradley OMC.

A small grave side service was held for Linda at St. Ann's Cemetery in Penetanguishene on August 29, 2013.

Linda was well known and well-loved for the countless hours of volunteering she so freely donated to the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council.

Linda is survived by her father Alcime DuBeau, her brother Larry



DuBeau, her daughter Natasha and her granddaughter Savana. Linda will be greatly missed by her best friend Jackie Moreau and her many family members and friends. ∞

GEORGE SINCLAIR

Submitted by: **Kathleen Tardi, MNO Kenora Métis Council**

To truly know George was to understand that he was authentic, passionate, persistent and unyielding in his efforts to help others.

He was a man of conviction and wherever he travelled, in every conversation he shared, he wore his heart and his beliefs on his sleeve. His spirited personality may have preceded him in his travels but he most certainly left an indelible mark with his commitment to promoting and preserving the culture, traditions and history of the Métis.

He served several years as a board member of the MNO Kenora Métis Council and would leap at every opportunity to proudly carry the Métis Flag. He was honoured to share a special bond with the

late Métis Senator Kay Lynch, accompanying her to Annual General Assemblies and assisting her however he could.

George was extremely social, always on the go, attending gatherings, feasts and pow-wows; always having a story to share and a genuine eagerness to learn something new.

He loved to bead and had a special talent for finding eagle feathers wherever he journeyed.

A little later in life, George found an earnest love for traditional teachings and healing and before long he was taking sage, tobacco and birch bark to those isolated and unable to travel. Welcomed as a Métis Elder and acknowledged for his fellowship he was a member of the Turtle Clan and was given the traditional name of "Gaagizhibashkaad makwa" meaning Circling Black Bear.

He developed a special fond-

George's understanding in the value of being Métis is to be admired and shared with future generations and exemplary of a Métis Elder."



ness for traditional items and although he was gifted numerous, he also created many more including pipes, pouches and ceremonial regalia. Of all his designs, his most treasured undertaking was a very special drum for young Jaren, son of very close friends Marshall and Jan.

His understanding in the value of being Métis is to be admired and shared with future generations and exemplary of a Métis Elder. ∞

JULIENNE POTVIN

Submitted by: **Senator Marlene Greenwood**

It is with great sadness we announce the sudden passing of Julianne Orilla Potvin on June 16, 2013 in Crystal Falls at age 78. Beloved wife of Gerald Potvin and loving mother of Denise (Larry), David, Richard (Delia), Michelle (Kelly), Nicole (Larry). Born in Noellville,

and resident of Windsor and Crystal Falls, Ontario, she is survived by her loving sisters and brothers, Connie, Isabel, Carmen, Jean-Yves and Rheume. Predeceased by Conrad, Bernard, Lilly and Colette and by her parents Albert and Nelda Chartrand. Loving grandmother to Mitchell, Zachary, Charlie and Laura. A mass was held on June 29 at Notre Dame De La Paix in Crystal Falls. ∞

Tera and Nicola tie the knot!



BOOK REVIEW

Introducing Angelo Henry Bruni



Lakehead Supports Métis Learners

Specialization & Access Programs

Aboriginal Education

Administrative & Support Services



$\Delta^{\circ} \text{G}_{\text{f}}^{\circ}$

The Tragic Métis Family Story Continued

By: **Donn Fowler**

All opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Métis Nation of Ontario or historical research accepted by the Métis Nation of Ontario.



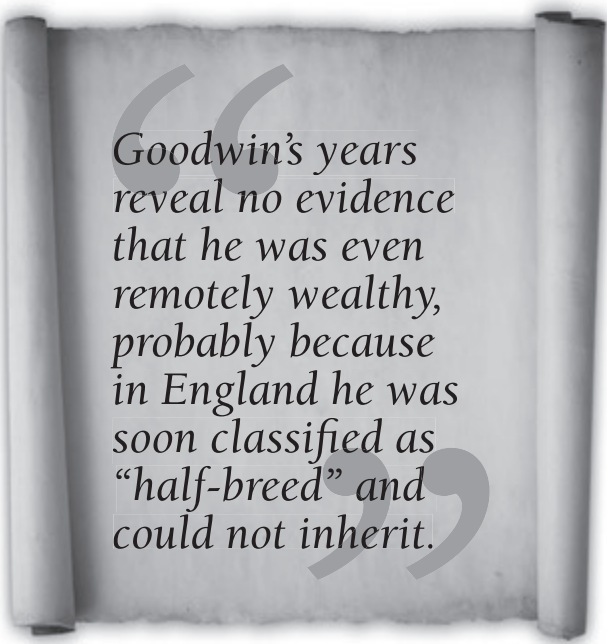
his extremely sad story...” in the summer, 2013, issue # 76 *Métis Voyageur*, page 23, “... can continue to be written.” Because it concerns two young men; namely, William Goodwin, born in 1788, and thirty years later his nephew, William Corrigan, who was born in 1818, with both men deprived of common justice during their lifetime; moreover, it concerns the fact that not only were both Williams born as *Métis* children, but also they were each denied a direct benefit of their respective father’s wills.

Let’s begin with William Goodwin. In 1796, at the tender age of eight, William left his mother “Mistigoose”, and his “opposite-sex co-twin” sister, “Mary”, behind when the young William was taken to England, by his father, and left permanently in the trust and care of the wealthy Robert Goodwin’s lawyer, John Barmby. Barmby had two daughters, Julia and Charlotte. In 1819 William Goodwin married Charlotte when she was about age 39 and William was about age 31. William was to have received most of the wealth of his father, Robert’s, quite substantial estate, when he would reach age 25; however, if William failed to live to age 21, Barmby’s two daughters would each receive half of the entire estate. Messrs. Barmby and Purvis were Robert Goodwin’s executors. While Robert and his son where in England in 1796 “Mistigoose” died in Rupert’s Land.

Meanwhile, in 1796 Jacob Corrigan, at age 21 was “Master” at Lake St Ann (Lake Nipigon) and would have reported to Robert Goodwin while Goodwin was “Master” at Osna-burgh House. At the time, Robert was age 33. It is possible little eight year old Mary would probably have been taken care of immediately following on her beloved Mother’s unexpected death, and with Robert not yet back from England, Jacob Corrigan may well have assumed that obvious responsibility. Robert returned to the HBC by 1797—*sans William*-- not as an HBC *Surgeon* but now as a formal and approved HBC “**Trader**”. William Goodwin’s years reveal no evidence that he was even remotely “wealthy”, probably because in England he was soon classified—just as was William Corrigan later classified—both not having been born as “British Subjects”—but as “half-breed” and therefore classed as “Indians” who could not—therefore—inherit. Accordingly, in William Goodwin’s situation, married to Charlotte Barmby, Charlotte’s lawyer father, John Barmby and Purvis, could find a way to “legally” arrange the inheritance to devolve onto “Mrs. Charlotte (Barmby) Goodwin”—possibly at William’s expense for the remainder of his life. When William died in 1838 there was clear evidence that his life had not been an easy one. Once back in North America he was a farm worker and did not live a lavish existence, even to his burial in a then Prince Edward Island Colony grave. The question remains, what disposal was then made of the inheritance that William Goodwin’s father had indicated, for his son, William, in his “*Last Will and Testament*”?

Next we have William Corrigan, a lifetime bachelor and his three spinster sisters, to consider relative to their deprivation and progressive demise. William was the first to die on the 29th April, 1890, followed by two months apart, Charlotte and Elizabeth on the 22nd February, and 23 April, of 1897. Catherine, last, died in Douro Township in Peterborough County at age 95 in 1909. Their father, Jacob

Corrigan, (b.1775-d. 8th March ,1844), a commissioned officer of the HBC after fifty years of service in the north country, retired, with his four motherless Métis children in tow, to the Hamlet of Amherst in Northumberland County where he purchases land for £75 sterling in 1840. Corrigan built his beautiful home in 1841/42 and the Corrigan family lived comfortably and well in their William Street home in the Town of Cobourg. The Corrigan girls were always well-dressed and had their own riding horses to take care of, and to get about their Métis community, even as far as Otonabee Township, in Peterborough County, where one of their two married sisters now lived; namely, Mary, named after her late mother, Mary (Goodwin) Corrigan and Jacob’s beloved country wife.



Mary (Corrigan) Scollie (b.1811-d. 2nd November 1862) of the Otonabee Township shared their “Blue Bell Farm” with her husband, Robert Scollie, also a former Scottish Orkney man indentured with the HBC and posted to Martin Falls and working with his future father-in-law Jacob Corrigan. Family longhand correspondence reveals that Charlotte Corrigan’s hand was being sought, by a proposal of marriage, by a “D’Arcy Boulton”, but he was turned down. By the 19 of July and 10 of September of 1843, all four Corrigan’s had been baptized and confirmed as Anglicans, in the Cobourg Church of England, having been guided by the Reverend Alexander Neil Bethune, the Rector of that tiny wooden structured Anglican Church on King Street east....

Life for the Cobourg Corrigan’s was both enjoyable and affluent, but extremely short-lived because their father died on the 8th March 1844 and was buried by the Reverend A.N. Bethune, a faithful protégé of the 1830 to 1840 Oligarchy nick-named the “Family Compact” and controlled by that “Arch Anglican” the Reverend John Strachan. Jacob Corrigan’s Will had clearly named every one of his individual children as major beneficiary, but since they were not seen as true “British Subjects” they could not inherit any of the estate wealth. Between the father’s death in 1844 and 1854 the three named executive trustees were no longer available to probate the Corrigan will. Of the three, William Nourse a son-in-law, remained in Labrador and was injured and incapacitated; Chief Factor Alexander Christie was retired and died in England; only Robert Henry, a Cobourg private home banker was available, and while he tried to probate Corrigan’s will, more than once, it was of no use to the Cor-

rigan adult children. The Corrigan’s were now being publicly denounced as “half-breed lonely Indians”. The dormant Corrigan wealth was officially determined to be valued at £18 000 sterling but it remained in a state of continuous limbo. Even after Robert Henry had become mentally disoriented and therefore *incommunicado*, his wife tried to “carry on” for “...five years...”—according to her own testimony—she too failed to get the will activated and probated.

By 1854 —almost a decade after Jacob’s death, -- attention was sought of the just and apolitical James Bruce, [the son-in-law of the famous John Lambton who, in turn, was the brother-in- law of the powerful Charles Earl in England politics] finally, to decide on a course of action concerning Corrigan’s will, and in addition, who should be appointed to administer it. Bruce, as the senior Crown Officer in the new Province of Canada ordered his Newcastle District “Commissioner”, Mr. Henry Throop, to appoint the son, William Corrigan as the sole “Administrator “ of the will, but conditional on the separate appointment of three Cobourg “gentlemen”, each of whom would be responsible for one-third of the of the £18000. The house and property remained in the control of the Corrigan’s under the terms of the special wording of the “coded” and true copy of the three extant holograph wills and the one type-written copy. Even today the true longhand will is known only by a very few surviving member of the Métis / Métis extant family of Corrigan’s, Scollies, and Fowlers.

The three Cobourg “gentlemen sureties”, appointed by Commissioner Robert Henry Throop, to control £ 6000 each, were: Senator Asa A. Burnham, (son of Zacheus Burnham from whom Jacob Corrigan bought his property for £ 75); Senator George Strange Boulton, and the Northumberland County Land Registrar, Mr. Archibald McDonald. The writer has obtained only one small original record of Corrigan money contributed to the building fund of the new and wood- replacing stone structured St. Peter’s Anglican Church, in Cobourg. The questions remain the same for both William Goodwin and William Corrigan: “What disposal was made of the two substantial inheritances that did not ever go directly to William Goodwin, and/or to the Corrigan’s?” Secondly, what became of the record of revenue and expenditures, invoices and receipt documents? The impoverished Corrigan’s finally lost their home and property to Messrs. Henry Ruttan and Zacheus Burnham.

The hired findings of a professional researcher sent the writer the following note from Cobourg in July of 2011:

“Henry Ruttan by Q.C. [1841”Quit Claim”] gave to Zacheus Burnham in 1839 registered in 1843 instrument A127, 32 acres of land (prior to Corrigan’s #6605 Deed). This A127 is an 1839 Deed. In 1841 Zacheus Burnham sold one acre to Jacob Corrigan [Deed #6605]. I cannot find the Abstract Book where this was recorded even though it is registered. The next thing I find is when being opened the page in Lot 11 Block A indicates a big gap which puzzles me. This is unexplainable and I do not think there is any other place I can look.” Also, this professional researcher says, “I cannot find where this is abstracted in the Books of the Registry Office and therefore what subsequently happened to the property.” Recently, the Town of Cobourg “Heritage” authority has been made aware of these serious matters and the present need of action in order to effect the, Restoration of Our Family’s Honour with Justice Served”.

The above reference to “Lot 11 Block A” originated as “Lot 19 Concession A” where the Deed #6605 registration should have appear; however, it did not get properly recorded in the 1841 chronological registrations made! ∞

Searching for a flag for the Métis Nation of Ontario

Request for Submissions (RFS)

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) is requesting submissions for designs for a MNO flag that will be used as the official provincial Métis flag of the MNO to go along with the national Métis flag.

A. Process:

- PCMNO sets requirements, parameters and guidelines for submissions;
- PCMNO appoints selection committee;
- Selection committee members will be required to familiarize themselves with North American Vexillological Association standards and apply these to the selection process;
- The RFS will be publicized in the Voyageur, website, eVoyageur and Facebook;
- All designs will be vetted to determine whether designs meet the criteria outlined in the RFS. Only those that meet the criteria will be considered by the selection committee;
- Following the deadline and after vetting to ensure compliance, the selection committee will be presented with all qualified designs. Who the designers are will not be shared with the selection committee;
- The selection committee recommends five designs they feel are most appropriate to the PCMNO;
- From the five designs that are recommended, the PCMNO will select two or three designs which they feel best reflect Ontario Métis;
- A vote will take place at the 2014 AGA among the designs selected by the PCMNO, and the final one will be chosen;
- The design with the greatest number of votes will be selected as the official MNO flag.

B. RFS Criteria:

- Only MNO citizens can submit designs;
- All designs must be rectangular with standard width-to-length proportions of 1:2. Square, triangular or any shape other rectangular at 1:2 proportions will not be considered;
- Designs cannot include tassels, fringes or other

extraneous features; designs with extraneous features will not be considered;

- Submissions can be made either electronically or with hard copies; electronic submissions can be made to mnoflagrfs@metisnation.org. Hard copy submissions can be sent to:

MNO Flag Request for Proposals
500 Old St. Patrick Street Unit D
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9G4

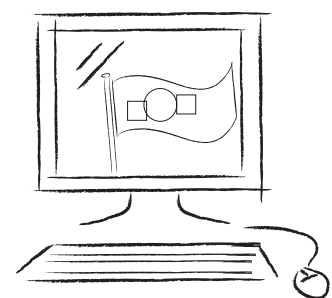
- Fax submissions are not acceptable and will not be considered;
- Submissions must be in colour;
- Submissions must include a short explanation of the symbolism represented in the design;
- Submissions must include the name, citizen number, mailing address and e-mail address (if he/she has one) of the designer; those without this information will not be considered;
- Only one submission is permitted per citizen; if multiple submissions are received, the first one received will be the only one considered;
- Designs must conform to the five principles of flag design as outlined by the North American Vexillological Association. Flags that do not meet these principles will not be considered. The principles are:

1. Keep it simple: a good flag is simple enough that a child can draw it from memory. Flags must be seen from a distance and from their opposite side. Complicated flags are also more costly to reproduce.
2. Use meaningful symbolism: a good flag uses symbolism through a main graphic element, colours and layout.
3. Use two-three basic colours: The number of colours in a flag should be limited to three, which contrast well and come from a standard colour set. The basic flag colours are red, blue, green, black, yellow and white and there use can range from dark to light. A good flag should also reproduce well in black and white.

4. No lettering or seals: Good flags do not include writing of any or kind or an organization's seal or logo etc.; flags are symbols and words defeat that purpose. Lettering is difficult to read from a distance, hard to sew, difficult to read in smaller reproductions and not reversible.
5. Be distinctive or be related: Do not duplicate other flags but use similarities to show connections. Never duplicate another flag or design something so similar it could be mistaken for another flag. If there is a direct connection between two bodies and you wish to represent that in a flag that should be accomplished through use of symbols, colours and shapes that recall common heritage, solidarity or connectedness.

*Additional information about North American Vexillological Association standards can be found in their booklet "Good Flag Bad Flag: **How to Design a Great Flag,**" which is posted on the MNO website.

- The PCMNO reserves the right to alter the flag designs chosen that go forward to MNO citizens for final selection;
- Citizens who submit designs must sign declarations agreeing to turn over all rights of their designs to the MNO; the MNO will have complete ownership of the design, including copyright, and will register the design as an MNO trademark;
- The deadline for submissions is **December 31, 2013.**



GOLD CANYON
RESOURCES INC.

Springpole Gold Project ... our commitment to build strong community relationships.

