

SUMMER 2006

# MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

THE PUBLIC

NATION OF ONTARIO SINCE 1998

## SIERRA NOBLE

16 YEAR OLD FIDDLER  
ONE OF THE GREAT  
ENTERTAINMENT ACTS  
AT THIS YEAR'S AGA  
**PAGES 8 & 9**

## THE GAMES

THE POWERFUL MEN AND  
WOMEN OF THE MÉTIS  
NATION COMPETE IN  
VOYAGEUR GAMES  
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**OUR FIRST AGA**  
BENNY & STEPHANIE  
MICHAUD RECOUNT  
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ODYSSEY ON **PAGE 4**

MNO WOMEN'S  
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**NURTURING  
YOUR INNER  
SHUTTERBUG:**  
YOUTH PHOTO  
WORKSHOP  
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## SENATORS' FORUM

MNO SENATORS MEET  
TO PRELUDE THE AGA  
**PAGE 11**



## SPECIAL EDITION:

## 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

# CELEBRATION IN THE SOO

The Métis Nation of Ontario's 13th Annual General Assembly was a successful celebration of citizenship, culture and history. Taking place in the historic Métis community of Sault Ste. Marie, Métis people from across Ontario joined together to hear reports and carve out future priorities for the Nation.



AGA Coordinator Hank Rowlinson wades out to greet the delegates' Voyageur canoe as it paddles ashore to begin the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario.

ALL PHOTOS BY **Marc St.Germain** except where noted



right:  
**Senator Gordon Calder** (Fort Frances) and **Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington** (Georgian Bay) carry the colours during opening ceremonies.



above:  
**The Winnipeg Toe-Tappers** provided great traditional Métis jigging throughout the AGA.

## MÉTIS VOYAGEUR

### editor

Linda Lord

### design & production

Marc St.Germain

### contributors

Scott Carpenter  
Angie Noel  
Sharon McBride  
Claudette Gingras  
Laurie Fonjong  
Debbie Burgess  
Bonny Cann  
Reta Gordon  
Jocelyn Moreau  
Wendy Baillie  
Roland St. Germain  
Katelin Peltier  
Karole Dumont-Beckett  
Shelley Gonneville  
Kelly Omenye

### Contact

Linda Lord, *editor*  
RR1 Hartington, ON K0H 1W0  
Ph/Fx: 613-374-3430  
llord@kingston.net

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

### Voyageur Deadlines

**deadline:** date of events:  
**January 1st** 15 Feb–15 Apr  
**March 1st** 15 Apr–15 Jun  
**May 1st** 15 Jun–15 Oct  
**September 1st** 15 Oct–15 Dec  
**November 1st** 15 Dec–15 Feb



## REGION SEVEN

# MÉTIS RENDEZVOUS

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD, 2006, 10AM - 2AM

**MAPLE VALLEY CLUB**  
**285 LAFONTAINE ROAD EAST**  
**LAFONTAINE, ONT.**

Building on the success of last year's event, we are looking forward to an even better event this fall. **FREE** activities for the entire family!

- \$5 Fish Fry Supper (children under 10 free)
- Potluck Lunch - bring your favorite dish
- Cultural Activities & Demonstrations for Everyone
- Bannock Competition
- Dressing the Game
- Métis Voyageur Games (hatchet throw, sling shot)
- Children's Activities (cornhusk dolls, scavenger hunt, face painting, beading)
- Candle Making
- Jam Session - bring your instruments

**CONTACT:** Scott Carpenter (705) 527-1228

Métis vendors of cultural items welcome – for information:

Ruth Quesnelle (705) 526-6335

Volunteers are needed!: Joanne Parent (705) 527-1228

**Note:** Portions of the profits from the Fish Fry and draws will be used to pay for butchering the game donated to the communities, tanning the hides for the communities, and to assist Métis Health Services in Region 7.



PHOTO: Carmen Prigent

**Moon River Métis Council booth was originally set up to sell T-shirts, caps and candy. Seeing a need they began selling coffee, donuts and sandwiches. What entrepreneurship! The voyageurs would be proud.**

## Moon River Métis

BY LOUISE GOULDING

The Moon River Métis Council once again participated in the MNO's Annual General Assembly. Although this year we didn't have pots of chowder we did have smoked fish which went over very well. It was too darn hot for chowder anyway!

Our council had four representatives at this year's AGA including myself, Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington; Women's Representative, Verna Porter and Councilor Irene Peel. We all worked very hard in the heat and it paid off as we had very good sales on the two days we set up shop.

We were nicely decorated with MNO flags and balloons flying high. No one could possibly miss us! Besides flags, balloons and smoked fish, we also sold T-shirts, sweatshirts, friendship patches, hats, and Councilor Peel brought an assortment of her crafts.

We also raffled off a capote

which was handmade by our treasurer, Lisa McCron. The winner was Ms. Trudell from Sault Ste. Marie, which by the way she earned with all her hard work.

Besides working our booth, we took in the two cultural days. We all attended and enjoyed the festivities at St. Joseph's Island, especially the pig roast! Although the heat was unbearable, we attended the Voyageur Games—as spectators of course! Some of us managed to include a jigging lesson, genealogy workshops and much more. The evening entertainment was fun and the time spent relaxing with friends, new and old, was grand.

All in all it was a great week. I personally have to thank the husbands of Verna Porter and Irene Peel for all of their hard work in helping us set up and take down the tents, load and unload the truck a hundred times, etc.. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you Doug Porter and Barry Peel! We already look forward to the 2007 AGA!

## Opening Ceremonies

## LUCKY 13

## The Métis Nation of Ontario's Assembly returns to historic Sault Ste. Marie

**O**n a recent sunny Monday morning, Métis citizens from Kenora to Ottawa, and from Timmins to Windsor found themselves on Ojibway territory near Sault Ste. Marie waiting for a voyageur canoe to appear.

— BY MARC ST. GERMAIN

The sand dunes at Ojibway Park on the Garden River First Nation were thick with Métis people straining for a glimpse of the canoe that would signal the beginning of the 13th Annual General Assembly (AGA) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO). The canoe was soon in sight making for the shore. Before the crew—Métis Canoe Expedition veterans Ginny Gonneau and Chris MacLeod—could get their craft to dry land, MNO President, Tony Belcourt was disembarked and greeting the crowd.

A boisterous procession made its way across the dunes to the big tent where it was

standing room only. The Winnipeg Toe-Tappers jigged and whirled to the sound of the Métis fiddle. When the applause finally subsided, Senator Brenda Powley, of the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council, stepped to the microphone and welcomed everyone to the 13th Annual General Assembly. Brenda then offered an opening prayer.

Sixteen-year old Métis fiddler, Sierra Noble, played a heart-stopping musical companion piece to the opening prayer that must be heard to be appreciated (Sierra's performance and other clips of the opening speeches are available on the MNO's website: [www.metisna-](http://www.metisna-)

[tion.org](http://tion.org)). The serene sounds of Sierra's fiddle set a wonderful tone for the opening ceremonies.

"Each year we hold our AGA to conduct business that needs to be done; assess the work that has been done in the past year and set a vision for work that has to be done in the coming year," said Gary Lipinski, Chair of the PCMNO as he came to the microphone to greet *the Assembly* and acknowledge delegates and special guests. "We have our work to do, but we will have fun as well. Ladies and gentlemen, let's have a wonderful AGA."

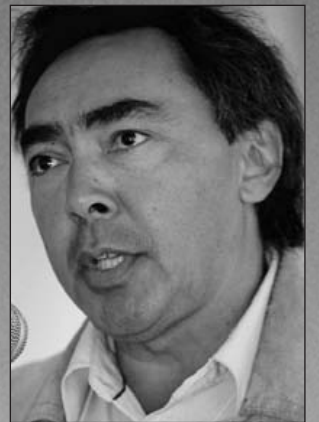
Gary took time to thank the many volunteers, the MNO staff and leadership. He saved the highest praise for *the Assembly* itself: "To the Métis citizens, the support and guidance you have given has helped us propel the MNO to be seen as a very credible and honourable Nation of people within Ontario, connected to and part of a greater Métis Nation. To you most of all we say 'thank you, sincerely'."

Gary then passed the microphone to France Picotte, Vice-chair of the PCMNO, who did not bother to hide her enthusiasm at having the opportunity to be at another AGA: "It's awesome to be here," said France. "We are here to celebrate our culture and our heritage. So, I encourage everyone to share; share who you are. We are not all the same and we don't have to be, but we all bring something unique to *the Assembly*. If we share we grow and become stronger."

President Tony Belcourt started his address with mention of the 8th Annual General Assembly that took place at Ojibway Park in 2001. He also gave a vivid description of the significance of the Sault Ste. Marie area to the history of the Métis in Ontario and paid tribute to two sons of Sault Ste. Marie who have a special place in that history, Steve Powley and his son Roddy.

Tony also introduced *the Assembly* to the MNO's new

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PCMNO CHAIR  
GARY LIPINSKI

**“We have our work to do, but we will have fun as well. Ladies and gentlemen, let's have a wonderful AGA.”**



## Métis Youth

## Our First AGA

BY BENNY &amp; STEPHANIE MICHAUD



First time AGAer Stephanie Michaud (far right) seeking glory in the Métis Voyageur Games.

PHOTO: Laurie Fonjong



BENNY

One of the most interesting aspects of my first AGA experience was camping with other Métis youth in what was dubbed 'Tent City'. Although *Tent City* could have been more aptly described as 'Tent Village', or even, 'Ten Tents', this particular camp site afforded all who resided there the invaluable opportunity to meet other youth from across the province.

One of the most interesting aspects of my first AGA experience was camping with other Métis youth in what was dubbed 'Tent City'. Although *Tent City* could have been more aptly described as 'Tent Village', or even, 'Ten Tents', this particular camp site afforded all who resided there the invaluable opportunity to meet other youth from across the province.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know other Métis youth who were as dedicated to understanding and maintaining Métis culture as I am. *Tent City* may have had far fewer residents than its name boasted, but what we lacked in numbers we made up for in enthusiasm.

I don't know if having a sense of humour is something intrinsically tied to being Métis or if the youth in *Tent City* were just extremely funny, but laughter was not hard to come by.

Whether I was desperately (and unsuccessfully) trying to start a camp fire or desperately (and also unsuccessfully) trying to keep my feet clean, the affectionate ridicule of my fellow youth made absolutely every part of my experience in *Tent City* and the AGA amazing. Thanks guys! See you next year!



STEPHANIE

One of the best parts of the AGA had to be the 'Elders' Fire'. There was a good turn out by the youth and plenty of Elders to impart the stories they held near and dear. It was interesting to hear their stories of relatives fighting wolves off bullet by bullet and of an owl that had a weak spot for a rhythmic tapping. I'll never forget these stories, and the tale one Elder told of lying in the belly of a fighter plane during the Second World War will stay with me forever.

I appreciated all of the Elders coming out and sharing their knowledge with us, including Senator St. Germain, who provided us all with the opportunity to participate in and familiarize ourselves with the significance of smudging. It was definitely a learning experience. For exam-

(left to right) Nancy Gonneau, Benny and Stephanie Michaud, Ginny Gonneau and Ryan McBride were a few of the Métis Youth attending this year's AGA.

ple, I learned that mosquito repellent containing DEET is a vital and necessary part of any campfire.

On a more serious note, I do want to thank the Elders and Senators for sharing their time, knowledge and insight with us, and to offer them a pouch of virtual tobacco.

And I certainly can't mention fire without mentioning the Sacred Fire which afforded me a sunburn that rendered me less of a human being and more of a tomato that had sprouted arms and legs. Although I got one wicked burn, I feel privileged to have had the honour of keeping an eye on the Sacred Fire and will welcome the opportunity next year. I'll just remember to bring some sun screen.



BENNY

Of all of the activities I participated in during the course of the week the most memorable had to be the Voyageur Games.

Having always aspired to be an athlete but usually being the mediocre last-pick on sports teams I saw the Voyageur Games as my one shot at superstardom. The glory would all be MINE!

I dragged my sister, Stephanie, with me to the sign-up sheets and signed up for three events: Tomahawk Throw, Rifle, and Slingshot. My strategy was to become an athletic superstar without ever having to run. Stephanie was reluctant to sign up for an event because she wanted to attend a sash-weaving workshop but was soon persuaded by an organizer to participate in the 90lb sack carry. I vibrated with excitement and anticipation for my own events as I watched Stephanie being loaded with the 90lb sack

at the start line of the first event. I could see from the strained look on her face this was not how she had planned to start her day.

When the whistle blew, the competitors were off and my sister came in an astounding third place! Given, there were only three competitors in her event, but I took this as empirical evidence that I, too, must have an athletic gene. I was certain that by the end of the day I would be wearing multiple medals and the crowds would be frantically chanting 'Benny! Benny! Benny!'. Six hours, three events and eight gallons of sweat later I came to see that my dream of taking the Voyageur Games by storm may have been slightly ambitious for someone who gets noticeably irked when an elevator is broken and stairs are the only option.

Although I didn't place in any of my three events my day was far from unexciting. Participating in the Voyageur Games was a fantastic experience and, who knows, maybe next year I'll be ready for the 450lb Carry. I have an entire year to dream!



STEPHANIE

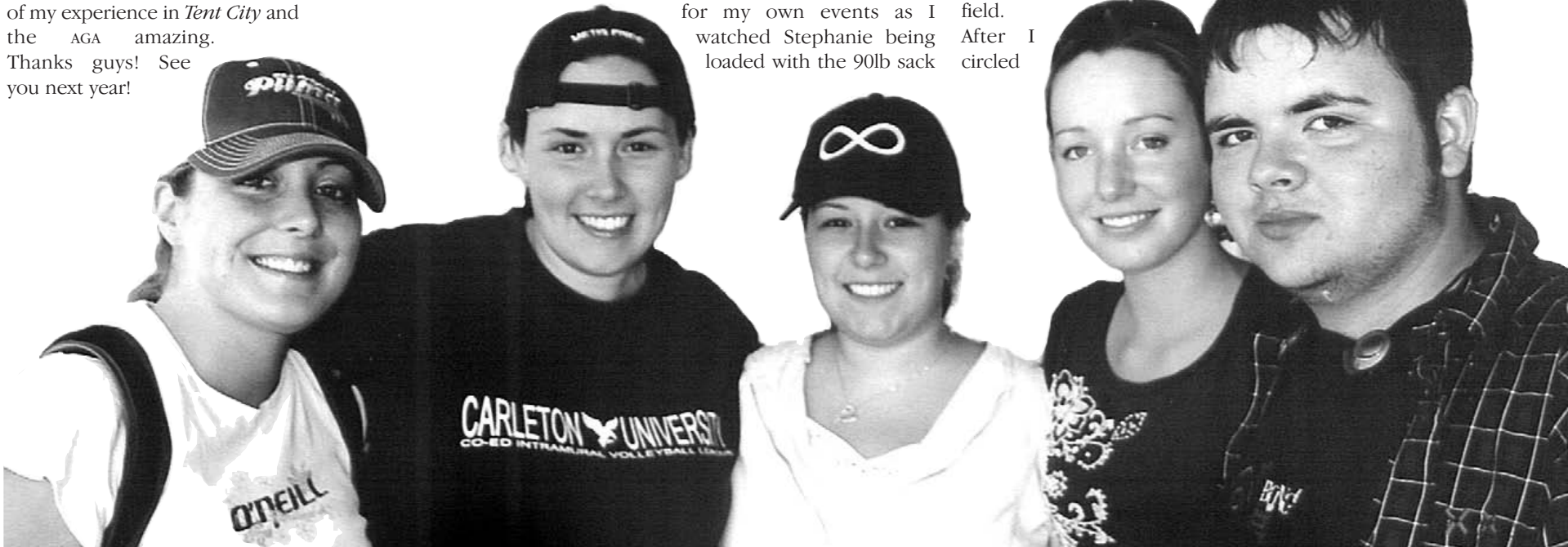
Thursday morning ten o'clock, I meandered down to the Voyageur Games with absolutely no intention of participating. I'm a far cry from an athlete and I lack any competitive edge. However, I was persuaded to sign up for at least ONE event. I signed up for the Women's 90lb Carry, sized up my competition and sat on a milk can as 90lb sack was loaded onto my shoulders. I assumed the standing position and on the mark, took off down the field. After I circled

the pylon on the far end I began to make my way back to the start line. The weight of the sack on my neck and shoulders made it impossible for me to lift my head so all I could see was my feet. But I could hear the crowd screaming words of encouragement and applause were ringing in my ears. I thought, 'Wow! I'm doing so great! Guess I'm going home with a gold medal after all!' That's when I finally finished the race, stood up, relieving myself of those 90lb only to see that I had been humbled in a big way. I had lost. Not only had I lost, but I had lost by a long shot.

My sister would later tell me my two competitors had taken off and run like they were being chased by a pack of hyenas and that I crawled on behind like a snail. In this case, slow and steady did not win the race.

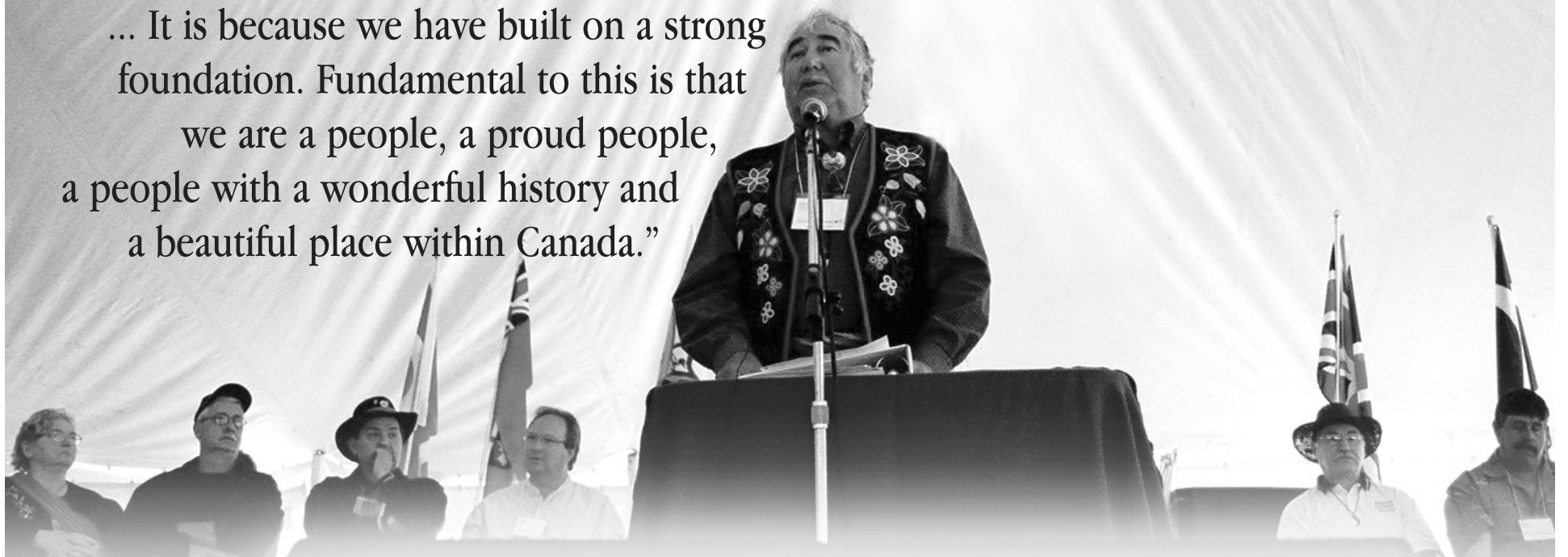
After the race, I ran on over to the Métis sash-weaving workshop. I went in with high hopes of learning traditional weaving, but in the words of a fellow learner 'the simple cross over isn't so simple after all'. I made my way over to the beading workshop as well, and was delighted to discover that my mother had previously taught me beading on a loom. I did successfully learn beading and in the words of my teacher, 'it's just practice, practice, practice.' Although I sometimes worry that I might develop carpal tunnel syndrome, I am relentless in my attempt to refine and finesse my beading skills. As for sack-carrying and sash-weaving—there's always next year.

...



# "We've come a long way in 13 years..."

... It is because we have built on a strong foundation. Fundamental to this is that we are a people, a proud people, a people with a wonderful history and a beautiful place within Canada."



FROM PAGE 3 ...

teleconferencing resources. A brief video was shown that was recorded prior to the AGA using the teleconferencing technology that has been set up in several Community Council offices across the province.

"Imagine how valuable this will be," said President Belcourt. "I think the secret of our success is our ability to communicate with each other and talk with each other. This facility is going to make it an awful lot easier." (Look for more information on the MNO's new teleconferencing abilities in the next issue.)

Tony also spoke of both the past and ongoing struggle for Métis rights, and finished by affirming the Métis Nation's strength and pride.

"We've come a long way in thirteen years. It is because we have built on strong foundations. Fundamental to this is that we are a people, a proud people, a people with a wonderful history and a beautiful place within Canada, and we want to take our rightful place in that beautiful country," said Tony. "Let's have some debates and discussion here during our working days and let us enjoy ourselves on our cultural days. Our wonderful history, our wonderful culture, our pride as a people and our love for one another as Métis people."

Opening addresses by the MNO Executive were followed by greetings from other dignitaries in attendance:

Brent McHale, PCMNO Councilor for Region 4, welcomed *the Assembly*; spoke of the honour and privilege of holding the AGA on Ojibway land and recognized the hard work of volunteers and staff involved in the AGA.

Blaine Belleau, on behalf of Chief Lyle Sayers and the Garden River First Nation Council, welcomed *the Assembly* to their territory.

The former Deputy Chief of the Chiefs of Ontario, Nelson Toulouse, addressed *the Assembly* as Commissioner of the recently formed Anishinaabe-Mushkegowuk-Onkwehonwe Language Commission. He spoke of the fundamental role that language plays in indigenous culture and of a recent trip to New Zealand to visit the

Maori, a rare example of an indigenous people whose traditional language still thrives.

The Honourable Chris Bentley, the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, brought greetings on behalf of Premier Dalton McGuinty. Mr. Bentley said he was aware of the MNO's long-standing desire to see a Chair of Métis Studies at an Ontario university, and committed to the same goal.

Howard Hampton, MPP Rainy River and leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party, apologized for the fact that this was his first MNO AGA and had kind words for *the Assembly*. "It is an honour and a privilege to be in the company of women and men who dedicate their lives to making life better, not only for Métis families, not only for Métis communities but for all Ontarians and Ontario as a whole," said Hampton.

The Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie, Tony Martin, offered his greetings.