Gold Canyon Resources would like to congratulate the Métis Nation of Ontario on the 20th Anniversary of their Annual General Assembly, which was first celebrated in 1993. Gold Canyon also wishes to acknowledge the 10th Anniversary of the Powley Case decision of the Supreme Court of Canada. These anniversaries commemorate momentous landmarks, not only for the Métis Nation of Ontario, but for all Canadians.

Gold Canyon Resources is a Canadian-based company engaged in the acquisition, exploration and development of precious and rare metal properties. The Company controls a 100% interest in the Springpole Gold Project, located in the Red Lake Mining District of Ontario, Canada. The Company controls over 80,000 acres in this area.

Gold Canyon values its relationships with the Aboriginal communities of the Springpole Gold Project area and is committed to building collaborative and mutually beneficial relationships in support of Gold Canyon's exploration within their



CONTACT INFORMATION:
Denise Saunders
Manager of Community Relations and Lands
denise@goldcanyon.ca

asserted traditional territories. The Company believes the Springpole Gold Project will provide a strong opportunity for economic and community development for the Aboriginal communities of the area.

As part of that commitment, in July 2013, Gold Canyon announced the signing of a Negotiation Protocol Agreement with three local First Nations in relation to its Springpole Gold Project. This agreement sets a constructive framework to negotiate an Exploration Accommodation Agreement that will support Gold Canyon's activities at Springpole. Gold Canyon will continue to build on these relationships in the years to

come, as we advance the Springpole project together.

In October 2012, Gold Canyon announced an updated NI 43-101 compliant resource estimate for the Springpole Gold Project, followed by a Preliminary Economic Assessment, which was completed by SRK Consulting (Canada) Inc.

In addition, Gold Canyon is exploring for Rare Earth Element (REE) projects, jointly with the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation (JOGMEC) in Malawi, Africa.

Further information can be found at: www.goldcanyon.ca; and www.sedar.com.

OPPORTUNITIES



Métis Youth wanted for Canadian Armed Forces Aboriginal programs

Submitted by: **Veterans Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC**

Veterans Senator Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC, had the honour and privilege to be engaged with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Aboriginal Black Bear program which was conducted at CFB Gagetown, New Brunswick.

The program was moved to Gagetown from CFB Borden where it began in 2008. The Aboriginal Black Bear Program is a combination of Aboriginal traditions with the Canadian Armed Forces Primary Reserve Basic Military Qualification Training (BMQ) condensed into a very intense six weeks training. This army military training is preceded by a four-day Culture Camp, conducted by Aboriginal Elders, to familiarise the recruits in all three Aboriginal cultures of First Nation, Métis and Inuit, as well as to ease the recruits' transition into the military. This past summer, all the recruits were from First Nations communities except for one Métis; we had no Inuit participants.

The reason for this article is to make Métis youth aware of the programs' great opportunities for Aboriginal Youth and to have more of our Métis youth show how proud

they are of Métis culture. As a bonus, the youth earn money, lasting friendships and gain great experiences which, by the way, looks great on a résumé!

The Black Bear Program was created after two other very successful programs, one called Bold Eagle, located in Wainwright in northern Alberta and in operation for the past 24 years and; the other called Raven, which started in 2003 and is located in Esquimalt (Victoria) on Vancouver Island. The Bold Eagle and the Black Bear Programs are based on army training, while Raven is Navy. The CAF provides transportation to and from the training program, living accommodations, food, clothing and all equipment for the course. While the youths (16 to 30 years old, but some are older) are in the program they are temporarily Canadian Forces members and are paid around \$3,500 for completing the

full six weeks; they get paid every two weeks, receiving portion of that amount.

Civilian Aboriginal counsellors (male and female) are on staff and available to assist with the transition to military life and to provide counselling if/when needed. The Senator for the Métis Nation of Ontario Veterans' Council had the honour to be the first Métis and first bilingual counsellor of the Black Bear Program.

The Aboriginal recruits are trained in standard first aid and CPR, navigation with compass and maps, basic weapons training, military drill, survival and rappelling, as well as other military topics; they also have daily physical fitness and sports. In addition they attend a Career Day showing them opportunities not only in the CAF, but also in other federal sectors (RCMP, Corrections, ect).

The graduation ceremony was followed by a demonstration of rappelling by some graduates. Ladies, there is a place for you in these programs; the top recruit and most improved student were females!

Upon completion of the BMQ, the graduates are qualified to join any units of the Canadian Armed

Forces Primary Reserves, either Army, Navy or Air Force, since the BMQ is the base for further training in any of the components of the CAF. Also they are eligible to join the Regular Forces if their goal is to make a full time career with the CAF. They also have the choice to return home as a civilian. At the end of the program, they will gain the leadership, work skills, and dedication to be successful in whatever path they choose.

...great opportunities for Aboriginal Youth and to have more of our Métis youth show how proud they are of Métis culture.

The basic requirements to join any of the three summer programs

are that the candidate must be, 16 years of age or older; grade 10 or higher education complete; a Canadian citizen and self-identifies as Aboriginal and; able to meet the CAF enrolment standard.

There are also other programs; one is called Aboriginal Leadership Opportunities Year (ALOY), based at Royal Military College in Kingston. It is a year-long pre university program. There are also two other programs called Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program (CFAEP). Both programs are three weeks in length. The candidates remain civilians and received \$1,200.00 upon completion. These two CFAEP are located in Halifax. The first one is in May; is run by the Navy and the other one is in October and is army oriented. The CFAEP is not only for youth. Last fall, a 45 year-old woman completed the program, then joined the Regular Forces!

Any one interested in applying for any of the above programs should contact the nearest CAF Recruiting Center or phone 1-800-856-8488 and/or visit www.forces.ca then click on "programs." There is a different deadline to apply for each program. ∞

300 Years of Treaties Explained in 90 Minutes.

Introducing a fresh approach to Aboriginal awareness training.

"Understanding Aboriginal and Treaty Rights" is a new online training course created by the Aboriginal consultation specialists at Calliou Group.

Our comprehensive course simplifies complex concepts and provides a clear context for Canada's relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

Suitable for a wide variety of audiences, our easy-to-monitor, in-house training is ideal for company employees, contractors, and government officials.

The 90 minute online training course includes chapter quizzes and a printable course completion certificate.

Our online training course explains four key concepts:

- Aboriginal peoples are nations
- Canada has a treaty relationship with Aboriginal peoples
- Assimilation policies distorted this treaty relationship
- Aboriginal and treaty rights are constitutionally protected





A summer of discovery

MNO'S SUMMER YOUTH CULTURAL PROGRAM

This summer, 15 Métis youth embarked on a journey of self-discovery as they joined the Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Summer Youth Cultural Program (SYCP).

Designed to strengthen and share Métis culture and history, SYCP is a MNO community based initiative comprised of students who deliver Métis inspired programs across Ontario through experiential education and a "hands on, minds on" approach. This summer's project focused on creating greater awareness on the contributions of Métis during the War of 1812 through presentations, re-enactments and other events.

Gaining an experience that will last a lifetime, youth spent the summer connecting to their roots, sharing Métis heritage and traditions with the outside world, and immersing themselves in all things Métis.

Learning about what it means to be Métis

Before the students could deliver the programs, they first took part in two weeks of comprehensive training on Métis heritage.

The 15 interpreters included students who had participated in

previous years and some who were joining for the first time. For their training, the group first came together at the MNO office in Midland and then reunited at Old Fort William, a former North West Company post near Thunder Bay, to begin their second week of training. The second week required full immersion into the Métis way of life. Upon arrival, students were provided with traditional Métis attire including strap dresses for the women and corduroy pants and linen shirts for the men.

"It was quickly noted that the boys looked more like pirates than voyageurs, and those of us who had never worn strap dresses were drowning in fabric," said interpreter and Lakehead University student Lucy Fowler.

The training, provided by MNO staff members, Chris McLeod, Métis Summer Student Supervisor and Scott Carpenter, Manager of Projects and Partnerships, focused on re-enactments and character development. MNO Senator Bob McKay and MNO Manager of Way of Life Framework Brian Tucker assisted with training in Thunder Bay as well as Ruth Quesnelle in Midland.

Well at Old Fort William, the

interpreters were provided a character to portray during their stay. They would also have to bring these characters to life during future re-enactments.

We were able to portray our own ancestors, before this, I never identified as Métis because I didn't know what it meant."

— Brianne Madonna, University of Ottawa student

"We were able to portray our own ancestors," explained first-time interpreter Brianne Madonna, a Linguistics and Psychology student at the University of Ottawa. "Before this, I never identified as Métis because I didn't know what it meant. The character development really helped me understand and connect to my roots."

Workshops were held on every-

thing from muskets and cannons to wild edibles and of course MNO programs and governance, Métis history and culture, finger weaving, beading, embroidery, fire making with steel and flint, cooking, tin-smithing and blacksmithing as well as War of 1812 training.

"During the tin and blacksmithing training each student made a nail and some were as big as a tent pin," explained Scott Carpenter. "We needed a pretty big piece of wood to hammer that into."

The youth really enjoyed the training. First-time interpreter and Confederation College marketing student Johnathon Falvo said, "I really enjoyed the training, especially the arts although I'm not very good at it so during re-enactments I stuck to sanding and chopping wood."

Upon completion of the training, students took on their new role as a Summer Youth Cultural Interpreter. Working out of MNO regional offices in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie and Midland, SYCP Interpreters developed regional programs for summer camps, retirement homes, schools and other community organizations. Regional programs included information on the Métis Way of Life (WOLF), the fur trade,

Métis involvement in the War of 1812 and many hands-on cultural activities such as finger weaving and beading.

"I love interpreting and relaying to other people what it means to be Métis," said returning interpreter and Sault College student Nicki Doucette. "A few years ago I didn't know that I was Métis but had friends who were and had completed this program. I used to wish I was Métis just so I could be part of the experience, then one day my mom told me that I actually am Métis- I signed up right away."

Getting back to basics

A large focus of SYCP this year was to increase awareness of the Métis involvement in the War of 1812 and this was done largely through re-enactments.

"My favorite part of this whole experience is the re-enactment events," said first-time interpreter and Lakehead University student Cameron Hartman. "We really get to relish in the experience- it's life changing."

This year provided a unique opportunity as the War of 1812 bi-centennial celebrations took place across the province providing SYCP



interpreters the chance to attend the events and re-enact what life was like for Métis people during the war.

“It is my third year being part of this program and every year I learn a different aspect about being Métis. This time it was our involvement in the War of 1812,” said Melody Chislett-Morris who is also an MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator for Sault Ste. Marie College. “I think my favourite part of the whole experience is really learning how to cohabitate with my fellow youth – it’s something I never did in college.”

Among the events the interpreters attended over the summer were the Sault Ste. Marie History Fest/ War of 1812/Tall Ships, the Siege of Fort Erie, Wasaga Under Siege, and the 2013 International Canoe Federation Junior and Under 23 Canoe Sprint World Championships opening ceremonies.

“Because on a day to day basis our teams are stationed in different cities, the re-enactments feel like a homecoming. We become one big family,” said Wilfred Laurier University student Katelyn LaCroix.

Each event featured a Métis encampment complete with 16 canvas tents, two voyageur canoes and the SYCP interpreters living and working in period outfits. Interpreters engaged with other re-enactors and the public to bring the Métis involvement in the War of 1812 to life while also educating others about Métis traditions and heritage.

“A few of us may have fallen too far into our characters,” explained Lucy Fowler. “Justin, one of our voyageurs, spotted the American soldiers in while we were in Sault Ste. Marie and planned his attack, with only wooden spoons and replicated muskets in his weaponry. Luckily for the Americans, we were

expected on stage before he could follow through.”

Some activities that took place during the re-enactments, many of which were new to the interpreters, included jigging to the musical talents of Métis fiddler and University of Waterloo student Alicia Blore, Métis Voyageur games, traditional cooking and the re-creation of a Métis voyageur encampment.

The presentations of Métis traditional dance were always a popular show and drew in large crowds. Those watching would clap along with the live fiddle music and try to take as many pictures as possible. Some even joined in. Returning female interpreters expressed how pleased they were with the number of male students this year. This meant they did not have to take on the male dancing role, although a few still did.

Living with historical accuracy isn’t always the easiest, even with something as simple as making food. A stickler for historical accuracy, Métis historian Scott Carpenter requires the students to only use food that the Voyageurs would have had access to in 1812. The students were hoping to improve the taste of their stew by adding celery but Scott pointed out that it would not have been historically accurate, so, the stew turned out rather bland.

The War of 1812 events offered an excellent opportunity for SYCP interpreters to learn from many other experienced re-enactors at

the events. One example of this was chopping wood for the fire. While on Nancy Island during the Siege of Wasaga, one of the male interpreters was having a bit of trouble chopping wood as it was something he had never done before. A local re-enactor noticed this and offered some assistance; he even provided a lesson to the students. Up next to the block was Nicki Doucette, she easily chopped the wood without any assistance. The other re-enactor was very impressed.

The encampment aspect of the program taught the students many things they didn’t know before and helped them connect with nature.

“There are so many things I have never done before that I am experiencing through this program, like starting a fire from scratch and really getting back to the basics,” explained Brianne Madonna.

Sleeping in a tent was also new to many of the students. Johnathon Falvo didn’t realize how cold summer nights could feel. But no matter the weather, the students stuck it out; they even camped through severe thunderstorms while in Sault Ste. Marie.

“During the re-enactments we became a small community, we have to live and rely on one another,” said returning interpreter and digital film production student Justine Chalykoff. “Being from a big city it was definitely a new experience for me.”

By camping, the students began to appreciate common necessities that we take for granted in everyday life, like the luxury of a shower.

“Luckily there were nearby bodies of water so nobody stunk up the camp,” laughed Johnathon Falvo.

The SYCP interpreters concluded their summer by attending the MNO 20th Annual General Assembly (AGA) where they set up a cultural display that included historic Métis artifacts such as weapons, clothing and furs.

During the AGA the students provided entertainment during the 20th Anniversary Dinner Theatre, Dance and Feast. Practicing together for the three nights prior, the students created their own Métis inspired lyrics to go along with the popular hits “Blurred Lines” by Robin Thicke and “Low” by Flo Rida.

“The performance was a little embarrassing,” said Katelyn LaCroix, “but it made the audience laugh and that’s what it is all about.”

“It was good getting everyone together dancing, it really seemed like everyone enjoyed the performance,” added Johnathon Falvo.

Students spent their last day together encamped at the AGA cultural event on Victoria Island. The crowd joined them in Métis games, arts and traditional dance. It was a great way to end the summer before each journeyed back to their homes to begin a new school year with not only a different perspective of the world around them, but also on who they are.

When asked about his overall experience, Lakehead University student Will Stolz said, “Being involved in this program opened my eyes to the culture within my family. It is way more than a job; getting paid is just a bonus.” ∞

Being involved in this program opened my eyes to the culture within my family. It is way more than a job...

— Will Stolz, Lakehead University student

01: SYCP interpreters showcasing traditional Métis dances for the crowd. Back row: Marie Chalykoff and Katelyn LaCroix. Front row: Alexandra Dusome and Justine Chalykoff.

02: SYCP interpreters paddling alongside MNO citizens to light the torch during the opening ceremonies of the 2013 Canoe Federation Junior and Under-23 Sprint World Championships in Welland.

03: Confederation College student Johnathon Falvo sanding a paddle during the Siege of Wasaga re-enactment.

04: Summer Youth Cultural Program interpreters during their second week of training at Fort William. (Left to right) Front row: Will Stolz, Justin Blondin, Johnathon Falvo and Cameron Hartman. Middle row: Katelyn LaCroix, Alexandra Dusome, Justine Chalykoff, Brianne Madonna, Nicki Doucette, Melody Chislett-Morris, Marie Chalykoff, and Tressa Beaulieu. Back row: Lucy Fowler and Stephanie Chartrand. Missing from photo Alicia Blore.

05: Justin Blondin, Nicki Doucette, Cameron Hartman and Alexandra Dusome dancing at during the Wasaga Under Siege re-enactment.

06: Marie Chalykoff and Nicki Doucette preparing a traditional Métis meal during a re-enactment.

07: Marie Chalykoff and Nicki Doucette preparing a traditional Métis meal during a re-enactment.