Christian Provenzano, Liberal Candidate of Record in Sault Ste. Marie, read a letter from Michael Ignatieff, MP for Etobicoke Lakeshore, expressing appreciation for the invitation.

After a lunch break, Chair, Gary Lipinski, called the Delegates Meeting to order. The Monday afternoon meetings are of a technical nature and consist mostly of procedural items. Because voting issues arise at the AGA, quorum must be established. The agenda for the week is reviewed and accepted by *the Assembly*. A Resolutions Committee is appointed to help citizens draft the resolutions that will come before *the Assembly* for voting. Minutes from the previous year's AGA are reviewed and, if need be, discussed and accepted by the members of *the Assembly*. By mid afternoon the i's were dotted and the t's crossed and another AGA was well under way.

Following these procedures, President Belcourt mentioned the sad fact that Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, one of the founding members of the MNO had passed away on April 2nd of this year. President Belcourt announced the launch of a new MNO website section about Suzanne and a new award to honour one outstanding MNO



Métis National Council President Clément Chartier addresses *the Assembly*



The Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities



Tony Martin, Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie



above: Howard Hampton, MPP Rainy River and leader of the Ontario New Democratic Party

left: Nelson Toulouse, addressed the Assembly as Commissioner of the recently formed Anishinaabe-Mushkegowuk-Onkwehonwe Language Commission

volunteer per year. Tony discussed the process for volunteers to be nominated for the award, and also asked volunteers to submit their names to receive volunteer recognition certificates and pins for 3, 5 and 10 years of service. A motion was put forward to *the Assembly* and *the Assembly* approved the "Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award" by consensus. (More information on the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the year Award and details about Suzanne's life are available on the MNO's website: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org))

President Belcourt then put a

motion to *the Assembly* that Suzanne Rochon-Burnett be named, posthumously, as the first recipient of the Volunteer of the Year Award. The vote was unanimous and Suzanne was remembered with a heart-felt round of applause.

With the work of the day done, the big tent transforms from meeting hall to music hall as the Building Bridges Métis Music Festival takes the stage. This was the fifth year the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (MNOCC) with the generous support of the Canada Council for the Arts and other sponsors was able to present the

music festival as a concurrent event with the AGA.

Early in the evening eager up-and-comers warmed up the crowd as Nancy Gonneau hosted the Métis Idol youth talent show. The competition was fierce as jiggers and comedians dooked it out with karioke crooners (For pictures of the great entertainment at this year's AGA see pages 8 & 9). They were all winners but only three made it to Wednesday's finals (results on page 13).

The Winnipeg Toe-Tappers returned to put on another great

MORE ON PAGE 13

# MNO Women's Secretariat restructured

BY SHARON MCBRIDE

At the 2006 Annual General Assembly, *Terms of Reference* were passed, forming a new, revamped women's organization within the Métis Nation of Ontario. The organization is called the "Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario" (WSMNO). This committee is made up of regional volunteers (see sidebar).

The WSMNO is a women's col-

lective body representing the interests and aspirations of the women citizens of the MNO and is officially mandated by the MNO as a lobbyist and advocacy body recognized to speak and represent the women's agenda and perspective of the women citizens of the MNO. The WSMNO will work within the MNO for the betterment of the Métis Nation as a whole through empowerment and participation of the Métis Nation women in Ontario. We are currently looking for a woman

representative for the Southern area of Ontario.

The duties of the committee members are as follows:

- To look after the concerns of women's representatives from the Community Councils within Southern Ontario;
- To work towards the vision, mandate purpose and objectives of the WSMNO as determined in the terms of reference that was passed at the 2006 AGA;

- To work on issues that affect the provincial prospective of the women citizens of the MNO.

If you are interested in the above position please send a letter of interest with your contact information by September 15th, 2006, by email [sharonm@metisnation.org](mailto:sharonm@metisnation.org) or mail to: Sharon McBride, 56 Baccarat Crescent, Brampton, ON, L7A 1K8.

If you would like a copy of the *Terms of Reference* please contact Sharon (905) 846 8645.

## Women's Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario

Barbara Parker - Western Rep

Evelyn Powley - Northern Rep

Carmen Gravel - Eastern Rep

Vacant - Southern Rep

Audrey Vallee - Senator Advisor  
*appointed by the PCMNO*

Sharon McBride - Spokesperson  
*appointed by the PCMNO*



## Talking Stick workshop: Wild Feathers

BY CLAUDETTE GINGRAS

I just wanted to say that my first AGA was amazing! My "Talking Stick" workshop was a success—because Senator Reta Gordon opened it by sharing a story with the children. She explained that tribes at council meetings used the talking stick so as not to be interrupted. When the person with the stick was fin-

ished speaking they passed it to the next council member who wished to speak.

I asked the children to really look at their sticks and choose the one that felt right to them. I asked them to let it speak to them and once the class began, the creativity that came out of those children was spectacular.

The two hours flew by as the elements (wild turkey feathers, beads, leather and felt among

other things) I provided were chosen carefully by each individual; the results spoke for themselves. The children and adults were in their own zone and I was truly proud of everyone for making my workshop a success.

I really enjoyed one 'feedback' in particular which was: "Wow, we always ask our children to respect our Elders but now the children have seen an Elder as a storyteller. Thank you, I thought your class

was going to consist of paper and markers. I had no idea I was going to create something so amazing, and the children did the work on their sticks all by themselves."

Other great moments of the AGA occurred when I was finally meeting and putting faces to our MNO citizens. Best of all were the ones I had spoken with or on whose files I had worked.

*Claudette Gingras is the MNO's Assistant Registrar.*



(above): Rebekah Moreau

(left): Claudette Gingras, Assistant Registrar and Workshop Facilitator

(below): Emily King



## KUDOS FOR THE MNO

### Métis Nation of Ontario recognized for commitment to multiculturalism

BY LINDA LORD

A special guest at this year's AGA, Lorena Tridico, Communications Director for the Calabrians Multicultural World Society, spoke on her society's 21-year involvement in promoting inclusiveness and egalitarianism.

"Canada is a multicultural nation and as such, we should not only be proud to be Canadian yet at the same time proud of our cultural backgrounds," Tridico said. "What makes us unique also makes us similar, because we share common goals and values. In recognizing such principles, we build stronger ties with



**"This award of recognition is presented to the Métis Nation of Ontario for your ongoing dedication to multiculturalism and Canadian unity." — Lorena Tridico**

First Nations' peoples, and ensure that common goals and values are protected."

She then presented a certificate of recognition to the Métis Nation of Ontario for its commitment to equality, inclusion and multiculturalism; the award was accepted by President Belcourt.

Tridico recognized Tony's leadership of the MNO and commitment to raising awareness of Métis rights. "The Calabrians

Multicultural Society would like to acknowledge and congratulate you for your continued dedication and commitment to raising awareness of Métis rights and for the promotion of history and culture of the Métis people within Sault Ste. Marie and Canada. This award of recognition is presented to the Métis Nation of Ontario for your ongoing promotion and dedication to multiculturalism and Canadi-

an unity."

In an interview with SooNews.ca, Tony said that the award was an indication of the dedication of the Multicultural Society, particularly in building strong relations with the Métis people of Sault Ste. Marie. He acknowledged the work of Lorena Tridico on various issues with the Métis Nation of Ontario, over the last few years.

"This is a wonderful tribute and recognition for the Métis Nation of Ontario. We're very proud to have been honoured this way at the General Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie. The fact is

that we've had to resort to going to the Supreme Court of Canada to get the legal recognition of our history and identity. The Powley case (of Sault Ste. Marie) was a landmark case for the Métis people of Canada, so to us, Sault Ste. Marie is an important part of our history. We thank Lorena's commitment to First Nations' peoples and the Multicultural Society's common goals and values. It is the recognition that one receives within one's own community that matters a great deal. To me, and to the Métis Nation of Ontario, this carries great significance."

**For original article and pictures visit [SooNews.ca](http://SooNews.ca)  
[www.soonews.ca/viewarticle.php?id=7769](http://www.soonews.ca/viewarticle.php?id=7769)**

## Métis Voyageur Games

## POWER PLAYERS

**A**nother amazing AGA has come and gone. Thank you to all the volunteers and to the Sault Ste Marie Métis Council for hosting such a wonderful Assembly.

This year the Métis Voyageur Games featured an outstanding list of competitors on both cultural days. I can barely wait to see what happens next year!

There is a lot to be said about the strength our ancestors must have had while competing in our traditional Métis games. I am sure that today's games are just as difficult. I am happy to say that safety is a top priority for the Métis Voyageur Games staff; we will always hold each competitor's safety at the highest level of importance. We are all here to have fun but we are also here to play safely.

We tried something a little bit different this year, and the flow of the games went very well.

On Tuesday, we focussed on the Youth Voyageur Games. We started at 9 am and we were finished by noon. This allowed people to attend the activities that were planned at St. Joe's Island.

Then, on Thursday, we



THE GAMES

focussed on the Adult Voyageur Games. On this day we started at 10 am and were finished at 5 pm. Again, this enabled the volunteers and the staff to take part in other workshops that were being offered on the last cultural day of the week.

On Thursday evening, Hank Rowlinson and President Tony Belcourt presented the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to each Voyageur Game finalist. See below and page 13 for the winners in each category.

On a more personal note I would like to thank Kelly Omenye (UMAYC Timmins) and her team of youths who provided fresh fruit, ice cold water and fruity drinks to all of the Voyageur Games' staff members. She received rave reviews from many of our spectators who pur-

chased a refreshing glass of "Tootie Fruity Youth Juice" and nibbled on some fresh fruit as they watched their children, spouses, family and friends participate in some gruelling tests of their physical and mental strengths.

I would also like to thank the UMAC staff, Sports Leaders, Hank Rowlinson, Scott Rowlinson, Wayne Trudeau, Loma Rowlinson, Jason Defosse, Ernie Haliuk, Norm Monaghan, Paul Powley, and Douglas Laroche, as well as Jennifer St. Germain and Shelley Gonneville for allowing me to schedule their staff to help run the games this year. You can only imagine how much relief Hank and I felt having your staff help us.

If I have missed anyone, please accept my apologies, I honestly cannot thank these wonderful volunteers enough; without them, the Métis Voyageur Games would not have run so smoothly.

I would also like to thank all of the people who sat in the hot blistering sun and cheered on all of the Voyageur Game participants. You make the difference in how these games are perceived

## Heavy Duty:

Strongman Sunny Fonjong makes the 300lb Log Carry look like a game of pick-up sticks during the Métis Voyageur Games at this year's Assembly in Sault Ste. Marie.

in our communities and throughout our great Nation. So again, I thank you!

I am proud to say that you don't have to be a card holder of the MNO to feel a strong connection to the Métis people. For example, my husband Sunny enjoys learning more and more about my culture and about the Métis Nation of Ontario's magnificent extended "family" and he too feels the connection that we all have. Even though he is not Métis by blood, he knows what it feels like to be a Métis at heart.

Our lives are forever changed when we come across people who are proud of their heritage and their roots. Being the best Métis we can be benefits us all!

*Laurie Fonjong is the MNO's Registry Administrative Assistant.*

## MÉTIS VOYAGEUR GAMES RESULTS 2006

## ADULT GAMES



## 180lb CREAM CAN CARRY

- 1st **Luc Lamoureux**
- 2nd **Sunny Fonjong**
- 3rd **Dave Potvin**

## 300lb LOG CARRY

- 1st **Sunny Fonjong**
- 2nd **Dave Potvin**
- 3rd **Ernie Haliuk**

## 450lb CARRY

- 1st **Sunny Fonjong**
- 2nd **Keith Hendricks**
- 3rd **Dave Potvin**

## MEN'S 180lb CARRY

- 1st **Sunny Fonjong**
- 2nd **Keith Hendricks**
- 3rd **Paul Powley**



PHOTO: Wendy Baillie



## WOMEN'S 90lb CARRY

- 1st **Evelyn Powley**
- 2nd **Anna Trudeau**
- 3rd **Stephanie Michaud**

## ADULT SLING SHOT

- 1st **Norm Monaghan**
- 2nd **Ernie Haliuk**
- 3rd **Jason Defosse**

## ADULT AIR RIFLE

- 1st **Bill Rhody**
- 2nd **Laura Bourgouis**
- 3rd **Alain Pettit**

## ADULT HATCHET THROW

- 1st **Ken Millard**
- 2nd **Stan McHale**
- 3rd **Scott Rowlinson**



# RAISING THE ROOF

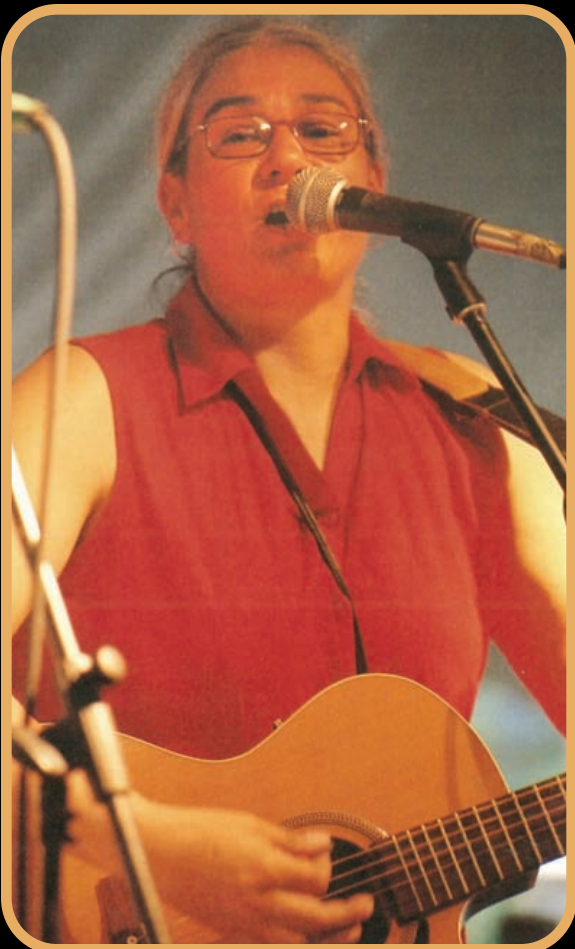
## Sierra Noble ▶

The MNO was very lucky to have 16 year old fiddling sensation Sierra Noble at the AGA all week. The Winnipeg native has been playing the fiddle since she was 7 years old and studied the Métis fiddle with the legendary Tommy Knott. She has been named Manitoba Junior Fiddling Champion in 2004 and 2006 and Jigging Champion in 2004. You can find out where Sierra will be playing next on her website: [www.sierranoble.ca](http://www.sierranoble.ca)



## ◀ Loma

Recording artist, TV host, AGA emcee, and MNO Provincial Telehealth Coordinator, Loma does it all.



## ◀ Beverly Souliere

MNO's Provincial Aboriginal Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator has a voice built for the blues. Bev put on another great show this year.





### ▲ **Sandy Scofield**

Juno-award nominee Sandy Scofield played on stage and ran music workshops for the Métis youth.

### **Fairlane Cruisers** ▶

The music of the 50's and 60's tribute band got socks hopping on Monday night.

### **Larry Berrio** ▼

Sudbury's Larry Berrio has rocked venues across Canada over the last several years. On Wednesday night Larry brought his raucous brand of country-rock to the AGA's big tent.



### **Carey Calder** ▶

was joined on stage by musician Shane Belcourt and Métis Canoe Expedition veteran Chris MacLeod.



### ▼ **Gilles Giroux & Whiskey Farmer**

Gilles Giroux and his group served as 'house band' throughout the Assembly.



# Sport Leaders take on their first AGA

BY SHELLEY GONNEVILLE

**This AGA was particularly special for me. As the MNO Aboriginal Sport Initiative Supervisor I walk 'loud and proud' where my 'team' is concerned. These unique individuals are heading the Sport Initiative at such a fast and positive pace; I could not have dreamed of accomplishing this alone.**

As you are all aware this is a new initiative for the Métis Nation. What you may not know is that in keeping the door open to deliver programming that suits each individual Métis community the Sport Leaders are left with a blank work plan. Some may say this is an easy way to work, while others understand the frustration and challenges it can bring.

Their presence was welcome as leaders of the daycare activities. Throughout the week they kept an eye out for the most gracious, respectful and cooperative children participating. Activities were divided among three age groups, Tiny Tots, Juniors and Teens. Although all the children received a 'sporting gift' at the end of the week, three children were acknowledged in a more memorable fashion. A presentation was made in front of all under the main tent on Friday. It was the first year for *The Senator Reta Gordon Award*, which was a sash and a token badge given to these outstanding children.

I would like to thank not only Senator Reta for allowing us the honour, but also Lisa Pigeau (AHWS, Ottawa) for creating the leather badges for us.

*Shelley Gonneville is the MNO's Provincial Diabetes Services Supervisor.*



**PATTI MOREAU**  
COMMUNITY SPORT LEADER  
Sault Ste. Marie



**DEBBIE BURGESS**  
COMMUNITY SPORT LEADER  
Dryden



**ANGIE NOEL**  
COMMUNITY SPORT LEADER  
Ottawa

The AGA is a time of coming together, meeting new people, learning new things about our culture and experiencing a Métis way of life. It is about sharing, having fun and working.

This year's AGA was a very meaningful one to me for two reasons. Being an involved Métis citizen of Sault Ste Marie I learned what goes into the whole production of an AGA. It is a long process that began back in January, but seeing everyone's smiles and making new friends made it all worth it. As the Community Sport Leader for Region 4 for the MNO Aboriginal Sport Initiative I was productively involved in providing the children and youth with fun activities, as well as assisting with the Voyageur Games. This week, although exhausting, at times provided me the opportunity to grow in many ways. My memories will be cherished forever.

**"My memories will be cherished forever"**

I would like to thank all the volunteers who took time from their personal lives to assist in the success of the 13th Annual General Assembly. Appreciation of their efforts can hardly be expressed through words alone.

I would like to share a few stories from my experience at the AGA in Sault Ste. Marie. I must say that I not only discovered a lot about the MNO, but most of all, a lot about myself!

I would like to start off with the first time I tried the hatchet throw. On my third attempt I hit a bullseye! Is there such a thing as hatchet throwing for a career? Second, I also became a horse-shoe throwing expert while practising for two hours straight as I manned the horseshoe station for the 'Walk away from Diabetes' event. In between participants, I played my left hand versus my right hand. To my surprise, considering I am right handed, my left hand won the game! I decided to become left handed when playing horse-shoes.

I also did some yoga and meditation with the girls at the daycare and found my inner child! The girls showed me some of their yoga poses and I was quite impressed!

Last but not least, I received my very first smudging ceremony from two wonderful young ladies: Marissa and Jordyn Hendricks. Thank you girls!

All in all I had a great experience and I met so many wonderful people throughout the week.

My name is Angie Noel and I am the Community Sports Leader in Ottawa. I would like to give thanks to everyone who was involved in the AGA; the week was a lot of fun. When I was working or volunteering my time everyone was friendly; it didn't matter where I was looking there were smiles on a lot of faces.

**"I have never had the opportunity to attend an Assembly before and I was taken aback by the generosity of people."**

I have never had the opportunity to attend an AGA before and I was taken aback by the generosity of people. People who don't know you are saying 'hello'.

Even though the heat was horrendous during the Voyageur Games—actually all week—I was amazed at how many participants there were, and shocked at how many spectators we had. This shows me that the MNO is a real tight group of people who will open their doors to all others. I would like to thank you all for this treasure.

## From the Registry: So much more than a card

BY KAROLE DUMONT-BECKETT  
REGISTRAR/DIRECTOR OF REGISTRY

Every team member in Registry knows how important obtaining MNO citizenship is for every applicant. The part we like the most is sending out citizen cards. It's always such a pleasure, but every once in a while a note comes across my desk that adds a whole new dimension to exercising this privilege.

Claudette Gingras, our Assistant Registrar, along with her father and brother recently received their cards after a long and tedious search.

For some, the research is quick and simple, while for others the path is littered with obstacles. For every one of us, however, crossing the finish line is a moment in time that remains embedded in our memory forever. It is the moment when one's pride is so powerful that it begs to be shared with a nation; when raising the Métis flag, loudly proclaims one's pride and heritage.