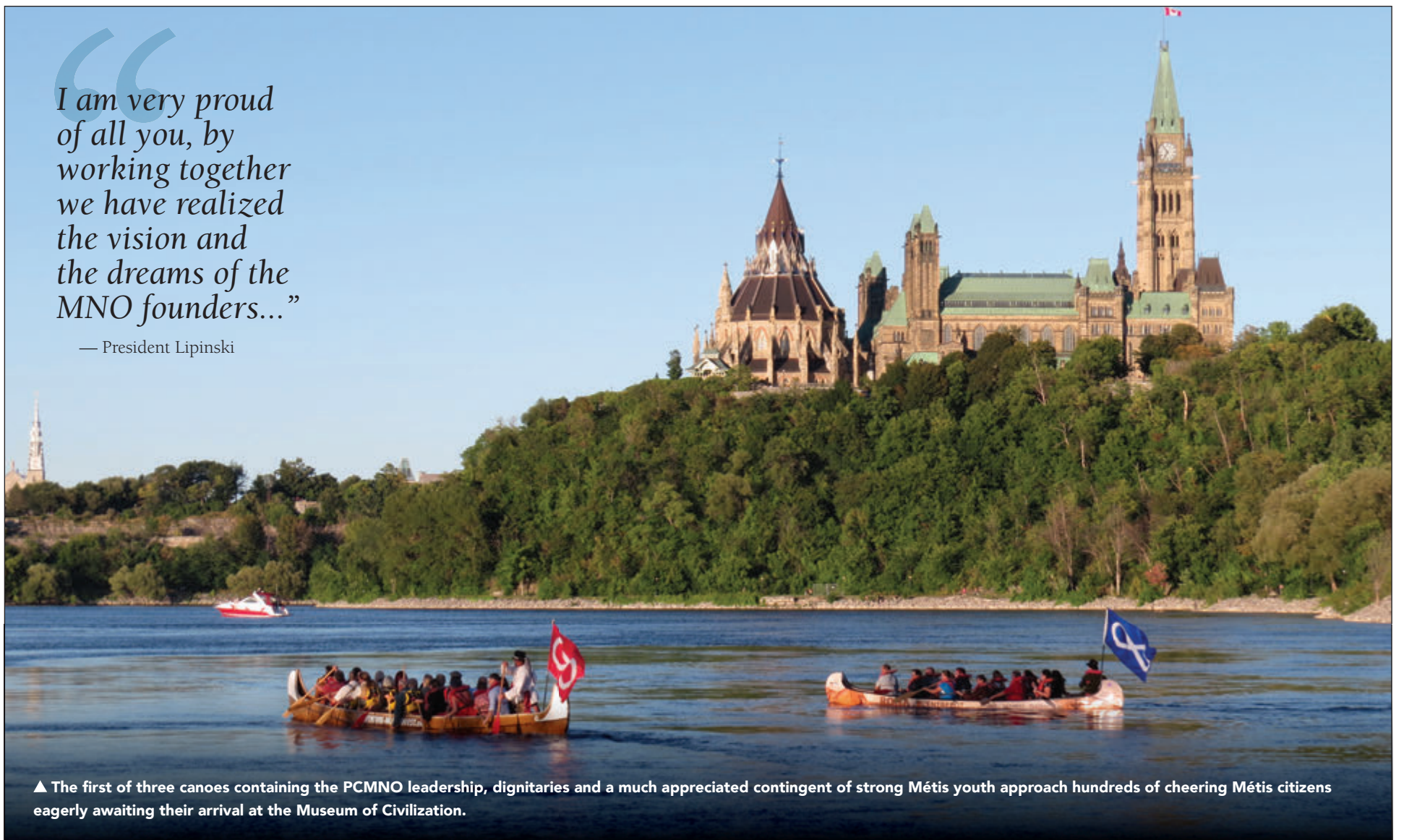
08: Brianne Madonna, Alexandra Dusome and Katelyn LaCroix at the Sault Ste. Marie re-enactment.

09: SYCP interpreters performing at the MNO 20th Anniversary Dinner Theatre, Dance and Feast.



“I am very proud of all you, by working together we have realized the vision and the dreams of the MNO founders...”

— President Lipinski



▲ The first of three canoes containing the PCMNO leadership, dignitaries and a much appreciated contingent of strong Métis youth approach hundreds of cheering Métis citizens eagerly awaiting their arrival at the Museum of Civilization.

After two decades the MNO is still making history

2013 AGA celebrates past achievements while breaking new ground

Electricity was in the air as Métis from across Ontario gathered at the Ottawa Delta City Centre Hotel for the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) 20th Annual General Assembly (AGA). As one would see at any Métis gathering, the well over 300 AGA delegates greeted each other with the wide smiles, tight hugs and firm handshakes but this year there was a palpable feeling that something special was happening.

Part of the current everyone felt was being generated by the knowledge that 2013 marks both the 20 year anniversary of the founding of the MNO in 1993 and the 10 year anniversary of the landmark 2003 *R. v. Powley* Supreme Court of Canada decision. The delegates

knew they had much to celebrate but even as MNO citizens prepared to look back at 20 years of achievement, they were also about to make some history themselves by working together to continue the dream and vision laid down by the MNO's founders.

Economic self-sufficiency Law advances Métis self-government

This AGA saw MNO citizens continue down the road to self-government by unanimously passing the MNO's first Law, which provides the structure that will move the MNO towards economic self-sufficiency. The Law came on the heels of the announcement

just prior to the AGA that the MNO with its investment partners had won major green energy contracts through the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program that points to the kind of economic opportunities now being presented to the MNO



▲ (Top) President Lipinski addressing the assembly. (Middle) MNO citizens test their strength as part of the Métis Voyageur Games. (Bottom) Two MNO Summer Cultural Student Programs showing off their complimentary Infinity tattoos.

(see story on page 3). MNO President Gary Lipinski predicted that the Law would soon prove to be a significant landmark in Métis history along with other watersheds such as the 2003 *R. v. Powley* Supreme Court decision and the 2008 MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement. “I am very proud of all you,” he told the assembly, “by working together we have realized the vision and the dreams of the MNO founders who outlined economic self-sufficiency as one of our key objectives in our *Statement of Prime Purpose*.” Citing the recently awarded FIT contracts,

President Lipinski added “It is this kind of success that will allow us to build a better and brighter future for our young people.”

The passage of the economic self-sufficiency Law places the MNO in position to generate revenues independent of funding provided by other governments. “We will no longer be dependent on politics but will have revenue streams that we can invest as we see fit such as advancing Métis rights,” stated President Lipinski. “This is the start of what we have dreamed about for a very long time,” he added.

Statement of Prime Purpose becomes part of MNO Bylaws

At every AGA, MNO citizens return to the *Statement of Prime Purpose* when evaluating their past work and looking towards the future. It is especially appropriate, therefore, that at the 20th AGA that the MNO unanimously passed a resolution incorporating the *Statement of Prime Purpose* into the MNO Bylaws. “The *Statement of Prime Purpose* is an amazing

document,” explained President Lipinski, “it is incredible that the MNO's founders had the insight to create such a far reaching vision for the MNO which is every bit as relevant today as it was when it was written. The *Statement of Prime Purpose* is like a blue print that leadership can return to in order to see what its priorities need to be.” (Continued on page 16)



▲ (top) World War II Métis veteran Alexander Boucher was presented with the Louis Riel Medal and Certificate. Mr. Boucher was 100 years and eight months old during the AGA. ◀ (second from top left) The MNO Peterborough Wapeti, High Land Waters and Ottawa Métis Councils signed the Region 6 Protocol during the AGA. ◀ (third from top left) Alyssa Delbaere-Sawhuck of the Métis Fiddler Quartet performing. ▼ (middle) On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the MNO, MNBC President Bruce Dumont honoured President Lipinski with the gift of an Eagle Feather, which recognized his many years as an outstanding leader in the Métis Nation. ▼ (second from bottom left) President Lipinski with Métis author Joseph Boyden at the MNO 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance. ▼ (bottom left) Alicia Bloor and members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet provide musical accompaniment to the procession leading to the Museum of Civilization. ▼ (bottom right) Actor John Houston performs "Corps de Voyageurs: Soldiers in Capotes".



Everyone pulling in the same direction

In his State of the Nation address during the AGA Opening Ceremonies, President Lipinski thanked the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PC-MNO) for being a "wonderful team" where "everyone is pulling in the same direction." President Lipinski explained how the leadership of the PCMNO, taking direction from the MNO citizens through the AGA, made 2012-13 another ban-

ner year for the MNO. "We have seen growth in every branch," explained President Lipinski, who reviewed impressive statistics and other achievements related to MNO programming in the 2012-13 year. See the insert in this paper for the Highlights of the 2012-13 Annual Report which more information on the successes outlined in the State of the Nation address.

AGA hosts sign Regional Protocol

The 2013 AGA marked a historic first for the MNO because it was the first time that multiple community councils shared hosting responsibilities. The Region Six Métis community councils; High Land Waters, Ottawa and Peterborough Wapiti cooperated and shared all the work related to serving as the AGA host. Region Six PCMNO Councillor Tom Thompson played a pivotal role in coordinating with each council and making this great

example of Métis collaboration a reality.

Appropriately, the three community councils also signed the Region Six Protocol Agreement at the AGA. The High Land Waters and Ottawa Métis Councils had previously signed the protocol but Peterborough Wapiti also recently joined the protocol and the ceremony at the AGA formalized arrangements between the MNO and the three community councils.

President Lipinski honoured and humbled by special presentation

As is the custom among Métis governments across the Homeland, invitations were sent to the presidents of each Métis government to attend the 2013 AGA. One of the presidents who graciously accepted the invitation was President Bruce Dumont of the Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC). While bringing greetings during the Opening Ceremony, President Dumont relayed a story on how he and his wife had tried to save an injured eagle that they found along a highway in British Columbia.

Although unable to save the bird, he salvaged a feather from it. In Aboriginal cultures the eagle represents the most powerful of spiritual powers, and when the bird dies,

these powers remain in the feathers.

In recognition of MNO President Gary Lipinski's many years of outstanding service as a leader within the Métis Nation, President Dumont presented the eagle feather to President Lipinski. The audience responded to this highly meaningful gesture with a standing ovation. President Lipinski was visibly moved stating that he was "honoured and humbled"

by the presentation. President Dumont also carved a cradle for the eagle feather out of yellow cedar and presented this to President Lipinski.

President Lipinski was visibly moved stating that he was "honoured and humbled" by the presentation.



Celebrating and recognizing 20 years of achievement

A major focus of the AGA was looking back at how far the MNO has come in two decades. One of the most poignant reminders of the extend of the change the MNO facilitated was made by MNO founding President Tony Belcourt, speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. Belcourt marvelled how today the MNO enjoys such a positive relationship with the Ontario government when in the past it was the Ontario government that had placed a bounty on the head of Louis Riel and where the government had for so long even denied “the very existence of the Métis in the province.” Past President Belcourt who led the MNO through its difficult early years when as he put it, “Métis came up full force against the entrenched racism of the government of Ontario,” had nothing but praise for the current government of Premier Kathleen Wynne, saying that he found her video message to MNO citizens at the AGA “heartfelt, sincere and true.”

The new positive relationship enjoyed between the MNO and Ontario government was emphasized by the presence of four provincial cabinet ministers during the AGA opening ceremonies: Aboriginal Affairs Minister David Zimmer, Minister of Labour Yasir Naqvi, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and Minister of Safety and Correctional Services Madeleine Meilleur and earlier at a Long Term Energy Plan meeting Minister of Energy Bob Chiarelli. Each brought greetings at the AGA. Minister Zimmer spoke about the importance of the 2008 MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement in establishing the current positive relationship between the two governments and predicted “real progress on the Métis file” in the near future. On behalf of the Ontario government, Minister Zimmer presented the MNO with an original painting titled “Great Mother” by noted Aboriginal artist Norval Morrisseau in recognition of the MNO’s 20th anniversary. In thanking the Minister, President Lipinski described the government of Ontario as a “willing partner” and credited the positive relationship between the MNO and Ontario for much of the progress Métis people have seen in recent years.

The incredible progress the MNO has made in 20 years was also a major theme of the documentary film, *Métis Nation of Ontario: 1993-2013*, which was premiered during the Welcome to the AGA activities the first night of the gathering. The one-hour movie featured interviews with over 26 people including President Lipinski, Past President Belcourt, MNO Chair France Picotte, MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride, MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile, Executive Senator Reta Gordon as well as rare footage and interviews with Steve Powley and Marion Larkman.

The movie showed how the MNO began with grassroots Métis people, it described the hunt for justice that led to the Powley court case victory and the Harvesting Agreement and how the MNO and the Ontario government eventually signed the MNO-Ontario Framework Agreement and started to work together for the benefit of all Métis. The movie concluded by looking ahead to how Métis youth are now learning about Métis culture and heritage and will become the leaders of the future. The movie received rave reviews from all in attendance and so impressed Minister Zimmer that he announced that it was his intention to share the movie not only with his own party’s caucus but with the two opposition party caucuses as well. “I have received many technical and other briefings [about the Métis],” he stated, “but none has ever done as good a job as your movie in explaining the issues faced by your people.” The movie is currently being re-mastered and, once complete it will be posted on the MNO website and copies will be distributed for use in communities.

The MNO also received congratulations on its 20th anniversary from many special guests who attended the Welcome to the AGA activities and/or the AGA Opening Ceremonies. Among these were Métis National Council President Clement Chartier and Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President Audrey Poitras. President Poitras frequently attends MNO AGAs and the MNO and MNA signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the 2010 MNO AGA. “You always make me feel at home,” she told the assembled citizens. On behalf of the MNA, President Poitras presented President Lipinski with mounted beaded mocasins that featured the inscription: “To symbolize the long road walked by our Métis ancestors, our leaders, elders, veterans and families. The road we as youth will walk; proudly into the future . . .”

One of the organizations that the MNO currently enjoys a strong relationship with is the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), which was represented at the AGA by Executive Director Sylvia Maracle. In honour the MNO’s 20th anniversary, Executive Director Maracle presented President Lipinski with a painting symbolizing “a good path; a good mind” that represented how the Métis bring together two worlds and two paths. In thanking the OFIFC, President Lipinski commented on the commitment of the MNO and OFIFC to work together. “Together we make a difference and overcome serious challenges,” he said.

Other speakers who spoke during the AGA Opening Ceremonies included Ottawa Deputy Mayor Steve Desroches, Members of Parliament Dr. Carolyn Bennett and (Continued on page 18)



▲ (top left) PCMNO Councillor Peter Rivers thanks MNBC President Dumont and presents him with Métis spoons and the very popular medallion that recognizes the 20th anniversary of the MNO and the 10th anniversary of the Powley decision. (top right) Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. (bottom left) The Honourable David Zimmer, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, speaking during AGA Opening Ceremonies. (bottom right) President Lipinski with the gift presented by the Métis Nation of Alberta recognizing the MNO’s 20th anniversary.



▲ (top) On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, Sylvia Maracle presents President Lipinski with a gift recognizing the MNO’s 20th Anniversary. (middle left) The Honourable Yasir Naqvi, Minister of Labour, speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. (middle right) Member of Parliament Dr. Carolyn Bennett speaking during AGA Opening Ceremonies. (bottom left) The Honourable Madeleine Meilleur, Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services, speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. (bottom middle) Member of Parliament Royal Galipeau speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. (bottom right) Janine Giffore, Assistant Deputy Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.

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▲ (top left) **Hillary Thatcher speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies. She became the Assistant Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations & Ministry Partnerships in the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.** (top middle) **MNO founding President Tony Belcourt with his successor President Lipinski during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.** (top right) **The MNO's founding President Tony Belcourt displaying a copy of the first MNO newspaper during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.** (middle left) **Talented Métis classical songstress Rebecca Cuddy performing during the MNO 20th Anniversary Feasts, Dinner Theatre and Dance.** (middle right) **Clement Chartier, President of the Métis National Council, speaking during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.** (bottom left) **Sharon McBride, MNO Vice-chair and Spokesperson for the Women's Secretariat of the MNO makes her report to the AGA.** (bottom middle) **Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) members on stage during the AGA Opening Ceremonies.** (bottom right) **MNO Chair France Picotte makes her report to the AGA.**

(Continued from page 17)
Royal Galipeau. Janine Giffore, Assistant Deputy Minister for Training, Colleges and Universities spoke as did Hillary Thatcher from OPA, who became the Assistant Deputy Minister for Aboriginal Relations and Partnerships with the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs on September

3. Other welcome guests who attended either the Welcome to the AGA or the Opening Ceremony were: Jim McDonnell, Member of the Provincial Parliament for Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry; Paul DeVillers, Chair of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund; Dr. Jim Madder, President of Confedera-

tion College; Murray Sang, Director of Student Academic Success at the University of Ottawa; Alexander Bezzina, Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services and, Darryl Sturtevant, Assistant Deputy Minister of Children and Youth Services.
All of the dignitaries and special guests received Métis musical spoons

and the newly minted MNO anniversary medallion created to recognize both the MNO's 20th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of *R. v. Powley*. These medallions given to each MNO Citizen registered for the AGA proved very popular and were very much in demand. Created by MNO Chief Operating Officer

Doug Wilson and designed by Métis graphic artist Marc St. Germain, one side of the medallion features the iconic Métis voyageur canoe and the other a profile of Steve Powley. These medallions insured that everyone who attended the AGA came away with an excellent keepsake of the dual anniversaries of 2013.



▲ (top) **The newly minted MNO anniversary medallion created to recognize both the MNO's 20th anniversary and the 10th anniversary of *R. v. Powley*.** (bottom) **MNO Secretary-Treasurer Tim Pile makes his report to the AGA.**

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF MNO LEADERSHIP

Congratulations Metis Nation of Ontario on 20 years of success, leadership and positive contributions. Detour Gold is proud to celebrate this achievement with you and look forward to many more years of collaboration.