Marcel Gingras recounts his family's journey in the following letter and pictures, which he allowed us to share with all our citizens.

~~~~~  
June 29, 2006  
Re: Métis Heritage

*Until about seven years ago, I had no idea of my Métis heritage. I can remember a picture of my grandmother; she was tall and dark, but in those days all pictures were black and white and colouring was hard to judge. My father never mentioned anything about his mother being native.*

*About seven years ago one of my brothers started working on a family tree for a family reunion we were having. This is when he found out about our ancestry.*

*For some reason, in my father's time, it seems that you did not talk about your native ancestry.*

*This has finally been rectified; I am now 69 years old and proudly flying my Métis flag in my yard. I also wear my sash at every occasion that warrants it. Recently I showed up at a legion parade and opened a few eyes when I got there wearing my sash.*

MARCEL T. GINGRAS  
Proud Métis Citizen



## UMAYC AT THE AGA TOOTIE FRUITY YOUTH JUICE

BY KELLY OMENYE

I would like to start by expressing my gratitude to the Métis Youth who participated in a variety of activities during this year's AGA, including helping Ginny Gonneau at the auction table; assisting Registry assemble and hand out the AGA kits; ensuring that the Senators and other attendees at the meeting portions of the AGA had water to drink. You have made me proud to be a UMAC Coordinator.

The Timmins Youth who attended the first ever 'Youth Village' have not stopped raving about how great a time they experienced at their first AGA.

The Sault Ste Marie Council and staff truly outdid themselves. Thank you for your hospitality



(left) Kelly Omenye does her thing at the blender.

(above) PCMN Councilor for Region 9 Eric Scofield gives a full endorsement to the Tootie Fruity Juice stand product.

and the kindness you showed to the Youth as well as to me and my family. It was greatly appreciated.

The Timmins youth group helped Laurie Fonjong by providing water to all of the Sports Leaders, UMAC staff and other volunteers on both cultural days. So I thought, why not provide people with healthy and cold fruit drink as they watch the Voyageur Games?

The 'Tootie Fruity Youth Juice' was a hit; the response was so overwhelming that I met with

some of the Timmins youth and we decided to sell these drinks throughout the week. This was a great fund raising opportunity for the Timmins Youth; we will be sure to do it again at the next AGA.

I would like to thank all of the Senators who attended the sharing/talking circle on Thursday evening, at the Youth Village. The Youth got the chance to learn wonderful things from Senator Roland St. Germain, Senator Reta Gordon, Senator Audrey Vallee, Senator Jacques Leroux and Sena-

tor Earl Scofield.

The Youth who attended were happy to hear what the Senators of the Métis Nation had to share with them. We all learned a lot that night and we all had a chance to share our own stories with everyone. There were over 30 participants in our circle.

Thank you to everyone who participated and shared their stories. It was heartwarming to say the least.

*Kelly Omenye is the MNO's UMAC Coordinator in Timmins.*

## Senators' Spotlight



Senators' Forum Overview:

## Wisdom & sharing at Senators Forum

BY RUTH WAGNER-MILLINGTON

This year for the first time ever, through a New Horizons programme, the Senators came together for two days of meetings prior to the AGA. Previously, the Senators had met on an "off" day, cramming a meeting into four or five hours when we would rather be out seeing the Voyageur Games.

This year's forum was called 'Building Stronger Communities' and was the first of its kind. It was viewed as the "first step" in a series of Senator-driven activities.

We arrived at the Water Tower Inn on Friday evening. After check-in we had a 'meet-and-greet' in the library where we enjoyed tea, coffee, juice and sandwiches. On Saturday a buffet breakfast was available at 8am. At 9am the meeting was called to order and the Métis flags under the care and guidance of Senator Jacques Leroux (St. Joseph Island/Bruce Mines) were paraded into the West Hall, our meeting and eating place for the next two days. The opening prayer was said by Senator Brenda Powley (Sault Ste Marie) followed by opening remarks from our head PCMNO Senator, Reta Gordon. Reta thanked people in attendance for all their hard work in helping to ensure that this first Senators' Forum would be a success. There were 24 Senators present and 14 other observing guests.

We had greeting remarks by Regional Councillor, Brent McHale (Sault Ste. Marie). The entire forum was excellently chaired by Wenda Watteyne, Living Sky Solutions, who had been the facilitator in getting the funding for and setting up this entire forum.

MORE ON PAGE 12



# The Fourth Hill

## First ever 'Senators' Forum' preludes the 2006 MNO Assembly

**A**nother AGA has come and gone and I am still on a high over this year's success. We Senators were fortunate in obtaining a grant from 'New Horizons' which enabled us to hold our first 'Senators' Forum', thanks to a successful proposal submitted by Wenda Watteyne.

We arrived in Sault Ste. Marie on Friday, July 7th, and all stayed at the same hotel, where we gathered that evening for a 'meet and greet'. It was so exciting to see one another and to meet new Senators, such as Claire Kearns, of the Oshawa Council; Patricia Dryden, Geraldton Council; and Dora McInnis of the GBMC.

On Saturday, the 8th, we Senators (along with our invited guests, spouses, partners, family and friends) met in the conference room and brought our concerns and ideas to the table. Senator Elmer Ross discussed such Elders' needs as housing, health care, monetary care, and help that would enable Elders to live out their golden years in their own homes. It has been said life consists of four hills: infancy, youth, maturity, and old age. Many of our Elders have ascended and descended the first three hills. As we mount the fourth hill may we then descend this hill in dignity.

The Senators feel that it is time that the MNO leaders propose to the federal, provincial and municipal governments that they supply funds to enable the MNO to put programs into place to see that the needs of Métis Elders are met.

Senator Earl Scofield addressed ways to bring more citizens into the MNO, such as setting up booths at powwows, Aboriginal festivals and at National Aboriginal Day events where MNO information could be distributed.

Senator Roland St. Germain spoke on the subject of smudging. He pointed out that although some people do not regard smudging as a Métis practice, if we think back to our past, most likely as our grandfathers were reciting the rosary, our grandmothers were smudging. Following his talk, he smudged us all.

Senator Wagner-Millington discussed the importance of passing on stories told to us by our ancestors. For some time, the MNO Youth branch has been talking



PCMNO Senator

about meeting with us to record our stories, but so far nothing has happened. Our guess is that we Elders will have to be the ones to get the ball rolling.

With 30 Senators in attendance there were lively debates. We hope this will be an annual event, and a proposal has already been submitted for next year.

On Saturday the 9th, guest speakers were invited to share with us what was happening in the various departments of the MNO. In attendance were President, Tony Belcourt; and Chair, Gary Lipinski; Director of Health Services, Doug Wilson; Director of Housing and Human Resources, Jean McIsaac-Wiitala; Chief Registrar, Karole Dumont-Beckett; Director of Education and Training, Jen St. Germain, and from the Youth Branch, Ginny Gonneau and Chris McLeod.

All of the presentations were most interesting and informative.

**"You don't stop laughing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop laughing"**

We were all astounded at the growth of the MNO, including the increased number of staff, of citizens and of programs available to citizens. Each speaker received a gift of a beautiful box containing a candle, and medicine bag, and a leather bookmark in the shape of a feather, crafted by Carol Bedford, wife of Senator Gerry Bedford. (Speaking of the Bedfords: A few days after their return from the AGA, their daughter Coral presented them with a beautiful grand-baby named Carter. See the next *Voyageur* for more on this new Métis citizen.)

On Sunday evening a banquet was held for 60 people to close the forum. Following dinner, Senator Marion Larkman and Senator Earl Scofield were presented with Hudson's Bay blankets in recognition of their status as World War II veterans. Senator Elmer Ross

played *Amazing Grace* on his harmonica in remembrance of our fallen warriors. So ended the first Senators' Forum.

I could not have put on an event such as this without a lot of help from other people so I owe them a debt of gratitude.

Thanks to Sunny and Laurie Fonjong for the beautiful graphics and printing in the kits and for helping to put the kits together and transport them. They spent many evenings on the computer both at their home and at ours.

Thanks to Patricia Lejour for setting up the hotel rooms and travel and for ordering the brief cases I designed.

Thanks to Marc St. Germain for the beautiful covers on our AGA binders featuring the pictures of the Senators and the Youth.

Thanks to Katelin Peltier for taking the minutes of the Forum, and for always helping me, no matter what I asked of her.

Thanks to Lisa Pigeau for the lovely magnetic bracelets given to all the Senators, plus all the health needs and the Hudson's Bay story books.

Thanks to Shelley Gonneville for the delectable fruit trays she provided for the Senators on the three meeting days of the AGA.

Thanks to Senators Brenda Powley and Jack Leroux for all of their input and hard work ensuring that the AGA was the success it turned out to be.

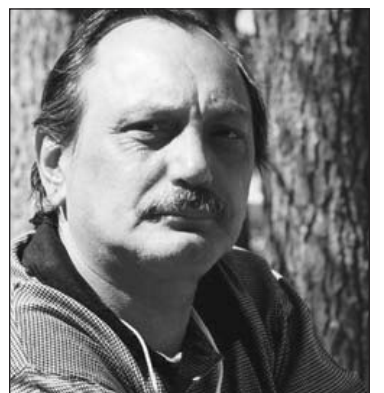
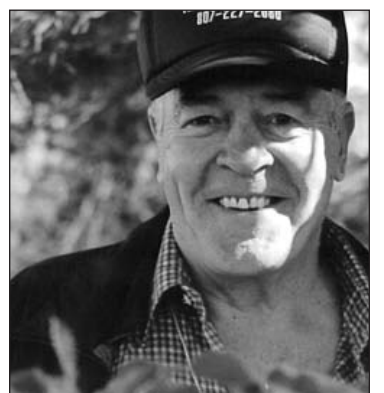
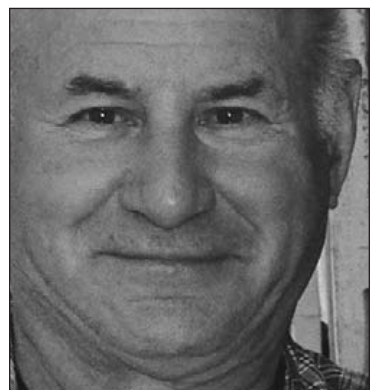
Last but not least, thanks to my husband Ron, for running around picking up supplies and then storing them in his garage.

Especially, we thank the Creator for guiding us all to this forum and AGA safely.

The dedication of the planning committee that organized this AGA so superbly will be obvious to you from this edition of the *Voyageur*.

In closing I want to single out Michele Dale and her workers and say how very impressed I was with the way the daycare was run. Chi Migwetch!

I leave you all with this thought: You don't stop laughing because you grow old; you grow old because you stop laughing.



# Senators' Forum overview

FROM PAGE 11...

Senator Reta Gordon herself had worked tirelessly on this forum for months, and had considered every possible little thing which would ameliorate this Forum. We were all presented with a lovely specially made black briefcase with a snowy owl on it and MNO Senators written below. The Snowy Owl is a symbol of the wise old/elder/senator and is the Senators' logo. We were also given personalized Senators' stationery with the snowy owl logo on it.

Because we were all housed in the same hotel where the meetings were held, it was easy to get to meetings and to chat with fellow Senators. Our breakfasts, lunches and suppers were provided, and compliments to the chef are in order; everything was delicious. Fruit and juice and water were available at breaks. We were very well cared for, and everyone commented on the preparation which must have gone into such an undertaking.

Wenda went over the objectives of the forum. Even with two days allotted, there was an enormous number of issues which were presented and questioned and discussed. Attention was

focused on strengthening the network of Senators, seniors and elders in the Métis communities in Ontario to become more active and engaged in community, regional and provincial levels; to promote the spirit of volunteerism and participation, working with and involving the Youth and sharing cultural values and skills.

Many important issues were brought to our attention: PCMNO Senator, Roland St. Germain, spoke about smudging and sharing information, weaving our communities—Aboriginal, Métis and others.

Senator Kay Lynch (Kenora) was concerned about how to deal with the new 'community code'.

Senator Marlene Greenwood proposed that the title 'Senator' should be kept after 10 years of service.