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Everyone doing the same dance

At the 2012 AGA, President Lipinski had challenged all MNO citizens to work to help Métis children and youth become all they can be. One obvious result of the President's initiative was that the 2013 had one of the largest and strongest youth contingents ever present at an AGA. Over 50 youth were in attendance which more than doubled the number from 2012. Youth also played a number of important roles in the AGA including helping MNO

Manager of Projects and Partnerships Scott Carpenter set up an extensive display of Métis artifacts and providing entertainment at the 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance and during the afternoon of Métis cultural activities. The energetic presence of the young people was especially noticeable at social events. President Lipinski noted that at the 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance that everyone kept dancing until midnight as

...children, youth and grandmothers were all up doing the same dance."

"children, youth and grandmothers were all up doing the same dance."

President Lipinski also updated citizens on the progress of his youth initiative in an "Our Youth – Our Future" report. He reminded citizens that providing support and positive attention is one of the best ways to help youth succeed, especially those who are not getting support elsewhere, and that this is something everyone can do. As part of the report, the MNO Directors of Education and

Training and Healing and Wellness also provided updates on child and youth activities in their respective areas. Their report included a review of the progress being made in having Métis-specific concerns taken into account in the current process of reforming Aboriginal children and youth services. The success of existing MNO youth programs such as the Summer Youth Cultural Program, Infinite Reach and the MNO Youth Council were also discussed.

▼ (left) MNO Summer Cultural Students demonstrate traditional Métis dancing. (top right) PCMNO Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Henry, MNO President Lipinski, MNBC President Bruce Dumont. (middle right) MNO Ottawa Métis Council President Chris Lavigne and friend (bottom right) Members of the MNO Summer Cultural Student program.



The busiest year in Métis rights in history

Long-time MNO lawyers Jean Teillet and Jason Madden provided extensive reviews of the main Métis rights cases that are currently before the courts or where decisions had been recently obtained. In discussing the wide array of cases Ms. Teillet commented that "this is likely the busiest year for Métis rights in history."

The two major cases discussed were the recent *Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) v. Canada Supreme Court* case which had recently been won by the MMF, and the Daniels Case, which although won at the Federal Court had been recently appealed by the federal government. While the MMF had been successful at the Supreme Court, Ms. Teillet predicted that the issues coming out of the case would not be resolved for around 25 years. Despite the expected elongated timeline, the MMF case should be crucial in establishing a land claims process for Métis and will have im-

plications in Ontario because of the "outstanding promises" made to Métis in Ontario such as during the Robinson Treaty discussions.

"What you [MNO citizens] do on a day-to-day basis, is part of knowledge gathering that helps our ongoing legal causes."

- Métis Lawyer Jason Madden

The Daniels Case also has potentially far-reaching consequences for Métis. The Federal Court ruling that Métis are a responsibility

of the federal government would be an important step in forcing the federal government to begin negotiations with the Métis on a whole range of issues. Mr. Madden pointed out, however, that there is a problem with the Federal Court's ruling in that they did not define Métis in line with the Powley definition and it is hoped that this will be corrected by rulings from higher courts.

In addition to running through the implications of a number of other cases, Mr. Madden also encouraged the MNO to continue its traditional knowledge studies. "What you [MNO citizens] do on a day-to-day basis," he explained, speaking of traditional knowledge studies, "is part of knowledge gathering that helps our ongoing legal causes." Métis rights is therefore not just something that lawyers fight for in court but is a field in which all MNO citizens can make a contribution.



▲ (top) Métis lawyer Jason Madden makes a point while PCMNO Regional Councillor Pauline Saulnier and MNO Vice-chair Sharon McBride listen carefully. (bottom) Métis Lawyer Jean Teillet provided extensive reviews of the main Métis rights cases that are currently before the courts or where decisions had been recently obtained.

Celebrating Métis culture

As is the case every year, Métis culture and heritage were front and centre throughout the AGA. This year MNO leaders joined by dignitaries and a much appreciated contingent of strong Métis youth departed from Victoria Island in the Ottawa River in three traditional Métis voyageur canoes. From there they paddled vigorously to reach docks adjacent to the Canadian Museum of Civilization, where hundreds of MNO citizens greeted them with enthusiastic cheers. Once the canoes had arrived and their passengers disembarked, a procession led by a MNO veterans colour party, with musical accompaniment by members of the Métis Fiddler Quartet and Summer Cultural Student Alicia Blore, paraded into the Museum of Civilization for the Welcome to the AGA ceremonies.

Once in the Museum, MNO citizens filled up an auditorium where after greetings from MNO Chair France Picotte and MNO President Lipinski, they were treated to a performance of *Corps de Voyageurs: Soldiers in Capotes*. This is an original production written by MNO citizen, past staff member and long-time

friend of the MNO, Virginia Barter who provided an introduction to the work. Starring the Métis Fiddler Quartet and actor John Houston, the performance depicts Métis participation in the War of 1812. Filled with both drama and humour, the performance received a thunderous standing ovation and was a powerful reminder that the Métis had been fighting for Canada, before there was a Canada.

The following evening, AGA participants were treated to a Métis cultural extravaganza at the MNO 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance. This sold out event featured live entertainment with attendees dressing in traditional Métis garb while enjoying traditional Métis fare, served family style, such as bison meatloaf, elk ragout with

forest mushrooms, cornmeal crusted pickerel and corn soup with smoked pork served with bannock. Métis fiddlers and jiggers performed while attendees entered the room which was followed by an opening prayer by Senator Reta Gordon and remarks by President Lipinski. President Lipinski then presented the 2013 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award to Senator Brenda Powley (see page 30 for the complete story) and then an evening of great entertainment followed.

The evening featured a pair of Métis songstresses. Rebecca Cuddy is a classically trained singer currently majoring in vocal performance at the University of Western Ontario and Loma Rowlinson who has performed at many AGAs is well-known for her successful musical career in the 1990s when she was a staple on country radio and

Country Music Television. The MNO Summer Youth Cultural students gave the evening a lighter touch with humorous skits and songs that they had written themselves while award-winning Métis author Joseph Boyden provided a dramatic reading from his latest book. The evening concluded with everyone out on the floor to the 50s and 60s band the Fabulous Heartbeats. Their energetic singing kept everyone dancing to midnight but the highlight of the night was a proposal from Jim Richardson to PCMNO Regional Councillor Pauline Saulnier (she accepted).

The following afternoon, AGA delegates were able to take a break from AGA business and travel to nearby Victoria Island where they took part in Métis cultural activities. The afternoon featured the always popular Métis Voyageur Games, where citizens were able to compete with each other in activities based on the lives of the original voyageurs. There were also Métis craft activities and entertainment and a mouth-watering barbeque staged by the three AGA host community councils; the High Land Waters, Ottawa and Peterborough Wapiti Métis Councils.

“Métis culture and heritage were front and centre throughout the AGA.”



TOGETHER WE CAN

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▲ (top right) MNO citizens test their aim as part of the Métis Voyageur Games. (middle right) Senator Bob McKay (showing off his new haircut) and friend. (bottom right) Long-time MNO citizen Andre Bosse. (left) MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Sahra Maclean dishes out some tasty burgers during the barbeque. ▼ (top) Many citizens enjoyed the Métis crafts demonstrations and activities. (bottom left) MNO Veteran Guy Mandeville, PCMNO Youth Representative Mitch Case and MNO Northern Lights Métis Council President Urgil Courville (bottom right) Three great Métis Nation leaders (left to right) Métis Nation British Columbia President Bruce Dumont; Métis Nation of Alberta President Audrey Poitras; and MNO President Gary Lipinski





“Together we make a difference and overcome serious challenges...”

— President Lipinski

We work for the Métis people of Ontario

President Lipinski, MNO Chair France Picotte and other AGA speakers consistently took time throughout the AGA to recognize and thank MNO staff for their hard work and dedication both during the AGA as well as throughout the entire year. “I am always impressed by the dedication of our staff,” declared President Lipinski during the AGA Opening Ceremonies, “they give 100 per cent of their effort and dedication.” President Lipinski attributed the positive work attitude of MNO staff to what many staff tell him when he thanks them for their service. “We work for the Métis people of Ontario,” staff members explain.

“I am always impressed by the dedication of our staff, they give 100 per cent of their effort and dedication.”

— President Lipinski



▲ (top) Paddlers in the second and third canoes to arrive at the Museum work hard to get to the docks. (bottom) MNO staff and Métis youth.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MNO

Best wishes to the Métis Nation of Ontario for the 20th Annual General Assembly. Xeneca Power Development is looking forward to continuing to build a strong and lasting partnership between the Métis People and renewable energy. We look forward to many more years of working together.



▲ (top) MNO Infinite Property Service team members Robyn Maluga, Rene Ducharme and Rose Ann Cornier at the MNO AGA cultural day. (bottom) MNO Community Support Services Coordinator Jody Day and MNO Healthy Babies Health Children Coordinator Lisa Talbot during the MNO Healing and Wellness training prior to the AGA.

MNO leaders and governing bodies

AGAs provide the opportunity for MNO citizens in leadership positions throughout Ontario to get together and discuss issues impacting their respective jurisdictions.



▲ MNO Community Council Presidents at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly. (Left to right) front row: Lisa McCron, Liliane Ethier, Deidre Thompson, Sandy Triskle, Marlene Davidson, Valerie Pelepetz, Joanne Young and Alvina Cimon. Middle row: Robert Bird, Andrew Dufrane, Kim Powley, Derrick Pont, President Lipinski, Cora Bunn, Jean Camirand, Roger Giroux and Richard Cuddy. Back row: Keith Henry, Chris Lavigne, Andrew Good, William Gordon, Nelson Montreuil, David Hamilton, Urgil Courville, David Dusome, Alain Lefebvre, Marc Laurin, Peter Couture and Trent Desulniers.



▲ MNO Veterans' Council (left to right) Greg Garratt, CD (Sergeant-at-Arms), Chris Plummer CD (Treasurer), Guy Madeville, CD (Chair), Métis Veteran Alex Boucher (not part of council), Joseph Paquette (President) and Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC (Senator).



▲ The 2013 AGA had one of the largest contingent of youth ever. Besides the members of the MNO Youth Council there were also members of the Métis Summer Youth Cultural Project, Infinite Reach facilitators and community council youth representatives present.

Thank You TO THESE BRONZE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 2013 ANNUAL AGA

OPG Deep Geologic Repository Project



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▲ **MNO Captains of the Hunt at the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly.** (Left to right) Back row: **Tom Thompson Jr. (Region 6), Peter Rivers (Region 9) and Greg Garratt (Region 7).** Second row: **Ken Simard (Region 2), Andy Lefebvre (Region 3), Gerry Bedford (Region 8), Richard Sarrazin (Region 5) and Art Bennett (Region 4).** Front row: **Louise Goulding (Deputy Chief COTH), Patricia Thibault (Region 6) and MNO President Gary Lipinski (Chief COTH).**



▲ **WSMNO Spokesperson and Representatives** (left to right) Back: **Pearl Gabona and Barbaranne Wright** Front: **Candace Lloyd and WSMNO Spokesperson, Sharon McBride**



▲ **MNO Senators at the 2013 Annual General Assembly.** (Left to right) front row: **Joe Poitras, Verna Brunnelle, Terry Bloom, Lois McCallum, Robert Lloyd, Reta Gordon, Rene Gravelle and Dora McInnis.** Middle row: **Bob McKay, Audrey Vallee, Cecile Wager, Patricia Dryden, Micheline Boisvert, Brenda Powley and Malcom Dixon.** Back row: **Gerry Bedford, Eugene Contant, Romeo Sarrazin, Roland St. Germain, Al Roussin, Kempton Gravelle, Larry Duval, John George and Ray Bergie.**

Thank You TO THESE BRONZE SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE 2013 ANNUAL AGA





To educate, preserve, remember...

One of the innovative and exciting aspects of this year's AGA was the interaction between Métis youth and veterans.

On the Friday morning prior to the start of the AGA, the MNO Veterans' Council and designated Métis youth toured the Canadian War Museum and National war monuments.

While waiting for the tour to begin at the entrance of the Canadian Museum of War, MNO Veterans' Council Sgt-at-arms Greg Garret read the Museum's mandate off the wall, "to educate, preserve, remember..." and said "this symbolizes what it is we are doing here today."

A unique experience for youth, they were able to learn and recognize the sacrifices made for their future while listening to the personal stories and memories of the veterans..."

The mandate means "By educating present and future generations on Canada's military heritage, preserving historical artifacts, and encouraging Canadians to reflect on past sacrifices - will help to ensure that the memory and meaning of Canada's military past will never be forgotten."

One of the veterans on the tour was World War II veteran Alex Boucher who is 100 years and eight months young. This was his first visit to Ottawa which was arranged by the MNO Veterans' Council. Later during the AGA opening ceremonies he was presented with the MNO Louis Riel Medal and certificate by MNO President Gary Lipinski. Boucher received a standing ovation and was introduced by Chair France Picotte. "We are very honoured to have Mr. Boucher in our presence," she stated. "The wisdom he must hold. Just imagine what those eyes have seen and what those ears have heard."

During the tour of the museum, Boucher provided one of the most poignant moments of the day. Once inside Memorial Hall where the headstone of the Unknown Soldier is mounted on the wall, he rose out of his wheelchair and placed his poppy on the headstone. The moment brought tears to the eyes of

the fellow veterans, youth and the museum tour guide.

The headstone formerly marked the grave of one of the 6,846 unidentified Canadian soldiers left on the fields of France and Belgium. On November 11 at 11:00 am every year the sun shines through the window and illuminates the tombstone mounted on the wall.

A unique experience for youth, they were able to learn and recognize the sacrifices made for their future while listening to the personal stories and memories of the veterans throughout the tour.

"I feel honoured to be here," explained one of the youth in attendance Christine Skura. "It is very touching."

One of the exhibits visited was the Nose Art exhibit. Nose Art is a form of aircraft graffiti where decorative drawings or designs were painted on the fuselage of military aircrafts. These were used to express individuality and were a form of a good luck charm during the World Wars.

While viewing the Nose Exhibit, Veterans' Council President Joseph Paquette shared a story about his dear friend, the late Senator and Veteran Earl "Boots" Scofield. Senator Scofield had made a Nose Art during his time in the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and the council believes it is in the museum's collection. In an earlier article written for the Voyager, Senator Scofield recalled the story, which President Paquette shared with the youth, on how he got his nickname.

On January 4, 1945, while attempting to take off for a bombing mission. We left the runway and passed between stockpiles of bombs. At a speed of over 100 miles per hour, we crashed into the trees on the far side of the aerodrome. At impact, I was thrown out of the tail turret and flew through the air and landed on a fallen tree. I had hurt my legs and my back. I was blown right out of my flight boots, but got up and ran until my legs could no longer support me. Our bomber exploded and burned up. All of our crew got out with only burns and minor injuries.

It was through these added stories that the youth were able to gain an understanding of not only the history that is preserved in the museum, but of the sacrifices made by Canadians and the very veterans in the room.

"I feel very honoured to be a part of this tour," said youth delegate Terry Lynn Koury. "With the veterans here I get to really see what it is like and have gained newfound respect for what has been done for our futures - I feel it in my heart."

Following the tour of the museum MNO Registrar and veteran



▲ (top) MNO veterans and youth in front of the Canadian War Museum at the start of their tour. (middle) One hundred years and eight month old Métis veteran Alex Boucher placing his poppy on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the National War Memorial. (bottom) MNO Infinite Reach Facilitator Christine Skura chatting with Métis veteran Alex Boucher during the Canadian War Museum tour.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT | AGA 2013



Jane Brennan guided a bus tour to several National war monuments.

During the bus tour the veterans and youth visited the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument. The monument was raised “in sacred and everlasting honour of the contributions of all Aboriginal Canadians in war and peacekeeping operations.”

The second stop was the National War Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tomb holds the remains of an unidentified Canadian soldier who died in France during World War I. The unidentified soldier was selected from a cemetery in the vicinity of Vimy Ridge, the site of a famous Canadian battle of the First World War.

The East and West Memorial Buildings were also visited. These once housed the Department of Veterans Affairs. The buildings are linked by the Memorial Arch and a garden with a large stone relief to honour those who fought in the Second World War.

“This is a first in MNO history,” stated President Paquette. “The veterans’ involvement in this capacity is great. We are taking new strides.”

The MNO Veterans’ Council took the AGA as an opportunity to hold a council meeting and hand out additional Louis Riel Medals and Batoche Medals. Veterans Steven Callaghan and Alex Boucher received Batoche medals and Veteran Brenda Michaud received a Louis Riel Medal and a Batoche Medal. Veterans who will be receiving their medals in the near future include Lorna K. Burke, Derek Anderson, Shelly Claus, Richard Bartlette, Edward J. Dorian and Rene Leonard.



▲ (left) One hundred years and eight month old Métis veteran Alex Boucher receiving a Métis sash and Batoche medal from the MNO Veterans’ Council and MNO Chair France Picotte. (right) Métis youth and veterans at the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa.



Thank You

TO THESE SILVER SPONSORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF THE 2013 ANNUAL AGA



**Abitibi/Temiscamingue
& James Bay Territories
Consultation Committee**



AGA 2013 | CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT



Senator Brenda Powley
receives the 2013
Suzanne Rochon-Burnett
Volunteer of the Year
Award from MNO
President Gary Lipinski at
the 2013 MNO AGA.

Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Award **Volunteer of the Year**

The objective of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award is to recognize individuals who contribute as a volunteer to the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) year round and have done so for a number of years. Each year a volunteer meeting the criteria is named as the recipient of the Suzanne-Rochon Volunteer of the Year by a selection committee of the MNO.

The 2013 Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year was presented to Senator Brenda Powley. Past winners of the award have included:

Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, Richard Sarrazin, Senator Reta Gordon, Louise Goulding, Pauline Saulnier, Senator Gordon Calder, Senator Marlene Greenwood and Senator Olivine Tiedema.

Senator Powley was nominated by several MNO citizens who outlined the reasons they believed she should be selected as this year's Volunteer of the Year.

"Senator Powley has served the Métis Nation tirelessly for the past two decades as a community member, organizer and Senator since the mid 2000s," stated one of the nominators. "Brenda has volunteered thousands of hours to our community, helping organize feast, dances, information sessions, AGMs and has represented this community and the MNO as a whole on numerous committees and boards."

Over the years, Senator Powley has made significant contributions to the Métis Nation.

"The Senator is present at every community council meeting, council or staff support event from set up until clean up, always the first to volunteer to do the work that needs to be done," explained one of the nominators. "She worked tirelessly to support her husband and other community members in the establishment of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council and in the opening of the Sault Métis Centre."

Senator Powley also dedicates much of her time with youth and to sharing and teaching Métis culture and history.

"Brenda is wholly committed to ensuring that our distinct Métis Way of Life is passed on to future generations of young, healthy Métis people," said one of the nominators. "Under the auspices of the Sault Métis Dance Club, Brenda and Anne [Trudel] visited almost every school in the district to do presentations on Métis history, culture and dance; helping Métis children to understand their history as well as [provide] First Nations and non-Aboriginal children with an opportunity to understand who the Métis are."

One of the nominators stated that she "played a very big role in getting me involved as a youth in the MNO."

Much of Senator Powley's life has been

dedicated to the betterment of the Métis Nation. "Brenda works as the matriarch of a very strong active Métis family, supporting her husband Steve and son Roddy along with the Métis Nation of Ontario in the ten year battle to secure our Métis hunting rights," said a nominator.

Nominations for the Volunteer of the Year Award required a written letter, limited to 1,000 words, describing why the nominee should be selected.

"Brenda could never be replaced in our community and without her, our Métis community would not be the same...With only 1000 words it is difficult to express the achievements and dedication of this incredible Métis woman," concluded one of the nominators.

The award was presented by MNO President Gary Lipinski at the 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance during the 2013 MNO Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. Senator Powley was thrilled and shocked to receive the award.

"It was kind of a funny moment because I really didn't see it coming. I had actually nominated someone else," said Senator Powley. "It is very nice to be honoured with this award; there are so many hard working people who deserve it. Everyone does so much for the Métis community. It is hard to pick one person because we work together; it's just who we are."

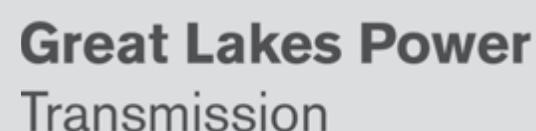
Criteria

The individuals nominated must exemplify the kind of volunteer contribution demonstrated by Suzanne Rochon-Burnett. They will have given generously of their time and effort, are strong advocates of the Métis Nation and their record of selfless commitment has been firmly established. They are seen as caring, giving individuals who others look up to and admire. The candidates will have provided an extended period of service as a volunteer.

About Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett

Dr. Suzanne Rochon-Burnett was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario. Named to the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, Suzanne was a member of the Canada Council and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Brock University where she served on the Board of Trustees. She was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and the first woman inducted into the Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame. Suzanne passed away in 2006. To honour her memory and recognize her outstanding service as a volunteer, in 2006, the Métis Nation of Ontario named Suzanne as the first recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award which now bears her name.

**Thank you to the Friends of the MNO for their Generous support
of the 20th Annual AGA**





My favourite part of the AGA...

We asked AGA delegates what they enjoy most about the AGA. Here is what some of them said.

"I really liked the movie. I'm 20 years old so it is really cool to see the leaders work from my birth to now so I can really visualize how much has changed just in my life time. Just imagine how much will change in the next 20 years."

– **Jennifer Henry**, PCMNO Post-secondary Representative

"Had a great time dancing throughout the night. The Fabulous Heartbeats were very entertaining."

– **Janine Landry**, MNO Youth Council Representative

"Getting together is always what I love most about the AGAs. The top moment for me was listening to Tony speak during the opening ceremonies. It was amazing to see him back on the stage that he built."

– **Sharon McBride**, MNO Vice-Chair

"It was really great to see the lawyers' perspective to everything we have been reading about in the courts."

– **Brianne Madonna**, MNO Summer Cultural Student

"Always a great to see new and old friends from the founding to now."

– **Senator Lois McCallum**

"It's great to touch base with constituents within the province to discuss concerns, wellbeing and share best practices."

– **Peter Rivers**, PCMNO Councillor

"My favourite part of this AGA was to see the 20 years of progress in the MNO movie."

– **Alvina Cimon**, President of the MNO Northwest Métis Council

"This is my first AGA and it helped me find my true self. I had so many amazing experiences with meeting fellow Métis youth. Everyone is so accepting – it feels like one big family."

– **Johnathon Falvo**, MNO Summer Cultural Student

"I loved the dinner; we even got up and danced. The time has gone by so fast – where did it go?"

– **Senator Brenda Powley**

"I think my favourite part was the sugar pies they had at the feast. Boyden was also very impressive, a close second."

– **Senator Malcom Dixon**



◀ (left) **MNO citizens cut a rug during the MNO 20th Anniversary Feast, Dinner Theatre and Dance.** (right) **MNO Chair France Picotte with Senator Brenda Powley.**



MÉTIS CANCER TREATMENT JOURNEY PROJECT

The MNO is seeking submissions from Métis citizens from across the province who are willing to share their personal cancer story and experience with the health care system. This may be your own personal story, or the experience of someone close to you (e.g. family member, close friend etc.).

Specifically, we are bringing together a group of 10 Métis citizens will be invited to participate in a two-day focus group meeting on December 4-5, 2013 in Ottawa. All participants' travel costs (ground, air, etc.), meals and hotel costs will be covered by the MNO.

This project is intended to help us better understand the Métis Cancer Treatment Journey on issues such as access, quality of services, and care outcomes.

The focus group will also help the MNO and its partners, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Cancer Care Ontario, learn about key quality and continuity of care issues facing Métis people in Ontario, and across the full spectrum of health care.

Interested individuals should submit a 1-2 page letter of interest by mail, email or fax, no later than 5:00p.m. (EST) Friday, November 15, 2013.

Your letter should include the following information:

- Name and contact information (including your address with postal code; phone number where you can be contacted during the day; and your email address)

- A brief description of your personal experience with cancer (e.g. type, length of time, treatment status etc.)
- A brief explanation of why you are interested in the project and would like to be involved

We are particularly interested in hearing about the experiences of Métis people living in rural and northern communities as well as those living in more urban areas. For this reason, we will be selecting participants from various regions across the province.

Due to the limited resources available, it is possible that not all people who are interested in being involved will be selected, but all applicants will receive a response from the MNO and have an opportunity to provide their input in other ways.

In considering your involvement, please be assured that the MNO follows strict ethical guidelines in any research it undertakes. Your privacy and the confidentiality of any information you provide will therefore be fully protected at all times. Your personal identity will not be revealed in any project research reports or publications, and you will not be identified in any other way.

Please know that your personal stories and insights about cancer are highly meaningful to MNO's efforts to improve health care and treatment options for Métis citizens in Ontario. MNO staff will be on hand at all times during the two day session and will make every effort to ensure that you are comfortable and that the meeting is a positive experience that is carried out in a respectful, supportive environment.

All letters and other correspondence should be addressed to:

Whitney Montgomery
Chronic Disease Surveillance (CDSP)
Project Coordinator
500 Old St Patrick Street, Unit D
Ottawa, ON K1N 9G4
Tel.: 613-798-1488 ext.130
Toll Free: 800-263-4889
Fax: 613-722-4225
whitneym@metisnation.org

ACHIEVEMENTS

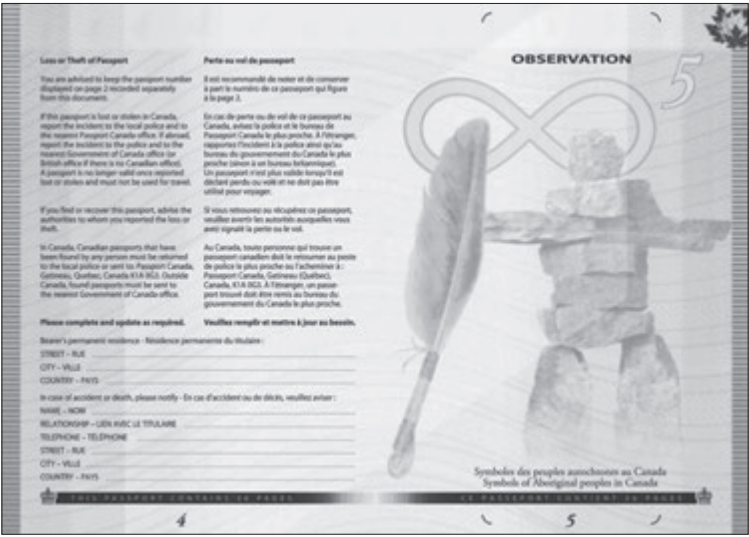
MÉTIS RECOGNIZED Canada's new ePassport

The design of Canada's new ePassport, which was officially launched on July 1, 2013, features the Métis infinity symbol. This is important recognition of Métis as one of Canada's Aboriginal peoples and is another indication of the growing status of the Métis in Canada.

The text accompanying the ePassport describes the Métis as follows: "The Métis, whose ancestry is traced back to Europeans and First Nations, are represented by the infinity symbol. Featured on page five, the infinity symbol represents the blending of two cultures, Aboriginal and European, into one society."

First Nations and Inuit are also symbolized on this page, entitled The Symbols of Aboriginal peoples in Canada, by the images of an eagle feather and the inuksuk.

The general description of the page explains that, "Canada's Ab-



▲ Page five of Canada's new ePassport features the Métis infinity symbol.

original People – the original people of North America and their descendants – are at the very start of the Canadian story. These images are symbolic of their rich cultures and history and proudly open Canada's new e-Passport."

The new Canadian ePassport

looks like a regular passport, but has new security features that make the passport even more tamper-proof. The ePassport contains an electronic chip that enhances the passport's current security features.

For more details visit:
www.passport.gc.ca ∞

Métis playwright featured at Toronto Fringe Festival

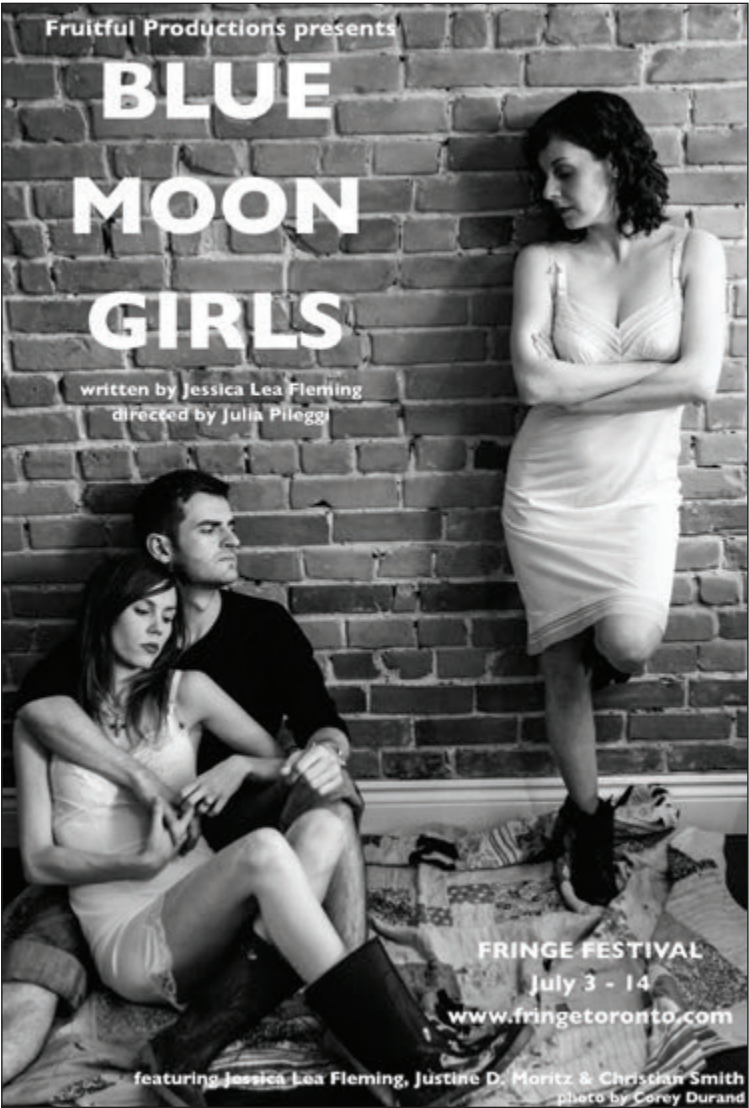
Jessica Lea Fleming is a writer, actor, improviser, producer and a Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen. Her most recent play *Blue Moon Girls*, which she not only wrote and produced but is also performing in, was featured during the Toronto Fringe Festival from July 5-13.

Fleming grew up in historic Penetanguishene, a small town on the Georgian Bay that is rich with Métis culture and traditions. It was this upbringing that inspired her work for *Blue Moon Girls*.

Blue Moon Girls is a story of childhood friends and the choices they face when love comes between them. Julie and Sonya meet as teenagers in the small Métis – French town of Blue Moon, Ontario. Complications arise when they both fall in love with Christian, and sacrifices are made by all.

"For years, I have been trying to shape the story of Blue Moon, based on real and imagined experiences of life in rural Ontario," said Fleming. "With the unflagging encouragement of Christina Cicko, Justine Moritz and the impeccable instincts of dramaturge and director Julia Pileggi, I had the confidence to write this story from the heart. I am excited to present to our audience a tale of love, friendship and sacrifice. For all the "Blue Moon girls" who touched my life, this is ours to share."

Fleming is a recent graduate of the Second City's Conservatory Program where she co-created *I Stand Autocorrected* and she also studied psychology and drama at the University of Guelph. Fleming sits on the Board of Directors for



the Theatre Centre and works as the Development Manager at the imagineNative Film + Media Arts Festival. *Blue Moon Girls* is her third full-length play. ∞

► **Performers of Blue Moon Girls**
(left to right) **Justine D. Moritz, Christian Smith and Jessica Lea Fleming.**



► Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen and artist Nathalie Bertin designed the newly released fine silver hologram coin entitled "A story of the Northern Lights: The Great Hare" by the Royal Canadian Mint.



ROYAL CANADIAN MINT COIN DESIGNED BY MÉTIS ARTIST

The coin displays the Odawa legend of Nanah-boozho sitting by his fire that creates the northern lights. The colourful lights are highlighted with a uniquely shaped hologram that mimics their movement in the night sky. The reverse is also engraved with the word

"CANADA," the date "2013" and the face value of "20 DOLLARS." The coin depicts the Northern Lights with a variety of finishes to highlight elements of Canada's northern landscape.

For more information visit:
www.mint.ca ∞



▲ Carley Gervais receiving her police badge from OPP Commissioner Chris Lewis (left) and her father, Sgt. Grant Gervais (right).

Congratulations Officer Carley Gervais!

Submitted by:
The Gervais family

Carley Gervais, daughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Sgt. Grant Gervais, joined the ranks of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) in August after completing Police Foundations and a long, strenuous training program at Ontario Police College.

Carley is posted to the OPP Caledon detachment where she

and her fellow officers are committed to the safety of the public.

Congratulations to Carley for this wonderful achievement and best of luck with such an honourable career. Her parents, step-parents, siblings, and entire extended family are proud of what she has achieved at such a young age.

The Gervais family is grateful to the MNO for funding part of Carley's police training through MNO Education and Training programs. ∞



▲ Nikiann Brideau (right) and classmate working on their WindEng single-bladed turbine.
◀ Nikiann Brideau and classmates with their winning wind blade design.

UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH WINDENG COMPETITION Métis youth part of innovative team

Submitted by: **Liliane Ethier**,
MNO Temiskaming Métis
Council

Information from: *Temiskaming Métis
News*

Métis Grade 11 student Nikiann Brideau, granddaughter of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Temiskaming Métis Council President Liliane Dupuis Ethier, recently competed in the University of Guelph's Win-

dENG wind energy competition.

On April 30, Brideau and her team of classmates from Eastdale Secondary School won first place for most innovative design for their single-bladed turbine.

WindENG is an annual high school design competition. The task consists of constructing an energy generating wind turbine that uses a DC motor as the generator. Students from 24 schools from Kingston to Toronto to Windsor showed off their

designs for energy-generating wind turbines and competed for cash prizes.

Brideau's team's single-bladed design produced about three watts of power and the double-bladed system produced about 10 watts.