Senator Elmer Ross (Veterans Senator) brought forth the issue of assistance to seniors over 75, help with lawn, snow, housecleaning, financial assistance, medical alert and seniors' needs.

Senator Al Roussin (Dryden) was concerned about being able to communicate from the municipal community councils to the provincial councils in Ottawa. We have now just instigated a tele-imaging system which will probably begin to help.

Senator Earl Scofield (Windsor) raised environmental concern about the un-mothballing and building of new nuclear power facilities while we still have no solution as to the nuclear waste

that exists now. He also spoke about the sale of water to the US with great concern. Senator Earl felt that in order to increase citizenship we should go to events, fairs, powwows and wear our sashes to make people aware of our presence.

Senator Lois McCallum (Ottawa) asked: "Is the MNO AGA for families?" and expressed her concern about some unfriendly conduct which took place last year in the tent in the evening. She said so wisely, "Children are our future; ensure that they see healthy living." Perhaps the bar should be opened at 9 pm instead of earlier. Discussion ensued on this item and a good point was raised: how do you regulate a function at a campground where people have their own sites?

Senator Ruth Wagner-Millington (Moon River) felt that we should be documenting our stories, songs, poems, games and music as we hear them from our friends and relatives. What does it mean to be Métis? These things should be documented as soon as possible and would make a wonderful history available by book or movie for our future generations to be proud of.

Judy Montague from the New Horizons programme spoke about the programme and what it does. Our Chair, Wenda Watteyne, quizzed us on what we were doing in our own communities by way of volunteerism, and we heard many wonderful things. The Forum recessed on day one with a closing prayer by Senator Jacques Leroux.

Day two our opening prayer was said by Senator Marion Larkman (the Grandmother of the Métis Nation). We then had presentations and speeches by President,

Tony Belcourt and Chair, Gary Lipinski. Jean McIsaac-Wiitala told us about what the MNO is doing with housing. At lunch we had a viewing of the as yet unreleased Indigenous Legal Traditions Documentary.

In the afternoon we heard from Doug Wilson about health and seniors; from Karole Dumont-Beckett about her amazing work in re-vamping our Registry; and from Ginny Gonneau and Chris McLeod about the youth, and their upcoming trip to Ecuador, and we were able to view a video of the canoe trip to Batoche last summer. As an off shoot Ginny asked several of the Senators to take part in a "Talking Circle" with some of the youth at their tent-ground area one evening. We all had a wonderful time listening to and relating stories. It was a delightful mix of young and old. Jen St. Germain came and spoke of many of her undertakings



## Youth Photography workshop: Nurturing your inner shutterbug

BY BONNY CANN

Sixteen people participated in the photography workshop during this year's Building Bridges Festival at the AGA. Amanda Strong and Bonny Cann conducted the workshop with the assistance of Yvonne Scholich and Diane Lipinski.

The youth participants ranged from 2 to 20 and were

encouraged to get creative and to take pictures of the same things utilizing the shadows, lighting and angles for different effects.

The youth used up 27 pictures on disposable cameras. The films were then developed and each participant was able to choose one picture to be framed. Each photograph was exhibited in a gallery for all to view from Wednesday to Friday. The work was very impressive

and the workshop a great success. The youth have requested an extended program for next year. We hope to accommodate this request.

If you were involved in the program and were not able to pick up your photos prior to leaving, please e-mail at bonnycann@metisnation.org or phone me toll free at 1-888-466-6684 and we'll be happy to mail them to you.

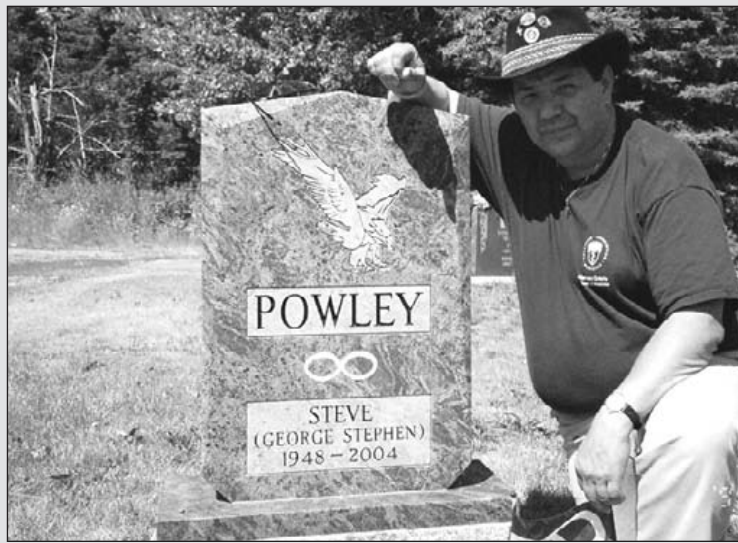
## Steve Powley, Never Forgotten

BY CAM BURGESS

This year's assembly was special to me because it was held in the Powley's home town. It was nice to see Brenda (Senator) and her family, Paul, Rod, Evelyn and Kim all involved with our Nation as volunteers or on council positions.

I took the opportunity to visit with Steve; pay my respects, and reminisce. The photo above is for those citizens who have not seen his headstone.

There were many highlights during the week: President Belcourt being recognized by the MNO for receiving a National Aboriginal Achievement Award; Scott Carpenter and Olive Tei-



Cameron Burgess pays a visit to an old friend.

PHOTO: Cameron Burgess

dama being recognized by the Ontario Arts Council for their work in preserving and promoting Métis history. I was mesmerized by 16 year old Sierra Noble with her talent as a fiddler and entertainer.

Congratulations to the athletes and competitors from Region 2 in the games and dancing—Cassidy Choquette, 1st Jigging; Emma Haliuk, 2nd Métis Idol; Matthew Choquette, Sportsmanship Award; Ernie Haliuk, 2nd Sling shot and 3rd

300 lb pole carry, and Cam and Kim first out in horseshoes.

I will end by thanking all the volunteers, Sault Ste. Marie Council, Soo and Ottawa Staff, Councilor Brent McHale, Senator Jack Leroux and Hank and Loma Rowlinson for another successful assembly.

To all the old friends and new ones I met at this AGA, see you next year.

*Cameron Burgess is the PCMNO Councilor for Region 2.*

working at the PCMNO.

Throughout the two days, each time we had a guest speaker, and as you can see there were many, he or she was presented with a box which contained some Métis crafts graciously hand crafted by Carol Bedford, wife of PCMNO Sen-

ator Gerry Bedford.

Many of the people who were guest speakers, took the opportunity to praise and thank PCMNO Senator Reta Gordon for her marvelous idea of having this forum and for all of her hard work in bringing it to fruition. All the

praise given was well deserved. Although we were quite tired after the intensity of the two days, all the Senators were pleased with what we had managed to cover, learn, and accomplish. The 2006 Senators' Forum was unanimously declared a great success. •••

FROM PAGE 5 ...

jigging show. The Toe-Tappers were accompanied by young Sierra Noble who dazzled *the Assembly* again with a talent and bearing well beyond her years.

The Fairlane Cruisers put a shiny sequined finish on the night with their tribute to the wa-wa-wa-wa-wonderful sounds of the 50's and 60's.

TUESDAY, JULY 11TH

Tuesday and Thursday at the AGA are cultural days. They provide a break from the business and an opportunity to be with friends and family and share in some traditional Métis activities.

A special treat was in store this year as the MNO, in partnership with Parks Canada, held a Métis Heritage Celebration at Fort St. Joseph National Historic Site a short drive from the AGA. Several dozen AGAers took the chance to walk in their ancestors' footsteps. Métis youth in historical garments served as interpreters at various locations on the site providing a glimpse of the adventures and hardships of the fur-trade era.

Fort St. Joseph was built in the late 1700's by the British to protect the fur trade from the Americans. Soon the fort was the centre of a thriving community of soldiers, fur traders, officials and Aboriginal people. During the War of 1812 the British used the fort as a base for an assault on the American's nearby Fort Mackinac. After capturing Mackinac the British moved their garrison there. Fort St. Joseph was burned to the ground by the Americans in retaliation. After the signing of the Treaty of Ghent that ended the 1812 war the British returned Mackinac to the Americans and relocated their garrison to Drummond Island. The isolated area was largely forgotten until the government did several archaeological studies of the old fort in the 1960s. (More information about Fort St. Joseph: [www.pc.gc.ca/joseph](http://www.pc.gc.ca/joseph))

As any Métis event must, the day of historical discovery eventually turned into a party. Red sashes and blue Métis flags were flying as participants gathered on the shore of Potagannissing Bay at the south end of the island. The ever-present Winnipeg Toe-Tappers danced to the fiddle as Métis citizens sat down to a fantastic pig-on-a-spit meal prepared by a culinary legend of the near north, Art Bennett.

Not far away some other Métis had temporarily traded canoe paddles for putters as they took part in a mixed scramble golf tournament. Although, golf is not widely considered a traditional Métis activity, time will tell. Perhaps at the 113th MNO AGA the delegates will speak of their ancestors' brave derring-do on mosquito-infested golf courses across the Homeland. There were no bugs at the Island Springs Golf Resort on St. Joseph Island though. The truly beautiful and definitely challenging course and its staff proved great hosts to the tournament participants. MNO Administrator, Pete Lefebvre and his team of golfing voyageurs showed true

Scenes from an AGA

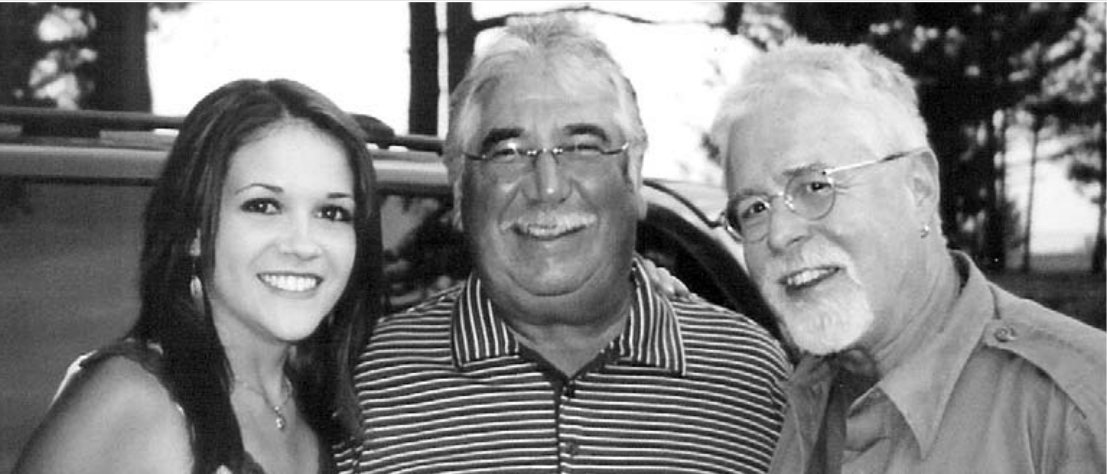


PHOTO: Roland St. Germain

Sierra Noble and Tony Belcourt share a moment with Bruce Cockburn who dropped in on the MNO's Building Bridges Festival to catch Sierra's performance. He stopped in on the AGA, near Sault Ste. Marie. en route to his home in Kingston from a gig at the Winnipeg Folk Festival where he met Sierra, and became impressed by her talents. Tony invited Bruce to return, but next time with his guitar.



PHOTO: Louise Goulding

Victoria Spiers of Huntsville, ON, attended the MNO's Annual General Assembly with her mother Tammy Porter. Victoria entered the jigging contest and did very well. She earned a third place finish along with \$25 which she has yet to spend. Proud grandparents are Verna and Doug Porter.



PHOTO COURTESY: Mary Mackie

Martin Camire and family at Fort St. Joseph Métis Heritage Celebration on July 11th. Martin is the MNO Long Term Care worker in Kenora. (From left to right Martin Camire holding Kylie [16 months]; wife, Carrie Camire, with children in front, Matthew age 5, and Jenna age 7.)



Anne Trudel



Colette Risewick (Timmins) with Elder Joe Paquette.



AGA MONSTER BINGO by Monique Raymond — Every year, our Elders ask us to have a BINGO. Therefore all Health Branch sites collect donations from their area, and these are the prizes we have at the bingo. Whoever wins a bingo can choose a gift, all of approximately \$20.00 value.

Métis grit winning the tournament by several strokes.

Meanwhile at Ojibway Park, Hank Rowlinson and his Métis Voyageur Games team were putting the youth through their paces with races and contests courier du bois might have engaged in on the same shores 200 years ago (photos and more Voyageur Games results on page 7.)

As the sun went down the big tent lit up and Sierra Noble brought down the house again. Luckily, Gilles Giroux and his band, Whiskey Farmer, were able

to raise the roof back up again with a crowd-pleasing set of country-tinged rock and roll.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 12TH

On Wednesday morning it was back to business. Senator Reta Gordon reported on the Senators' Forum (See page 11 & 12) that took place on July 8-9 just before the AGA. Youth issues and recent business of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council (MNOYC) were covered by Ginny Gonneau. Evelyn Powley, the acting spokesperson for

the Women's Secretariat (See page 6) of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) reported. (Related materials distributed in the MNO's 13th Annual General Assembly package can be obtained by contacting the MNO head office in Ottawa)

Finance and Administration reports and discussion followed, lead by MNO Executive Director, Pierre Lefebvre; Director of Finance, Steve Berry, and PCMNO Secretary-Treasurer, Tim Pile. Randy Tivy of Collins Barrow



Dalton Matthias, 1st Place 'Métis Idol' Youth Talent Contest

YOUTH SACK CARRY

- 1st Dusty Couturier
- 2nd Anthony Powley
- 3rd David Lannigan

YOUTH SLING SHOT

- 1st Kevin Lachapelle
- 2nd Dakota Rowlinson
- 3rd Dalton Matthias

YOUTH AIR RIFLE

- 1st Dylan Hodgeson
- 2nd Alex Young
- 3rd Dalton Matthias

YOUTH ARCHERY

- 1st Caleb McHale
- 2nd Alex Young
- 3rd Cody Baerg

SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

- 1st Tanner Noel
- 2nd Matthew Choquette



Tanner Noel Youth Sportsmanship Award

1ST YOUTH JIGGING

- 1st Cassidy Choquette
- 2nd Dalton Mathias
- 3rd David Lannigan

2ND YOUTH JIGGING

- 1st Cody Noel
- 2nd Jerri Powley
- 3rd Victoria Spiers

YOUTH TALENT CONTEST

- 1st Dalton Mathias
- 2nd Emma Haliuk
- 3rd David Lannigan

FISH DERBY

- YOUTH GIRLS
- 1st Hollie McHale
- 2nd Monique Johnson
- 3rd Lexie Kaboni

- YOUTH BOYS
- 1st Caleb McHale

- WOMEN
- 1st Pauline Huppier-Parsons

- MEN
- 1st Chris Briski

HORSESHOES

- 1st Carmen Gravel/Gordon Calder
- 2nd Stephanie Cruise/Brandon Morin
- 3rd Tim Pile/Eric Scofield

MORE ON PAGE 14

# “That was a recognition of our people.”

FROM PAGE 13 ...

Chartered Accountants reviewed the auditor’s report and discussed the audit process. (Related materials distributed under Tabs 1, 4 and 5 of the Métis Nation of Ontario’s 13th Annual General Assembly package can be obtained by contacting the MNO head office in Ottawa)

Next up was Métis Rights—always a hot topic. Métis National Council President, Clement Chartier, extended his greetings and provided a brief background on recent relations with the federal government. President Chartier described an “unprecedented” process that began with the election of Paul Martin’s government in 2003, and lead up to the 2005 signing of thae Métis Nation Framework Agreement

which set the stage for the historic *Kelowna Accord*, arrived at last November.

“For the first time in history the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada recognized us as a Nation,” said President Chartier. “It was very clear; it was unequivocal and stated forcefully by the Prime Minister and hence followed by the bureaucracy that was resistant for many years.”

President Chartier spoke of the ongoing struggle since 1983, the formation of the Métis National Council and its effort to fashion a process of negotiation specific to the Métis Nation that was distinct from First Nations and Inuit.

“Finally with the *Kelowna Accord* there was agreement that we would have separate and

distinct processes,” said President Chartier. “And everyone now knows that the Métis are a distinct historic People.

“I believed at the time we were going to move ahead rapidly with the *Kelowna Accord*. We could have gone great distances,” said President Chartier. “People say now the *Kelowna Accord* is dead with the election of the new Conservative government. However, we have not given up.”

President Chartier said the MNC would continue to push to salvage whatever was possible from that Accord and had appointed Jason Madden as the MNC’s Chief Negotiator for the Framework Agreement as part of this effort.

Next, Jean Teillet, of the law firm Pape, Saulter & Teillet, and

Legal Counsel for the MNO stepped up to provide *the Assembly* with a province-by-province Homeland-wide overview on current Métis rights-related issues and litigation. (Topics discussed by Jean at the AGA are expounded upon in her 2006 Métis Law Summary which is available on the MNO’s website: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)).

Jean spoke about the breakdown of the July 2004 Four Point Harvesting Agreement reached between the MNO and the Government of Ontario.

“Within in months [the government] had severely restricted where it would apply,” said Jean. The result being that Métis in the area below Sudbury and North Bay were suddenly left out of the agreement and several charges have been laid.

Currently, the MNO has bundled three of the charges together and is fighting them in court. Marc Laurin, Shaun Lemieux and Roger Lemieux, MNO Harvest Certificate holders, were charged while fishing for food on the French River. Jean said the proceedings were moving slowly and she didn’t expect a decision before spring, 2007. The Crown has agreed to adjourn the other cases until this trial is completed. (More information and ongoing updates on this case are available at: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org))

Jean was not aware of any Métis benefiting from the interim Federal Harvesting Guidelines, which state that Métis would not be charged while harvesting in areas of federal jurisdiction (i.e. National Parks, military weapons ranges, coastal waters). She said if someone had benefited from *the Guidelines* to contact her, Gary Lipinski or your local Captain of the Hunt (a list of the Captains of the Hunt is available in the MNO pocket calendar and on the MNO’s web-

## MNO Development Corporation holds Annual General Meeting at AGA

by Katelin Peltier

On July 14, 2006, the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation met at Ojibway Park, Sault Ste. Marie, ON. The meeting was called to order by MNODC President, Tony Belcourt.

President Belcourt discussed the past and present composition of the MNODC Board of Directors, who were appointed by the PCMNO. The MNODC is a separately incorporated ‘for profit’ corporation with one share owned by the MNO. The MNODC does not have capacity to hire staff, but receives some support from the MNO’s economic development branch. Its aim is to create employment and economic development opportunities for Métis citizens and communities in order to create stronger and healthier Métis communities.

Information was provided on the MNODC’s investment in Superior Thermowood, a developing technology for the thermal treatment of wood products which had resulted in tremendous success for a company in Finland.

Steve Berry, Director of Finance, presented the MNODC’s Balance Sheet, and Profit and Loss and Retained Earnings Statement as at March 31, 2006. It was moved by Richard Sarrazin and seconded by Elmer Ross that the Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario Development Corporation approve the Financial Statements as presented. (Resolved by consensus.)

In response to a query regarding peat moss development, MNODC President Belcourt indicated that the MNODC was considering a proposal for the MNODC to become involved in its development. It was recognized that there were potential environmental implications that would be given great consideration before a decision was made.

In regard to the MNODC’s Aquarius Men’s Wear related activities, it was clarified that the intent was to provide Métis citizens with training in the textile industry. As there were few resources for the MNODC to pursue, it would be several months before ‘On the Horizon’ projects were seriously contemplated.

The Activity Report was reviewed by André Lefebvre. It was subsequently moved by Tim Pile and seconded by Jacques Leroux that the report be accepted as presented. (Resolved by consensus.)

Information on the MNODC vision, terms of reference, projects, etc. may be found on the MNO’s web site ([www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)).

### MNODC EXECUTIVE PRESENT:

Tony Belcourt, *President*  
France Picotte, *Vice President*  
Senator Gilbert Gervais  
Louise Goulding  
Pauline Saulnier  
Senator Audrey Vallee

**ATTENDANCE:** Approximately 90 registered voting delegates.

## Proud to be Métis in the City

Here are the lyrics to the song the Toronto office sang at Karaoke. We had challenged Sault Ste Marie office staff to a “Karaoke sing off” but the Soo declined. The words were adapted by Karen Gellman (HBHC) and sung to the tune of *Okie from Muskogee* by Merl Haggard. On stage was Karen Gellman; Kim Sicker; Stephanie Cruise; Mary Barley; Bonny Cann and Yvonne Scohlich With great appreciation we would like to thank Loma for conducting our group, and getting the rhythm right with the music. — **BY KAREN GELLMAN**

### MÉTIS IN TORONTO

We’re proud to be Métis from the city, We fiddle sing and jig like all the rest  
We hold our flags up high on Riel Day, And usually purchase Native cigarettes

#### Chorus

We’re proud to be Métis in Toronto  
We feast and celebrate at City Hall  
We hold our ceremonies on the rooftops  
And T.H.C (Tim Horton’s Coffee) the biggest thrill of all

We’re proud to be Métis in the city, We don’t need to hunt or fish at all  
We never get a sacred fire burning, Cuz fire permits ain’t allowed at all

We hold our flags up high on Riel Day, Fiddle and jig at Nathan Phillips square  
Hold our ceremonies on the roof tops, And never have to wear long underwear

I’m proud to be a Métis from Toronto, Buying bottle water for our kids  
Never swat a black fly or mosquito, Cuz living the city life is a crazy thing

### GOLF BEST BALL (Tuesday)

1st Place Team:

**Pete Lefebvre, Andy Lefebvre,  
Jen St.Germain, Paul Heighington**

LONGEST DRIVE

Men **Allan Vallee**

Women **Amanda Lipinski**

CLOSEST TO THE PIN

Men **Tim Pile**

Women **Nancy Thompson**

### GOLF PRESIDENT’S CHALLENGE

Men’s Low Gross:

1st **Tony Belcourt**

2nd **Lawrence Gladue**

3rd **Mike Kelly**

Men’s Low Net:

1st **Allan Vallee**

2nd **Kelly Mitchell**

3rd **Richard Sarrazin**

Closest to the Pin: **Andy Lefebvre**

Longest Drive: **Rick Webb**

Women Low Gross: **Jane Dunlop**

Women Low Net: **Donna Olar**

Closest to the Pin: **Donna Olar**

Longest Drive: **Jane Dunlop**

MORE ON PAGE 15

# DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

FROM THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HELD JULY 10TH-14TH, 2006

### ■ Review and Accept Agenda

*It was MOVED (Eric Scofield)  
and SECONDED (Sharon McBride)*

That the Agenda for the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario be approved as follows:

- Appoint a Resolutions Committee
- Review Minutes
- Business Arising From Minutes
- Presentation: Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, Volunteer Awards
- Heritage Community Recognition Certificate
- Meeting Reports
- Senators
- WMNO
- Youth
- Finance and Administration
- Treasurer’s Report
- Audit 2004/05
- Financial Report
- Appointment of Auditor
- Administration
- Overview of Branch Administration
- Métis National Council President
- Legal Update/Métis Rights Issues
- Métis Litigation
- MNO Cases
- Harvesting Agreements
- MNO Revised Harvesting Policy
- Great Lakes Water Quality Review
- MNO Cultural Commission

- MNO Development Corporation AGA
  - Intergovernmental Relations
  - First Nations
  - Federal
  - Provincial
  - Resolutions
  - Other Business
  - Closing Ceremonies
- RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-01)

### ■ Appoint a Resolutions Committee

*It was MOVED (Judy Trott)  
and SECONDED (Eric Scofield)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the membership of the Resolutions Committee as follows: Lawrence Gladue, Paul Heighington, André Lefebvre, and Senator Roland St. Germain. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-02)

### ■ Review Minutes

*It was MOVED (Eric Scofield)  
and SECONDED (Jacques Leroux)*

That the Minutes of the 12th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario held July 4-8, 2005 be adopted with the following amendments: a) throughout, correct references to the AGA as being held in 2005 rather than 2004; and b) page 1, replace ‘Total Attendance’ with ‘Quorum’ and replace the paragraph under that heading with ‘A total of 154

Métis Nation of Ontario registered voting delegates as of noon on the first day of the AGA. (Quorum therefore being 77.)’. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-03)

### ■ Suzanne Rochon-Burnett, Volunteer Awards

*It was MOVED (Wayne Trudeau)  
and SECONDED (Joanne Young)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario endorse the PCMNO recommendation to establish a Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-04)

*It was MOVED (Tony Belcourt)  
and SECONDED (Eric Scofield)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario endorse the PCMNO recommendation that Suzanne Rochon-Burnett be named posthumously as the first recipient of the Suzanne Rochon-Burnett Volunteer of the Year Award. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-05)

### ■ Audit 2004/05

*It was MOVED (Joanne Young)  
and SECONDED (Sharon McBride)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the Métis Nation of Ontario Audited Financial State-

ments for the year ending March 31, 2005 as presented. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-06)

### ■ Appointment of Auditor

*It was MOVED (Joanne Young)  
and SECONDED (Wayne Trudeau)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario appoint the accounting firm of Collins Barrow as the MNO auditors for the fiscal year 2006/07. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-07)

### ■ MNO Revised Harvesting Policy

*It was MOVED (Ken Simard)  