The school sent two teams of six students to the university. Each created a video explaining the design of the windmill. They later tested their designs in the university's wind tunnel.

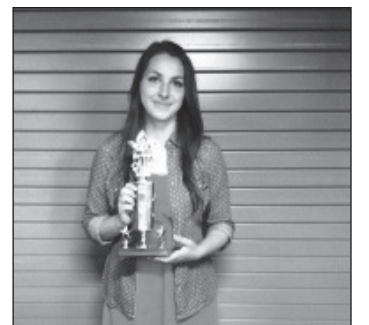
Brideau said each team created its own video and each took about 30 hours to complete.

"We know from competing in previous years that a lot of teams don't really focus on the video, so if we did we could show them we knew our stuff through our videos," she said.

One of the videos was a stop-motion video and the other a hand-drawn animation film comprising 2,000 still images. ∞

MÉTIS TEEN WINS

N'Swakamok Aboriginal Idol



▲ Martine Fortin with her N'Swakamok Aboriginal Idol first place trophy

Submitted by:
Michelle Prévost-Fortin

Sixteen year old daughter of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Michelle Prévost-Fostin, Martine Fortin, is a musician from Sudbury, Ontario who performs in her high school band at L'École secondaire Macdonald Cartier. Outside of school, she writes her own lyrics, composes her own music, plays the piano and is vocalist for all her original material.

Wanting to share her daughter's talent, Fortin's mother entered her in the 2013 N'Swakamok Aboriginal Idol competition where she would proudly represent the Métis.

The competition was held on June 21, 2013, National Aboriginal Day, at Bell Park in Sudbury, Ontario. Fortin sang three French original songs, C'est Ridicule, Me Voici and J'hésite, which won her the title of N'Swakamok Aboriginal Idol 2013.

As part of the first place prize, Fortin won \$500.00 cash, a trophy, a photo session by Bruno Henry Photography, a one-on-one session with recording artist Jace Martin on how to pursue her music career and a stage performance at the 2014 Aboriginals Got Talent.

Congratulations on this great accomplishment! ∞

YOUTH REP RECEIVES BURSARY

Submitted by: **Robert Contois**,
Reception at MNO Georgian
Bay Métis Council

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth Representative Danielle Secord received the Helen Bradley Memorial Bursary in the amount of \$3,000 presented by Senator Dora MacInnis at the May 1 council meeting. The funds for the bursary came from a grant received from Bruce Power. ∞



Métis heritage and culture focus of Franco-Ontarian show

On May 14, Ottawa area Métis were invited to see a show which celebrates Métis art and culture. The French show entitled, L'écho d'un peuple fier et Metises, was held at a downtown Ottawa high school De La Salle.

While attendees were taking their seats, the school auditorium filled with students who were clapping along with Métis fiddle music

while waiting for the show to begin.

The show is a creation of *L'écho d'un peuple*, a non-profit community organization run by volunteers from the entire region of Eastern Ontario.

The show recounts four centuries of Franco-Ontarians, First Nations and Métis peoples' history through 17 frames in 90 minutes. It combines theater, music and film to create an entertaining performance. It combines of theatrical magic, dance,

period costumes, special effects, action scenes, powerful cinematographic images, humour and heart-rending songs as it evoked the powerful and much intermingled history of Franco-Ontarians and Métis.

"The objective is to provide an opportunity for Franco-Ontarians and Métis to express pride in their language, their culture and heritage," said the shows Artistic Director Felix Saint-Denis. "Also to make them

aware of the history, culture and heritage of these people in Ontario."

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, three French and public school boards of the area including Cornwall and Ottawa region, the show features three generations of local performers on stage.

The show would not be possible without the hard working 250 volunteer actors, dancers, set designers and singers. ∞





◀ (left) Maidstone 4H Heritage Club waiting to go on stage for the opening ceremony Aboriginal greeting produced by Donna Grayer. (top right) ICG opening ceremonies. (bottom right) Associate producer, Donna Grayer, MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council Women's Representative with family at the ICG opening ceremonies.

MNO citizen produces Aboriginal greeting for 2013 International Children's Games

Submitted by: **Donna Grayer,**
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis
Council Women's Representative

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council Women's Representative Donna Grayer was an associate producer for the Métis, First Nations and Inuit greeting performed for the 2013 International Children's Games (ICG) opening ceremony held on August 15 in Windsor Essex.

The ICG is an Olympic sanctioned youth event. This year's ICG hosted 32 countries and 84 teams to compete in various sports. The Opening Ceremony is an artistic multi-faceted spectacle showcasing Windsor-Essex culture and talent and featuring the Parade of Athletes, live music, dance, aerialists and specialty performers including local young people in most of its segments, reflecting the "In Sport We Are One" theme.

Grayer was asked by the game's

creative director, executive producer and choreographer Melissa Williams, at the beginning of the year to help plan the opening ceremonies.

The theme of the opening ceremonies was to illustrate the connection between past, present and future.

"I incorporated a heritage group to enact the 1812 time period with the emphasis on Métis Voyageurs," explained Grayer. "They were the Maidstone 4H Heritage Group. I also included our council member's

children and grandchildren."

The First Nation portion included a traditional song with beautiful regalia with all groups participating in three round dances.

"The few flukes that happened would only be noticed by me," said Grayer, "but perfect timing is hard to do when you are not used to doing large productions and little. I was very happy for the opportunity for our community to be involved and to experience such an event."

"The process of creating the right

sound effects, music, video and so much more was as much fun as it was challenging," she continued. "I met and worked with some of the best in choreography and production in the area, a few who came back, from all over the world, in order to be part of the event and represent their home."

The opening ceremony proved to be a success and was televised. "The entire opening was absolutely breathtaking," said Grayer. "I was humbled and honored to be part of it." ∞

ATTENTION: Métis Nation of Ontario Region 9 and Region 8 Citizens

MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO: **EMPLOYMENT AND CONTRACTING COMMUNITY GATHERING**

THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO IN CONJUNCTION WITH NIAGARA Region Wind Corporation and Union Gas is hosting the Metis Nation of Ontario - Employment and Contracting Community Gathering on October 29, 2013 at the Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Convention Centre in St. Catherine's. The gathering will begin at 4:00pm.

The Niagara Region Wind Corp, and representatives from Enercon, TSP Towers Canada and PCL along with Union Gas and representatives from AECON Utilities and Link-Line will have displays and will be making presentations at 4:00pm and again at 6:30pm regarding upcoming employment and contracting opportunities. In addition, the Métis Nation of Ontario – Education and Training branch with a number of colleges and universities will have booths to compliment this gathering.

There is no cost to attend this gathering. Food and refreshments will be available.

October 29, 2013 – 4:00pm-8:00pm
Holiday Inn and Suites Parkway Convention Centre
327 Ontario St., St. Catherine's

James Wagar
Manager of Natural Resources, Lands Resources and Consultation,
Métis Nation of Ontario
Telephone: 416-977-9881
Toll free: 888-466-6684
e-mail: jamesw@metisnation.org

Kelly Honsberger
Regional Employment & Training Coordinator, Métis Nation of Ontario
Telephone: 416-977-9881
Toll free: 888-466-6684
e-mail: kellyh@metisnaiton.org

Métis youth receives excellence award

Submitted by: **Liliane Ethier,**
MNO Temiskaming Métis
Council President

Congratulations to Alison Savoie, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Temiskaming Métis Council Youth Representative, for being the recipient of the Thomas Black Excellence Award.

The Thomas Black Award is presented to an individual for illustrating care and compassion and providing good care.

Alison was also a participant of the Summer Youth Cultural Interpreter program last year. ∞



▲ Alison Savoie with her mother and sister (left to right) Terrie Busch-Savoie and Mackenzie Savoie.



◀ Cover of Métis author K.D. Beckett's fourth novel.

Métis author launches fourth novel

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen K.D. Beckett recently launched the fourth novel of her In Time Saga, *Paths in Time* on June 21, 2013.

Paths in Time follows the lives of two Siksika tribes after an unexpected tragedy.

To celebrate this achieve-

ment, Beckett held a pre-launch reading and signing session in Gatineau-Hull at the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada lobby. The official book launch was held at the Aboriginal Arts Festival in Ottawa from June 21-23.

For more information visit www.metispublishing.ca ∞

MNO CITIZENS RECEIVE

Ontario Volunteer Service Award

Submitted by: **Nina Henley,**
Secretary of the MNO Kenora
Métis Council

Congratulations to Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Métis Council members President Joel Henley, Chair Cyndy Laliberte and Secretary Nina Henley, for being the recipients of the Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

On May 13, each was recognized for their continuous years of commitment and dedicated service to an organization by the Honourable Michael Coteau, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. Both Joel and Nina were recognized for five years of continuous service and Cyndy was honoured with a ten year pin.

The Ontario Volunteer Service



▲ MNO citizens (left to right) Joel Henley, Cyndy Laliberte and Nina Henley with their Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

Awards are held at special ceremonies across Ontario where recipients are presented with a stylized trillium

service pin acknowledging their years of service, and a personalized certificate. ∞



▲ MNO Northern Lights Métis Council members and citizen with their awards. (Left to right) Sheila Skidmore, Senator Eugene Contant, Secretary/Treasurer Sue Skidmore, President of the CDC Simon Leonard, Chair Lucille Nelson and kneeling in front is Council President Urgel Courville.

Cochrane recognizes MNO Northern Lights Council

Submitted by: **Lucille Nelson,**
MNO Northern Lights Métis
Council Chair

The Town of Cochrane Community Development Corporation (CDC) recently recognized Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Northern Lights Métis Coun-

cil members at its 2013 Community Spirit Awards on September 8.

Council members were recognized as Spirit Volunteers. Council President Urgel Courville was awarded a plaque for Volunteer of the Year. Senator Eugene Contant, Chair Lucille Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer Sue Skidmore and Sheila

Skidmore were awarded for being a 5 Star volunteer. President Courville and Senator Contant were also each awarded a certificate for 20 years of dedication.

The night's entertainment was provided by the band Northern Image whose lead singer is MNO citizen Marcel Courville. ∞

Congratulations bronze medalist Chasity!

Submitted by: **Tammy Webb,**
MNO Manager of Labour Market

Chasity King, the niece of Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Manager of Labour Market Tammy Webb, made her way to the Canadian Tenpin Federation (CTF) National Bowling Tournament in Calgary this past May.

King bowled in the event and

earned a bronze medal for Bantam Doubles and a second bronze medal for Bantam Girls. King would like to thank everyone in her community who supported her.

Congratulations on this great achievement! ∞

► Chasity King with her two bronze medals.



COMMUNITY

A beautiful day to celebrate being Métis

The Voyageur thanks Senator Reta Gordon for her help in producing this article

On June 21, Métis from across the homeland celebrated National Aboriginal Day, a day to celebrate culture and heritage and to remember the contributions made by Aboriginal peoples to Canada.

In Ottawa, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Ottawa Regional Métis Council celebrated at the Summer Solstice Aboriginal Arts Festival held in Vincent Massey Park.

It was a beautiful sunny day to share Métis culture and heritage. The Council has held National Aboriginal Day celebrations for the past 14 years and as Ray Girard explained, the sun has always been shining.

The day's events included a wholesome meal of vegetarian chili, banana cake and freshly picked strawberries served my council members, volunteers and MNO staff. People from many different backgrounds

enjoyed the food, so much so that there was none left to spare.

As the day progressed, attendees enjoyed the musical talents of Anthony Brascouper and Ray Girard. The two played traditional Métis music for the enjoyment of all.

The event was the first time the local Ottawa Métis had the opportunity to celebrate with the First Nations and Inuit communities. It was made possible due to the dedication of the volunteers and a successful proposal submitted for funding. ∞



▲ Ray Girard singing and dancing next to fiddler Anthony Brascouper during the National Aboriginal Day celebration in Ottawa.



▲ Granddaughter of Carmen Pregent, Anabelle Prieur with MNO Senator Reta Gordon.



▲ Children participating in activities at the MNO Bancroft Family Fun Day.

Bancroft Family Fun Day

Submitted by: **Marsha Depotier**, MNO Victim Services Coordinator

On July 10, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a family fun day in Bancroft. The all-day event took place at Riverside Park and featured Métis inspired children's activities such as lacrosse water toss, apple jig, flying eagle, voyageur express, hunters target, rabbit jump, bannock making and admission to the local Heritage Museum.

The event was a great success with roughly 83 participants for the day activities.

MNO partnered with the Town of Bancroft and the Music in the Park festival for evening entertainment. Approximately 250 people attended.

MNO staff member Marsha Depotier offered a strawberry teaching and the local women's drum group, including MNO staff members Depotier and Judy Simpson, offered the Strong Women Song to go with the teachings. Participants were offered strawberry parfait at the end of the evening.

MNO staff from the Bancroft and Renfrew offices worked hard throughout the day to ensure the event would be memorable and fun for everyone. ∞

Cyber-safety workshop in Midland

Submitted by: **Tera Lynn Copegog**, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Today, there is less fear in using online services for banking or purchases, and more emphasis on appropriate uses of the internet. Being so, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held a cyber-safety workshop in Midland. Participants engaged in conversations, sharing what types of technology they currently use and the safety precautions they have in place for themselves and their families.

MNO staff members Tera Lynn Copegog and Lorraine Mountney joined together to invite Constable Aaron Coulter of Midland Police Services to the MNO office in Midland to share with youth and adults the importance cyber-safety.

"Good parents educate themselves on the computer, because let's face it, kids today know way



more than we do," Constable Coulter explained. He continued to describe to youth what life was like before Facebook or email such as the process of making a call to a family member across the world and having to mail pictures to relatives and waiting seven days to see them finally.

Youth discussed playing games, texting, using Facebook and keeping in touch with friends on cell phones, computers, iPods and tablets. The funny thing, not one of them suggested using these devices for school or research purposes.

Constable Coulter explained the importance of security features on a number of devices and applications and showed a video on setting up our Facebook accounts to "friends only" for protection and privacy reasons.

He continued to explain the importance of not believing everything you see on the internet.

"I tell the 12 year olds, you should only be friends with people you know in person on Facebook. If I type that I am a 12 year old girl that likes ponies on my post, would you believe me? If you saw me in person and I said I am a twelve year old girl that likes ponies would you believe me then?" Constable Coulter asked the group. A youth in attendance, Aleigha responded, "No, I can see you are a boy." Constable Coulter did get his point across to the audience.

Constable Coulter then discussed the issue of cyber bullying which is an issue in the forefront. He explained that parents need to prepare their children to not engage in negative talk and posts they read and encourage them to get an adult involved as soon as it becomes an issue.

"We would rather talk to those involved prior to something serious happening to assist these individuals than wait for it to be too bad. We can often make a difference in the early stages." Constable Coulter said. "A good rule to use when



▲ Participants of the cyber-safety workshop in Midland. (Left to right) back row : **Midland Police Services Constable Aaron Coulter; MNO Community Services Officer Kayla Burns; Sherry Lizotte; Debbie Ferris-Giammattolla; MNO Community Support Services Aging at Home Coordinator Kerry Begin; and MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Tera Lynn Copegog.** Front Row: **Aleigha Jennett Dorion and MNO Community Support Services staff member Lorraine Mountney,**

posting a picture or posting online is, if you wouldn't say it in front of your grandmother or show her the picture, do not press send."

The presentation was followed by an open discussion. Big thank you to Constable Coulter for providing this workshop. ∞

Increasing awareness about Métis within schools

MNO GRAND RIVER MÉTIS COUNCIL TEACHES EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

Submitted by: **Cora Bunn**, MNO Grand River Métis Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Grand River Métis Council was recently invited to train educators from the Upper Grand District School Board and the Wellington Catholic District School Board about Métis heritage and culture.

Council Chair Jennifer Parkinson and Council President Cora Bunn taught 70 teachers and principals at the May Professional Development Day in Elora. A key resource used during this training was the MNO Métis Education Kit. Contents of the kit included the MNO Métis timeline, posters, a Métis sash, Marcel Labelle's book "Our Knowledge Canoe", and the Métis Fiddler Quartet's CD; all of which sparked a great deal of interest from the teachers.

The MNO Grand River Métis Council display provided a colourful background for Chair Parkinson and President Bunn to display furs, traps and beading which provided teachers with a hands-on experience that proved very popular.

A jigging workshop was also held. The Métis Fiddler Quartet's CD was blasted through the hall as the teachers kicked off their shoes and learned the basic steps of jigging.

Some excellent contacts were made during the event and orders were taken for MNO Education Kits.

After the training, one of the participants Mr. Allan Asselin, the

Principal of St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School, invited the council to spend National Aboriginal Day at his school teaching the students about Métis history and culture.

“celebrate their efforts and their strengths and share in the great culture they bring each and every day to Canadians.”

— Allan Asselin, Principal,
St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School

Principal Asselin invited the Council because he wanted the students at his school to recognize the contributions of the Métis and to “celebrate their efforts and their strengths and share in the great cul-

ture they bring each and every day to Canadians.”

In order to teach all the students in one day, three sessions we held simultaneously in the gymnasium. President Bunn taught the students Métis history, culture and how to jig. The students enjoyed the jigging, especially the “freestyle” jigging. One Kindergarten student did the worm!

Senator Carol Levis read stories to the younger students and offered the prayers. Chair Parkinson and her husband Ron Parkinson led the almost 600 students in two different crafts. Students from Senior Kindergarten to Grade 4 each made medicine pouches and grades 5-8 were taught how to finger weave. The finger weaving was done in the school's colours of gold and purple. Chair Parkinson also shared smudging with the grade 7-8 students.

In honour of National Aboriginal Day the school flew the Métis flag for the day. The council presented Principal Asselin with a Métis sash. The students and teachers gave enthusiastic praise of the interactive teachings they shared with them. The teachers and students expressed how they “loved” their day with the council and have requested that the council returns for two days next year.

Local media was invited to St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School by Principal Asselin, which resulted in a large front page article and photo in the Guelph Mercury. ∞



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council teaching students on Aboriginal Day at St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic School.



▲ MNO Grand River Métis Council Chair Jennifer Parkinson and Council President Cora Bunn training teachers on Métis culture and heritage.



▲ Katelyne Stenlund playing the fiddle.



◀ Métis children who participated at the International Women's Day celebration in Kenora, (Left to right) Hailey Fortier, Katelyne Stenlund, Hayden Stenlund and Lacy Kerr.

Métis kids entertain at International Women's Day celebration

Submitted by: **PCMNO Region One Councillor Theresa Stenlund and MNO Kenora Métis Council Secretary Nina Henley**

On March 9, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Kenora Métis Council were asked to help celebrate International Women's Day in Kenora by providing Métis performances.

Participating in the event were Katelyne and Hayden Stenlund, the children of Provisional Council of the MNO (PCMNO) Region One

Councillor Theresa Stenlund; and Hailey Fortier and Lacy Kerr, grandchildren of President and Secretary of the MNO Kenora Métis Council Joel and Nina Henley.

The children displayed their Métis pride and culture for members of the Kenora community. Katelyne was the co-master of ceremonies and performed several songs on the fiddle. She and Hailey demonstrated the sash dance, while Hayden and Lacy played the spoons. The three girls also demonstrated a second traditional dance for the enjoyment of all in attendance. ∞

Canoeing the River Canard

MNO WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNCIL VISITS WAR OF 1812 SITES

Submitted by: **Donna Grayer**,
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis
Council Women's Representative

On June 2, members of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council embarked on a heritage canoe excursion that focused on War of 1812 activities in the hamlet of River Canard.

Organized by Donna Grayer, the trip was guided by the River Canard Canoe Company. All ages enjoyed the scenery, history lessons, stories and laughs; sometimes at the expense of the tipped canoe riders.

River Canard was the site of an engagement between British and American forces during the War of 1812. The sites visited featured actors who re-enacted the battle style of the British and Americans and told stories of the Métis and First Nations and their contributions to the war. There was a stop at a burial ground and a historically marked skirmish.

The excursion was set up as a scouting trip of 30 attendants from all generations. Each council mem-

ber who attended brought along their children or grandchildren as guests and shared stories about canoeing and Métis culture and heritage.

MNO Windsor-Essex council members in attendance were Senator Bob LeBoeuf, Secretary Sue LeBoeuf-Morency, Councillor Wilfred Rochon, Chair Jon Rochon and Women's Representative Donna Grayer.

"It was a day enjoyed by all with talks of another one and with invites going deeper into our local Métis community," said Donna Grayer.

There is progress being made in finding local Métis history/settlements as more families trace their roots

and are able to share their stories and paper work. Senator LeBoeuf was able to share his family's history and fill in a few gaps for the tour guide who plans to use Senator LeBoeuf's stories in the future. ∞

River Canard is a hamlet of roughly 500 people in the northern part of Amherstburg, Ontario and the southern part of LaSalle, Ontario. It is approximately 12 miles south of Windsor, ON, situated on the Canard River.

It was a day enjoyed by all with talks of another one and with invites going deeper into our local Métis community..."

— Donna Grayer



▲ MNO Windsor-Essex Chair Jon Rochon with daughter and others.



▲ MNO Windsor-Essex council members and their family members who participated in the excursion.

Métis pride in the City of Roses

Submitted by: **Donna Grayer**,
MNO Windsor-Essex Métis
Council Women's Representative

On Friday, June 21 in Windsor, the City of Roses, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council raised the Métis National flag in front of Windsor's City Hall for the first time. The flag rising celebrated National Aboriginal Day and acknowledged the 20 year anniversary of the MNO.

The late MNO Senator Earl Scofield and past council president Bob LeBoeuf had often discussed raising the flag at City Hall. The council settled on the year of 2013 because of the MNO's 20th anniversary as well as to celebrate the recent success the Métis have accomplished in the provincial and federal courts.

Founding MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council members Wilfred Rochon and Bob LeBoeuf were given the honour of raising the flag. Attendants proudly watched as the flag went up the pole, then swirled, as there was no wind. Fortunately, the wind did pick up



▲ MNO Windsor-Essex Métis Council members Jon Rochon, Wilfred Rochon and Sue Morency at Windsor City Hall.

enough for those in attendance to witness the Métis flag flying. While watching, pride and big smiles surfaced on the faces of all in attendance.

It was a beautiful day; each felt that the late Senator Scofield may have contributed to the gentle breezes that caused the Métis flag to fly that day, as he was in their

thoughts.

In attendance were: Senator Bob Leboeuf, Councillor Wilfred Rochon and wife, Sue Morency, Secretary; Jon Rochon, Vice-President; Donna Grayer, Women's Representative; Tina De Castro from the Great Essex District School Board; and MNO staff October Fostey and Jannatu Mawal. ∞

MNO High Land Waters Métis Council AGM

Submitted by:
Marsha Depotier, MNO Victim
Services Coordinator

On July 20, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) High Land Waters Métis Council held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Royal Canadian Legion in Northbrook.

The AGM featured Métis Voyageur Games including hatchet throwing, beading, air rifles, children's activities as well as information on MNO's programs and services.

Among the 35 attendees were Tom Thompson, Provisional Council of the MNO Region Six Councillor; Dedire Thompson, Acting MNO High Land Waters President; Senator Reta Gordon; Senator Lois McCallum; and Andy Dufrane, MNO



▲ Senator Lois McCallum beading at the MNO High Land Waters AGM.

Peterborough and District Wapiti Métis Council President. ∞

MNO acknowledges Métis Veteran at Toronto -York Region Council AGM

Submitted by: **MNO Veteran, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy C.D., O.M.C.**

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Toronto-York Region Métis Council hosted their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on June 9 at the local Royal Canadian Legion. President Gary Lipinski was in attendance and presented the MNO Louis Riel Commemorative Medal and the MNO Louis Riel Certificate to MNO Veteran Harvey Horlock, C.D..

Veteran Horlock has been heavily involved with the MNO for many years. He is a past president and a past Senator of the MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council and past president of the MNO Veterans' Council. He also assisted in the creation of the MNO Oshawa Durham Métis Council and the MNO Credit River Métis Council.

For the past several years, Veteran Horlock has represented the



▲ (Left to right) **MNO Veteran Harvey Horlock, C.D.; MNO President Gary Lipinski; and MNO Veteran, Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC, at the MNO Toronto-York Region Métis Council AGM.**

Métis Veterans at the Oshwegan National Memoriam Day and for the past two years he has been invited by the Premier's Office to represent the MNO at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Queen's Park.

Veteran Horlock is also past representative for Ontario to the National Veterans Council and past

member of the National Aboriginal Veteran Association (NAVA).

Currently, Veteran Horlock is the president of the Toronto Scottish Regiment, a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Todmorden Branch number 10 and a member of their colour party, being so; he has participated in the Louis Riel Day colour party at Queen's Park. ∞

MNO Harvesters enhance aquatic habitats in the Georgian Bay

Submitted by: **Larry J. Ferris, MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chair**

For the past three years the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council Harvesters have been hard at work with a project that will help the future aquatic ecosystems of the Georgian Bay.

Most recently, on May 26, the MNO Georgian Bay Council Harvesters and partners created seven new fish habitats in the Georgian Bay in hopes to preserve the fish populations.

The newly created habitats will provide cover for small fish allowing them to reach maturity. The MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Harvesters and partners plan to add an additional 20 habitats this fall. There has also been discussion on placing underwater cameras to monitor the habitats effectiveness.

The project is in partnership with the Georgian Bay Bassmasters, 1st Wye Marsh Scouts, the North Simcoe Anglers and Hunters Conservation Club Inc., the University of Toronto and the Severn Sound Environmental Association. ∞



▲ **MNO Georgian Bay Council Harvesters placing one of seven new fish habitat in the Georgian Bay.**



▲ **Some of the participants who took part in MNO activities during the Mississauga Waterfront Festival.**

MNO canoes featured in Mississauga Waterfront Festival

Submitted by: **Richard Cuddy, President of MNO Credit River Métis Council**

On June 15 - 16, 2013, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) canoes participated in the Mississauga Waterfront Festival. The festival is recognized as Mississauga's Signature Family and Friends event that features shows, games and fun for the whole family.

The MNO canoes made several trips on both afternoons along the shore of the Credit River while proudly displaying the Métis National flag.

The local Métis community was well represented by Métis Fiddler, Ms. Amie Nault and MNO's Summer Youth Cultural Interpreters.

Among the paddlers were MNO Vice-Chair Sharon McBride, MNO Credit River Métis Council President Richard Cuddy; MNO Credit River Vice-President Bill Morrison; Councillor Jean-Marc Maheu; and MNO Manager of Community Relations Hank Rowlinson.

Thanks to Councillor David Neville, with the assistance of Councillors Jean-Marc Maheu and Bill Morrison, for facilitating MNO's involvement in the festival. ∞

MNO bears torch at Sprint World Championships

Submitted by: **The MNO Community Relations team, Hank Rowlinson, Glen Lipinski and Beth Honsberger**

On July 31, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and MNO Niagara Region Métis Council shared Métis culture with the world by participating in the 2013 Canoe Federation Junior and Under-23 Sprint World Championships opening ceremonies at the Welland International Flatwater Centre.

The world championship competition was held from August 1-4 and hosted 63 countries and more than 1,000 participants. Races included kayaking and canoeing for youth under the age of 23.

MNO President Lipinski was among invited dignitaries and presented Métis sashes to his fellow guests at the event finale.

MNO Niagara Region Métis Council members, including Council President Derrick Pont, and MNO summer cultural students were honoured as the torch bearer of the opening ceremony. The group paddle in two MNO canoes across the water to light the torches. A sea of flaming fire pots lit provided a spectacular backdrop to welcome the world.

MNO summer cultural students proudly displayed Métis culture and heritage to the world in their tradi-



▲ (top) **MNO President Lipinski with Barry Sharpe, Mayor of the City of Welland at the 2013 Canoe Federation Junior and Under-23 Sprint World Championships opening ceremonies in Welland.** (bottom) **MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont brining the torch to the stage.**

tional Métis outfits. The students also put on a performance that included traditional Métis dancing.

Along with participating in the opening ceremony, the MNO dis-

played a Métis cultural camp that featured Métis voyageur canoes, tents, historical Métis objects and an open fire to cook moose stew the "old-fashioned" way. ∞

Métis exhibit banner depicts history of York boats

From an article by: **Duane Hicks**, *Fort Frances Times on-line: fftimes.com*

A Fort Frances artist and historian have teamed up to create a new banner for the Métis exhibit currently on display at the Fort Frances Museum.

Over the past few months, Wayne Barron and Merv Ahrens have worked together on the project, which depicts York boats—once used by the Hudson’s Bay Company to carry furs and trade goods along inland waterways between Fort Frances and York Factory.

Barron contributed hand-painted artwork for the project while Ahrens provided the historical details.

Ahrens said the idea for the piece came up earlier this year at a planning meeting for the exhibit, “Our Local Métis Story,” which was featured at the museum until late June.

Ahrens was a member of the team of people working on the “Our local Métis Story” exhibit and has written books on the fur trade, including Fort Lac La Pluie of the North West Company 177?-1821. His books are used in Fort Frances area schools.

The poster depicts York boats, as well as a map and text describing some key points. Barron said he tried to convey the feeling of the era, such as having the map look like it was made of parchment.

“We wanted to make it simple,” Barron remarked. “To make it visually state what it’s talking about even

before you read it. It’s about guys making an exciting trip in a big boat that is propelled in various ways.”

“The poster was painted on a vinyl canvas and the colours really stand out on the non-absorbent canvas,” Barron noted.

“It’s larger than anything I’ve worked on before,” said Barron. “It involved a bit of research. I went [to] Merv, consulted with him, got some archive photographs from the Hudson’s Bay Company, which I based those sepia pictures on.”

For about 40 years, from the 1820s to the 1860s, the York Boat was used to make annual round-trips between Fort Frances and York Factory on Hudson Bay, explained Ahrens.

These would be gruelling treks lasting 70-85 days and covering 3,600 km, he added, noting “that’s rather a spectacular distance.”

York boats carried furs to York Factory and trade goods to Fort Frances, hauling up to two tonnes in each boat.

“Portaging, however, was a difficult task. Far too heavy to carry, the York Boat was dragged on log rollers over rocks, through swamps,



▲ Merv Ahrens and Wayne Barron displaying their York boats banner at the Fort Frances Museum.

and up inclines of 350 metres,” explained Ahrens.

Ahrens pointed out that rather than “paddlers” which would propel birch bark canoe, York boats had a

crew of “pullers”—as they pulled on the oars, as well as pulled the boats over rocks and other terrain.

“This is a very fine piece that will be displayed in our permanent

gallery upstairs once we take down the Métis exhibit,” noted museum curator Sherry George. “We’re very grateful to both gentlemen for this collaboration.” ∞



▲ Members of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council.

Planning their Future

MNO GREAT LAKES MÉTIS COUNCIL DEVELOP STRATEGIC PLAN

Submitted by: **MNO Great Lakes Métis Council**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council has undertaken an in- depth strategic plan over the winter/spring 2012-2013.

“By In- depth, I mean we have involved our citizens with a questionnaire asking them about their expectations and also how they want to be involved in planning our future,” commented Peter Coture, President of the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council.

With the help of a Trillium Grant, the council hired a strategic planning facilitator who guided the council through the process and developed a citizen questionnaire. Thirty-seven per cent of responses

were very positive and helpful. The questionnaire results focused on youth programming and Métis culture and language. The results also reflected various ways citizens wished to be involved with the council’s programs.

The strategic plan includes eight goals, one of which is to develop a series of monthly Métis cultural workshops. Each workshop will involve an elder and in some cases support from a youth. The focus of this workshop is to create a better

understanding and appreciation on Métis history, language, and crafts. “This gives me an opportunity to share skills and knowledge which I hope will not be lost to the younger generation,” said one of the elders.

The council has also planned a dinner meeting for the citizens to hear a presentation by the facilitator Cliff Bilyea , ask questions and sign up to assist in some of the programming planned in the coming years.

The MNO Great Lakes Métis Council believes the strategic plan will give council meetings better focus and will help in allocating budget resources. Looking back, Peter Coture said, “we had to make some tough decisions, but it will give us a clear direction for the next few years” ∞

MNO participates in Youth Forum

Submitted by: **Kirk Fournier**,
MNO Employment Developer

On July 25 and 26, 2013, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) participated in the first ever *Growing Together: Aboriginal Youth Forum* in Kapuskasing. The event showcased opportunities for success available to Aboriginal youth and themes included entrepreneurship, Aboriginal governance, education, training, and employment. MNO Region Three Employ-

ment Developer, Kirk Fournier delivered “Métis 101” training to an enthusiastic audience and informed participants about MNO programming at a MNO display booth. He also had the opportunity to present Kapuskasing Mayor Al Spacek and local Member of Parliament Carol Hughes with a MNO Métis Education Kit.

Growing Together was supported by the City of Kapuskasing, the Federal and Provincial Governments, as well as corporate sponsors. ∞



▲ MNO Job Developer Kirk Fournier (centre) presents a MNO Métis Education Kit to local Member of Parliament Karol Hughes (left) and Kapuskasing Mayor Al Spacek (right) during the Growing Together: Aboriginal Youth Forum.

MNO Great Lakes Council 4th Annual Fish Fry

Submitted by: **Kaitrina Harrison**, Summer Student for the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Great Lakes Métis Council held their 4th Annual Fish Fry on July 20, at Hibou Park. Many MNO citizens in the area attended; the youngest being two months old and the oldest was 95 years young.

The weather was warm and sunny, perfect for a fish fry! MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Senator

Malcolm Dixon opened the event with a prayer and introductions. Among attendants was the Mayor of Meaford.

Citizens mingled, children played at the beach and the event was roaring with activity. Entertainment was provided by Johnny Bortman from Listowell who not only played music, but brought toys and shakers for the children to play with. A trail walk was offered by Chris Hatchey with Grey-Sauble Conservation Authority.

The fish, cooked by council members and volunteers, was served

with salad and enjoyed by everyone.

A raffle was held for a kayak equipped with a safety package and a paddle. The lucky winner was Nadine Desjardins.

MNO staff members in attendance were: Jo-Anne Parent, Alden Barty, James Wager, Jody Blue, Debby Ferris and Greg Garratt.