and SECONDED (Eric Scofield)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario approve the proposed amendments to the Métis Nation of Ontario Secretariat Harvesting Policy, dated April 2006. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-08)

### ■ MNO Cultural Commission

*It was MOVED (Sharon McBride)  
and SECONDED (Wayne Trudeau)*

That the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario accept as presented the MNO Cultural Commission Financial Statements for the year ending March 31, 2006. RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-09)

MORE ON PAGE 15

# “All the things we have done together as a people.”

FROM PAGE 14...

site: [www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org))

After Jean’s presentation, Sault Ste. Marie area carver, Jamie Aikens, presented Jean and MNO President Belcourt, each with a hand-carved walking stick in appreciation of their efforts on behalf of Métis in Ontario.

That brought the day’s meetings to an end, but before they could be officially closed MNOCC Development Coordinator Bonny Cann jumped to the microphone to make a special presentation to President Belcourt to recognize his National Aboriginal Achievement Award. Bonny spearheaded an effort to raise funds to purchase a beautiful hand-made hide jacket.

President Belcourt made it clear that the honour he received as a National Aboriginal Achievement Award recipient was a shared one: “That was a recognition of our people. All of the things we have done together as a people. All of the Métis people made it possible for that recognition to be given to me. I thank you all very much.”

After dinner the entertainment geared up again. Singer and songwriter Carey Calder was joined on stage by Shane Belcourt and Chris MacLeod for an acoustic set. They were followed by a blast of blues from the MNO’s Provincial Aboriginal Problem Gambling Prevention Coordinator, Beverly Souliere.

Madonna, Elvis, Bono—some entertainers are so iconic they are known by just one name. At the AGA that honour goes to recording artist/singer/TV host/AGA emcee “Loma”. Loma does a great job of emceeing the Building Bridges Music Festival and along with husband Hank Rowlinson works doggedly behind the scenes to bring great entertainment to the AGA.

After Loma’s performance the volume went up to 11 for Sudbury’s Larry Berrio, whose hard-driving country set nearly blew the roof off the big tent.

THURSDAY, JULY 13TH

It was hot all week, and although it’s hard to complain about good weather during short Canadian summers, on Thursday someone really turned up the thermostat. *the Assembly* was undaunted and Ojibway Park was buzzing with activity. The MNO Health Branch held a charity Bingo under the big tent. MNO Registrar, Karole Dumont-Beckett, ran a Genealogy Workshop in the nearby Powley tent. PCMNO Councilor for Region 4, Brent McHale, organized a fishing derby. The annual AGA horse-shoe tournament kicked up some dust. Singer/songwriter Sandy Scofield facilitated a youth music workshop. There was sash-weaving and a jigging workshop. What a day!

Thursday’s main event was the Voyageur Games. Although a merciless sun beat down on the men and women who participated, like our sturdy voyageur ancestors, they prevailed under harsh conditions. (more about the Voyageur Games on page 7)

After the activities Métis Youth put on a fundraising fish-fry with the help of Art Bennett. The dinner was a bargain at \$8 and the funds raised went to help 11 Métis youth travel to Ecuador (more on the Ecuador adventure in our next issue).

That evening musician Sandy Scofield, daughter of Senator Earl Scofield, warmed up the crowd with her unique hand-drum-infused roots music. Then, for the first-time at an AGA, a comedy act took the stage. James Kirkham put the packed house in stitches then turned it over to the karaoke crooners, who warbled late into the night.

FRIDAY, JULY 14TH

Friday began with the MNO’s Chief Electoral Officer, Lawrence Gladue, announcing the results of the MNO Youth Council (MNOYC) elections held on Wednesday, July 12th. Sean Berry was elected to represent



President Tony Belcourt sports his new beaded leather coat presented to him by the citizens of the MNO.

Region 2; Dan Lesperance in Region 5; Alison Croft in Region 6; Scott Russell in Region 3 and Ginny Gonneau was elected as the PCMNO Youth Representative (Chantel Kondracki is the representative for Region 8).

Then Alison Kennedy, representing Environment Canada, addressed *the Assembly* regarding the Great Lakes Water Quality Review (look for more about the Great Lakes Water Quality

Review in a future issue or online: [www.on.ec.gc.ca/great-lakes/](http://www.on.ec.gc.ca/great-lakes/)). In 1972 Canada and the United States signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to deal with issues such as pollution. The agreement is periodically reviewed and the government is seeking the advice of Aboriginal groups within the Great Lakes Basin during the current review process.

Reports from the MNO’s vari-

ous branches followed, and the MNO Development Corporation (see page 14) held its Annual General Meeting. President Belcourt reported on activities of the Métis Nation of Ontario Cultural Commission (MNOCC) and Steve Berry, Director of Finance, presented the MNOCC Financial Statements (related materials distributed in the Métis Nation of Ontario’s 13th Annual General Assembly package can be obtained by contacting the MNO head office in Ottawa).

*the Assembly* then turned its attention to Resolutions (list of resolutions and voting results on page 14 & 15). Soon the debating was over and the votes were counted and *the Assembly* had done its duty for another year.

Chair, Gary Lipinski, made some closing remarks and paid tribute to the volunteers and staff who made the 13th AGA a tremendous success: Art Bennett, Carla Labbe, Senator Jacques Leroux, Brent McHale, Anne and Neil Trudel, Senator Reta Gordon, Hank and Loma Rowlinson, and members of the Sault Ste. Marie Métis Council. President Belcourt thanked the fire keeper for tending the sacred fire and Elder Joe Paquette for spiritual guidance. He also thanked the delegates and their families for attending and for taking the opportunity to work together for the common good of the entire Métis Nation.

After a closing prayer, the 13th Annual General Assembly was over. Hugs and handshakes were exchanged, friends and families said “see you soon” and wished each other safe travel, and Métis across Ontario started looking forward to the 14th Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly. ∞

## DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 13TH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE MÉTIS NATION OF ONTARIO HELD JULY 10TH-14TH, 2006

FROM PAGE 14

■ **Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario Terms of Reference**  
*It was MOVED (Sharon McBride) and SECONDED (Pauline Saulnier)*  
WHEREAS the committee appointed by resolution at the 2005 Annual General Assembly to restructure the Women of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WMNO) has adopted Terms of Reference creating a new structure called ‘Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO)’; and WHEREAS the WMNO at the 2006 Annual General Assembly have endorsed these Terms of Reference; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario adopt the WSMNO Terms of Reference.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-10)

■ **Request for Amendment to mno Governance Documents**  
*It was MOVED (Sharon McBride) and SECONDED (Audrey Vallee)*  
WHEREAS the Women’s Secretariat of the Métis Nation of Ontario (WSMNO) Terms of Reference have been presented and ratified by the 13th Annual General Assembly of the Métis Nation of Ontario; and WHEREAS by adopting the WSMNO Terms of Reference it is recognized that the by-laws of the MNO will

have to be changed for adoption at the MNO’s 14th Annual General Assembly; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) be requested to amend the current governance documents of the MNO to reflect the new structure of the WSMNO, and further to ensure that the newly constructed WSMNO can function until the adoption of the new governance documents.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-11)

■ **Identification Symbol for PCMNO Councilors During Annual General Assemblies**  
*It was MOVED (Eric Scofield) and SECONDED (Sharon McBride)*  
WHEREAS most Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario (PCMNO) Councilors are in attendance at Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assemblies (AGA); and WHEREAS the PCMNO Councilors are easily accessible to our citizens at the AGAs; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO administration be respectfully requested to work with the PCMNO Councilors to develop a common visual symbol (such as a shirt, pin, badge or hat) to distinguish Councilors so that citizens can better identify Councilors at future assemblies.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-12)

■ **MNO Office Hours**  
*It was MOVED (Richard Sarriзан) and SECONDED (Natalie Durocher)*  
WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario is dedicated to providing the best programs and services to its citizens; and WHEREAS there are variations in MNO employee work hours; and WHEREAS efficiencies can be achieved through implementation of standardized operating procedures; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MNO set consistent office hours for all of its offices throughout the province.  
RESOLVED (AGA06-13) (78 delegates voting in the positive, 11 voting in the negative, and 13 abstentions.)

■ **Senators and Elders Area at Annual General Assemblies**  
*It was MOVED (Carey Calder) and SECONDED (Jennifer St. Germain)*  
WHEREAS the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) Annual General Assemblies (AGA) can be long; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) create an area designed for Senators and elders at future Annual General Assemblies (AGA). The area would be fully accessible to the main tent and business proceedings and would provide comfortable seating, refreshments and healthy snacks. Senators and elders could choose to use the area during the breaks, as their seat

during the meetings, or for breaks as needed during meeting proceedings.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-14)

■ **Donation of Food to the Fire Keeper**  
*It was MOVED (Carmen Gravel) and SECONDED (Urgil Courville)*  
BE IT RESOLVED that every Métis Nation of Ontario Community Council that is hosting a fundraising breakfast, lunch or dinner at the Annual General Assembly donate at least one serving to the fire keeper in appreciation of his or her commitment to this task.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-15)

■ **AGA Recycling Facilities**  
*It was MOVED (Carey Calder) and SECONDED (Jennifer St. Germain)*  
BE IT RESOLVED that appropriate recycling facilities for cans and bottles be set up for the duration of every future Métis Nation of Ontario Annual General Assembly.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-16)

■ **Formation of a MNO Two-Spirited Committee**  
*It was MOVED (Carey Calder) and SECONDED (Jennifer St. Germain)*  
BE IT RESOLVED that a Two-spirited Committee be formed within the Métis Nation of Ontario with the purpose of both raising

awareness of issues and challenges faced by two-spirited people within our community, and also celebrating and promoting the valuable contributions that two-spirited people make to the strengthening of our nation. ‘Two-spirited’ is generally used to reflect gay, lesbian, bisexual, queer and transgender individuals.  
RESOLVED (AGA06-17) (54 delegates voting in the positive, 19 voting in the negative, and 20 abstentions.)

■ **Request for MNO Support of Energy Report**  
*It was MOVED (Carey Calder) and SECONDED (Jennifer St. Germain)*  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Métis Nation of Ontario review and consider supporting the report released by World Wildlife Fund-Canada, Greenpeace Canada, Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development, Sierra Club of Canada, Ontario Clean Air Alliance, and the David Suzuki Foundation, which outlines how Ontario can meet the province’s energy needs through a mix of clean energy and efficiency projects and demonstrate that energy efficiency and low-impact renewable energy sources are capable of providing twice the projected electricity needs of Canada’s most populous province by 2020.  
RESOLVED BY CONSENSUS (AGA06-18) ...