The MNO Great Lakes Métis Council is thankful to Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) for supporting and sponsoring the event and to the hard working volunteers for helping put the event together. ∞



▲ Katelyn Stenlund carefully balances an egg on a spoon as the competition dashes to the finish line during the children's races.

MNO hosts Family Fun Day in Kenora

Information from: **The Kenora Daily Miner & News**, www.kenoradailyminerandnews.com

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the MNO Kenora Métis Council hosted a Family Fun Day on July 6. The day's events included arts and crafts, games, music and a complementary picnic lunch at Norman Park.

"This is the first year we've held Family Day in Kenora," explained MNO Community Wellness Coordinator Terra Albany. "We put it on for parents and children to come out for a day of fun and to promote positive, healthy choices for families."

MNO Kenora Métis Council volunteers worked the barbecue

grilling up burgers and hot dogs for a picnic lunch enjoyed by the all.

Artwork and educational displays on the walls portrayed the customs, dress and culture of the Métis people. A historical timeline depicting significant events in Métis history was among the informational exhibits.

Fun and games included an egg race with separate events for children and adults, ball toss, lawn darts and horseshoes.

Musical entertainment was provided by Métis fiddlers Katelene Stenlund and Lillian Penner. Métis jig dancer Devon Ross also performed. ∞



▲ The cooks at the MNO Great Lakes Métis Council Fish Fry.

MNO introduces Peel District School Board to Métis culture

Submitted by: **Richard Cuddy**, President of the MNO Credit River Métis Council

On May 30, 2013 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) hosted a Métis focused training session for approximately 120 students and 18 teachers from the Peel District School Board (PDSB).

Members of the local MNO Credit River Métis Council were in attendance and Senator Ray Bergie provided the event's opening blessing, speaking with passion and wisdom.

MNO's former Manager of Education and Training Chris Paci facilitated a "Métis 101" and a look inside the Métis Education Kits for the teachers. Paci did a thorough job explaining the components of the kit while discussing various ideas about how teachers might use the kits to facilitate learning. Teachers were allowed to explore the tools inside the kits and ask questions. As always, the kits were a huge success.

MNO citizens Ginny Gonneau and Alicia Blore facilitated a workshop on Métis jigging and fiddle music. Several volunteers from the audience had the opportunity

to join Blore on stage and play the spoons. She pushed their limits as they tried their best to keep up with her steadily increasing pace.

Gonneau had the audience on their feet; teaching students and teachers jigging steps. Once everybody felt comfortable enough, participants had the pleasure of jigging to several Métis fiddle tunes courtesy of Blore. As the intensity ramped up, there were very few who could keep up to Gonneau's amazing steps and pace. Participants of the workshop thoroughly enjoyed their dynamic performance.

The days' training finished with a staff discussion regarding looking ahead to the 2013/2014 school year.

The MNO is grateful for the PDSB's support in achieving respect and recognition for rights, culture, language and identity of the Métis. The MNO would like to thank PDSB Instructional Coordinator Ian Pettigrew and PDSB First Nations, Métis and Inuit/Equity Resource Teacher Krista Tucker Petrick for organizing and co-leading the event. The collaboration between PDSB and the MNO will prove extremely beneficial to the students and teachers in the Peel Region. ∞



▲ Participants of the MNO "Métis 101" workshop.

► MNO citizens Ginny Gonneau and Alicia Blore facilitating a Métis jigging and fiddle music workshop.





The MNO Veterans' Council raises its profile at Oshawa Métis event

Submitted by: **Joseph Paquette**, MNO Veterans' Council President

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Veterans' Council is putting increased emphasis on communicating its message about the importance of veterans within the Métis Nation. In keeping with that emphasis, the MNO Veterans' Council was well represented at the Oshawa Métis Heritage Celebration held in June 22-23, 2013. For the first time, the MNO Veterans' Council had an information booth and promoted the MNO Veterans' Book project.

The information booth helped raise awareness of the MNO veter-

ans. Registration forms, Veterans' Book project interview packages and various veterans' resources were on hand. The 1,500 plus who attended the event were very interested in the MNO Veterans' Council program.

Pins donated by Veterans Affairs were handed out to all who visited. The veterans were asked to be part of the grand entry and post the flags of the day. At the end of the day, they again responded by properly retiring the flags. Although it rained for half the day, it did not deter the veterans from their duty.

The MNO Veterans' Council offers a big thank you to all the veterans who participated.

Lest We Forget ∞



▲ (Left to right) **Chair Guy Mandeville, CD; President Joseph Paquette; Treasurer Chris Plummer, CD; and Veterans' Senator Dr. Alis Kennedy, CD, OMC.**

Oshawa Métis Heritage Celebration

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

The weekend of June 22-23 marked another successful Métis Heritage Celebration in Oshawa. The 7th annual Métis Heritage Celebration hosted by the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Oshawa and Durham Region Métis Council was enjoyed by roughly 1,500 people despite the heavy downpours throughout Saturday.

Held at Oshawa's downtown Memorial Park, the event included music, dancing, Métis Voyageur games, vendors and craft.

The celebration began with a grand entry. This was followed by the singing of the Canadian National Anthem by MNO Post-secondary Representative Jennifer Henry. MNO Chair France Picotte also spoke at the event.

Enthusiasm could not be dampened, 25 brave vendors along with

numerous entertainers stuck it out through the rain and finished off the day with partial sun and high temperatures.

Many musicians provided entertainment for the weekend including the Gaudry Boys, Alicia Blore, All Our Relations Métis Drum Circle, drumming with John Samosi and fiddle music by Rajon Anderson to name a few.

Métis Voyageur games were a huge hit. The hatchet throw was quite popular with many people lined up on both days to test their skill.

MNO staff were present to promote MNO programs offered in the areas of education and training, healing and wellness and lands, resources and consultations.

There were a number of service providers and vendors offering ev-



▲ **Visitors taking part in the Métis Voyageur games.**
▶ **MNO Chair France Picotte speaking at the Oshawa Métis Heritage Celebration.**

everything from gifts, clothing, jewelry and crafts to healing supplies. Food vendors kept the bellies full and the music never stopped. ∞



▲ **Finger weaving lesson by Brynn Goegebuer.**

Inspired by Nature

LUNCHEON WITH THE MNO WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNCIL

Submitted by: **Jon Rochon**, Vice President of Windsor-Essex Métis Council

On July 14, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Windsor-Essex Métis Council welcomed local MNO citizens to enjoy a light luncheon, share their thoughts with the Council, and share their Métis heritage and culture.

The Rochon family was represented at the event by four generations while other council members' had three generations attending. The intergenerational crowd made for good conversations and great teaching moments for the youth.

A finger weaving demonstration and lesson was provided by exceptional weaver, Brynn Goegebuer. The younger generations enjoyed different types of activities with crayons and imaginations. The live exhibits of snakes were a hit with all ages.

Guests included council members, MNO staff as well as a representative from a local newspaper who is Métis, and offered help in the future with advertising for local events. MNO Windsor-Essex Council members in attendance were Vice-President Jon Rochon, Councillor Wilfred Rochon, Senator Bob LeBoeuf, Women's Representative Donna Grayer as well as MNO staff members October and Steve Fostey.

The luncheon was held at the Ojibway Nature Centre which featured informative and interesting displays on the ecology of the Ojibway Prairie Complex. A live exhibit area with an Eastern Foxsnake and an Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake is always a crowd favourite. A wall of windows provides a breathtaking view of the forest. Brochures on the birds, mammals, herps, butterflies, trees and wildflowers of the Ojibway as well as trail guides, maps and other informative handouts were available.

The group enjoyed a nature hike, "hunted" for animals, reptiles, insects and birds with their cameras and enjoyed the company of a family of deer.

There were quite a few laughs and a good time was had by all, especially concerning the pull apart cake with the Métis infinity symbol on it.

It was a warm day and perfect way to come together as a MNO council and citizens in order to grow and move ahead together. ∞

MNO participates in 2015 Pan Am Games two-year countdown

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**,
MNO Community Relations
Coordinator

On July 10, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) staff and MNO Niagara Region Métis Council representatives were invited by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario and the City of Welland to celebrate the two-year countdown to the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games.

The Pan American Games are the world's third largest international multi-sport Games; they are only surpassed in size and scope by the Olympic Summer Games and the Asian Games. Starting on July 10, 2015, 7,500 athletes from 41 countries across the Americas and Caribbean will compete in 51 sports in Toronto and surrounding areas. The MNO has been participating in the Aboriginal Leadership and

Partnership Committee for the 2-15 Pan Am Games since its inception.

The celebration took place at the newly renovated Welland Pan American Flatwater Centre. The centre is the first venue created for the 2015 Pan Am Games. The event began with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Pan Am flag was raised and a special mural was officially presented and displayed for the first time.

Attendants were also given the opportunity to visit the facilities and participate in flat-water activities using recreational canoes, kayaks and dragon boats. A BBQ lunch was served for all who attended.

Among attendants were the Hon. Bal Gosal, Federal Minister of State (Sport); Derrick Pont, MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President; Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator; and Paul Grenier, Welland City Councillor. ∞



▲ The Hon. Bal Gosal, Minister of State (Sport); MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont; Glen Lipinski, MNO Community Relations Coordinator; and Paul Grenier, Welland City Councillor, at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Pan Am Flatwater Centre.

Appreciation Night

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS ACKNOWLEDGED IN MIDLAND

Submitted by: **Tera Lynn Copegog**, MNO Community Wellness Coordinator

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) volunteers dedicate countless hours to the betterment of the Métis Nation. MNO volunteers spend their time with community members and clients in various roles such as driving MNO clients to medical appointments. Through this role MNO driver volunteers develop close relationships with community members.

In order to show MNO's appreciation for these volunteer drivers in the Midland area the MNO office in Midland hosted a Volunteer Driver Appreciation Dinner and Long Term Goals and Planning Workshop on May 14.

Thank you to all MNO volunteers for your continuous effort & dedication..."

MNO volunteers and staff enjoyed a dinner of spaghetti with meat sauce or chicken and noodle supper, fresh bread and salad. Dessert included butter tarts baked by Shirley O'Hara and Jell-O cheese cake.

Following the dinner, MNO volunteer drivers were presented with a Métis Sash, MNO pin, MNO travel mug and a certificate of appreciation. Each volunteer's certificate included a special quote. The volunteer drivers include: Wayne Gilliard, Allan Vallee, James Keen, Oliver Brabant, Julie Thauvette, Dave Cousens, Gabe Brunelle and Carolyn Smith.



▲ MNO staff presenting volunteer driver Wayne Gilliard with certificate of appreciation and gift. (Left to right) Shirley Dorion, Lorraine Mountney, Wayne Gilliard and Natalie Lloyd.

All of the volunteers were also invited to speak about topics that would come up in a medical transport from time to time.

Other presenters included Tim Dunlop from the Dunlop Team who discussed Wills and Estates and Retirement, illness and injury financial planning. Susan Leclair from Leclair Cremation Centre spoke about end of life planning. Carol Gilbreath from Hospice Huronia talked on grief and bereavement support for individuals and caregivers. Each presenter including MNO Community Support Services Supervisor Natalie Lloyd received homemade candles made of MNO crayons and essential oils in berry and vanilla scents.

Thank you to all MNO volunteers for your continuous effort and dedication to support MNO communities and citizens.

The quotes included on the volunteer appreciation certificates:

"There are two ways of spreading light – to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it."
- Edith Wharton

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see."
- Mark Twain

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."
- Elizabeth Andrew

"You may not have saved a lot of money in your life, but if you have saved a lot of heartaches for other folks, you are a pretty rich man."
- Seth Parker

"The World is hugged by faithful arms of volunteers."
- Terri Guillemets

"Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another."
- Erma Bombeck

"The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the greatest intention."
- Oscar Wilde

"Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls."
- David Thomas

Timmins AGM & Métis Awareness Day

Submitted by: **MNO Timmins office staff**

The Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) held its annual Métis Awareness Day on August 1, at Big Water Campground in Timmins.

Approximately 85 people took part in the festivities which included Métis Voyageur Games, arts and crafts, and a game of nutrition bingo. Lunch was cooked over an open fire. Among MNO citizens present was MNO Chair France Picotte.

Representatives from the Canadian Diabetes Association and De-

tour Gold were also in attendance and set up information booths.

The MNO Timmins Métis Council took this opportunity to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) for MNO citizens in its area. Council President Alain Lefebvre chaired the meeting and shared information pertinent to citizens. Andy Lefebvre, MNO staff member and Regional Captain of the Hunt updated citizens on MNO's harvesting policies and its impact.

The MNO looks forward to sharing Métis culture, traditions, and organizational information at next year's event. ∞



▲ Deputy Mayor of Welland Paul Grenier presenting cheque to MNO Niagara Region Métis Council President Derrick Pont.

Thank you City of Welland

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski**, MNO Community Relations Coordinator

On July 31, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council was heavily involved with the very successful opening ceremonies of the 2013 Canoe Federation Junior and Under-23 Sprint World Championships at the Welland International Flatwater Centre. The council's involve-

ment even included bearing the ceremonial torch.

The City of Welland was very appreciative of the council's participation in the event and as a result was willing to cover the expenses associated with the council's involvement.

Deputy Mayor of Welland and MNO citizen Paul Grenier presented the council with a very generous cheque for \$1,400.00 on behalf of the city.

Thank you City of Welland! ∞

Welland MNO Métis festival

Submitted by: **Glen Lipinski,**
MNO Community Relations
Coordinator

On Thursday August 15 the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Niagara Region Métis Council and MNO Healing and Wellness staff hosted the third annual Métis Fest at Club Richelieu in Welland.

Approximately 127 people attended the late afternoon and evening festivities. Activities included the Métis Voyageur Games which were facilitated by MNO Community Relations Manager Hank Rowlinson. The games as always were very well received. Equally popular was a fish fry that was enthusiastically consumed by everyone. ∞



▲ MNO Niagara Region Métis Council Senator (and cook) Garry Laframboise preparing French fries.



SOME FUN IN FORT FRANCES

Submitted by: **Doug Wilson,**
MNO Chief Operating Officer

Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Executive Senator Reta Gordon on a recent trip to Fort Frances. The Senator got to experience the words to that old tune “She was only a bird in a gilded cage....” ∞



▲ MNO Georgian Bay Council members with other volunteers who took part in the tree planting.

TREE PLANTING IN THE GEORGIAN BAY

MNO citizens demonstrate Métis connection to the land

Submitted by: **Larry Ferris,**
MNO Georgian Bay Métis
Council Chairperson

On May 9, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Georgian Bay Métis Council illustrated the Métis connection and commitment to the land. MNO citizens and other volunteers planted over 1,000 trees in hopes to reverse the problem dropping water levels near Lafontaine, Ontario.

“It is a proved method of raising water tables by planting trees,” said MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Chairperson Larry Ferris. “We are providing future habitat for wildlife like deer and turkey.”

The creek also provides a habitat for brook trout, Chinook salmon and rainbow trout.

*We are
providing
future habitat
for wildlife
like deer and
turkey.”*

— MNO Georgian Bay Métis
Council Chairperson Larry Ferris.

The council members and volunteers improved the stream by planting dogwood and cedars which will grow roots and secure the creek banks preventing further erosion

and eventually shade the stream to prevent evaporation raising the water table. The trees will also retain moisture in the soil.

“It was one of the best plantings I have been involved in,” said Ferris. “I believe that there will be a good rate of survival for the trees we planted. Our volunteers did a fantastic job in taking the time to plant the trees correctly giving them the best chance to survive and thrive.”

The event would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of all the volunteers. Special thanks to The Habitat Restoration Association of Lafontaine member Andre Beausoleil, Janice Ferris, The Home & Cottage Centre, Severn Sound Environmental Association and

the Georgian Bay Bassmasters who donated \$100.00 towards the planting.

Special thanks to Le Villageois for allowing the planting on the land and committing to the future of the stream and the wildlife.

Funding was provided by donations and a \$2,000.00 grant from the Ministry of Natural Resources which was received by the MNO Georgian Bay Métis Council Youth and Harvesters Committees.

“It was especially nice to see youth out and involved with this project, they will be the protectors of these trees and this area in the future,” said Ferris. “I hope that all of the people who came out had a good time and understand what a positive difference they made to our environment.” ∞

National Aboriginal Day Celebration in Dryden

Submitted by: **Ashley Davis,** MNO
Summer Youth Community Worker

Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) and the MNO Northwest Métis Council celebrated National Aboriginal Day with festivities at Cooper Park in Dryden, Ontario.

Children enjoyed a day of fun activities in the park. MNO staff members were in attendance to promote MNO’s services and programs.

Among attendants were: MNO

Northwest Métis Council President Alvina Cimon; MNO Northwest Métis Council Vice-President Don Robinosn; and MNO staff members Janet Hipfner, Allysha Antoszek, Ashley Davis, Mandy Montgomery and Marley Hodges. ∞

► MNO information booth at the Aboriginal Day celebrations in Dryden. (Left to right) Nancy Hatch, Ashley Davis, Marley Hodges, Mandy Montgomery, Janet Hipfner, and Allysha Antoszek.

