It’s official! Saskatoon, Langham and Shellbrook Credit Unions have joined together to form a whole new financial services company for Saskatchewan. Introducing FirstSask Credit Union – where outstanding personalized service, a wide array of competitive financial products, and an unparalleled commitment to our communities truly set us apart.

Ready to think outside the bank? Stop by any of our 19 convenient locations or visit us on line at firstsask.ca or call 1.866.863.6237.

We’re building a better credit union for you.

Saskatoon  Langham  Shellbrook

> Three heads are better than one.
Dumont Institute lands $22 million to establish new training division

The Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada recently signed a $22.1 million Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement with the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Under the agreement, Gabriel Dumont Institute will establish a new training and employment arm that will offer a broad range of human resources development programs in rural, northern and urban Métis communities through 10 new regional delivery offices.

“Canada’s New Government is committed to ensuring that Métis people in Saskatchewan can access the services they need to find long-term employment, build stronger communities and increase self-sufficiency,” said Minister Skelton. “Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force.”

“Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force.”

“Métis control and responsibility for Métis human resources development are at the heart of this agreement,” said Gabriel Dumont Institute’s Vice Chair, Doyle Vermette.

“This agreement is a necessary measure for Métis people to address the economic and social disparities between ourselves and the mainstream population. Not only Métis people will benefit from a highly trained and skilled Métis labour force; so will all residents of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada.”

Funding for this agreement is provided through the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy which is designed to expand employment opportunities for Aboriginal people across Canada. Under the Strategy, Aboriginal organizations design and deliver employment programs and services best suited to meeting the unique needs of their communities.

There are currently 86 Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement holders delivering labour market programs and services in over 400 locations across Canada.

With the announcement, there is now two Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreements in Saskatchewan: one with Gabriel Dumont Institute to address the employment and training needs of Métis people, and one with the Saskatchewan Indian Training Assessment Group to meet the employment and training needs of First Nations people.

In next month’s Eagle Feather News we will bring the complete picture on the impact of this major funding announcement.

Mountie’s death: the saddest event of 2006

Without question, the saddest event of 2006 was the death of RCMP officer Robin Cameron in July. The young Mountie was shot by a fleeing suspect on July 7 and she died several days later.

Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force.

"Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force." "Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force.”

In the courts, progress is finally being made on the thousands of claims from residential school survivors. The year 2006 should go down in history as a turning point in the history of this scandalous affair. In April, the Minister of Indian Affairs, Jim Prentice, announced the details of a comprehensive compensation package.

On the education front, there was good news and distressing news in 2006. At the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Marie Prentice, announced the details of a comprehensive compensation package.

On the education front, there was good news and distressing news in 2006. At the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Marie Prentice, announced the details of a comprehensive compensation package.

Unfortunately, the news coming out of Regina was not so positive for the First Nations University of Canada. Turmoil at the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre at Wanuskewin Research Centre, played an integral role in the launch of the Aboriginal Education Knowledge Centre, which will be a key component of the University’s future.

The team wanted to send thanks out … it was awesome.

The big news of the year came over the summer when Team Saskatchewan brought back the title from the 2006 North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colorado. Sports such as Volleyball, Softball, Swimming, and Athletics were dominated by Saskatchewan athletes.

Who could forget entering Mile High Stadium and hearing chants of Team Sask! Team Sask! echoing through the stands.

The Beardy’s Blackhawks have had a tremendous year so far, they currently sit in first place in the Saskatchewan Midget AAA League. Over the holidays they participated in the prestigious Mac’s Midget Hockey Tournament in Calgary.

The team went off to a hot start and were able to win their first three games, with the highlight of their tournament being a convincing 4-2 victory over the Swiss Nationals. Unfortunately for the boys they lost consecutive games and were eliminated in the quarter-finals by the eventual champions Notre Dame Hounds. The game was tight throughout and after a hard fought battle the Hounds were able to win it in overtime.

Team Manager Mel Parenteau said traveling to Calgary was great for the team and that “the food and the experience was well worth it and that the boys were given the opportunity to watch the Calgary Flames and the Los Angeles Lakers.”

Forward Craig McCallum and Defenceman Chris Jungwirth, along with their Coach Dale Grayston were chosen to participate in the Mac’s Midget All-Star game.

The team wanted to send thanks out to MECA, The Battlefords and Micaow Lake Tribal Councils, SaskTel, and Northern Lights Development Corp for their sponsorship of their trip to Calgary.

Some athletes to watch in 2007

A special mention to a few athletes who are making big impacts in the sports community.

Kaylee Boudreau and her phenom status in the soccer world, watch for this girl in the future.

Nathan Drison and Mike Linklater are steering things up on the basketball courts in Alberta; look for both of them to play on bigger stages in the near future.

Desai, Sierra, and Savannah the walkingbear brothers, have the tools to make it big in volleyball.

In the coming year watch for the Kevin Moccasin Memorial Tournament, this will be the final year. Kevin was a rising basketball star, and the tournament that honours his memory draws some of the best basketball talent in Canada.

This year the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will be played in Prince Albert. Look for this to be a major success, and let’s hope Saskatchewan keeps the title here.

Happy New Year to all of our readers and supporters!!

Happy new ... outlook on life

Happy New Year! Add a little physical activity to your daily routine and discover a whole new you. Still be surprised how easy it is to lose good 8 lics, inches or even 30 minutes a day will leave you feeling better, happier and much more alive. Learn more at saskatchewaninmotion.ca or call 1 866 198 2048.

Happy New Year to all of our readers and supporters!!

Happy New Year. You.

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**Funding in place to build $1.5 million arena in Pinehouse**

The Northern Village of Pinehouse has received $248,000 from the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Infrastructure Fund (MIRF) to build a new hockey arena. Funding was announced recently by Carol Shelton, minister of Natural Resources and Minister of Economic Diversification, and Community Resources Minister and Addictions Minister, in behalf of Government Relations Minister Harry Van Mulligan.

“Pinehouse had been working on this project before this funding,” said Shelton. “After some delays, the community’s leadership has been able to bring this project to fruition.”

Cameco Corporation, the world’s largest uranium producer, has uranium operations in northern Saskatchewan, as well as in the Pinehouse area. The Saskatchewan-based mining company will contribute more than $145,000 to the project, including in-kind contributions.

“Canada’s new government is getting things done for the people of Pinehouse,” said Shelton. “We are working to promote fitness and healthy lifestyles for families. This arena will give the residents of Pinehouse new recreational options and will benefit the community for years to come.”

The project will not only provide local youth with an improved place to play hockey, but will also generate economic benefits for the community. The arena will provide an economic boost for local businesses and will help create jobs in the area.

The Building Communities Program has $2 million earmarked for recreational and cultural infrastructure in the North. Residents of Northern Saskatchewan will soon be enjoying enhanced recreational and cultural facilities, thanks to a $2 million investment from the provincial government through the Building Communities Program.

“We believe that all our citizens, including those who live in the North, should benefit from having access to cultural and recreational activities,” Community Resources Minister Brucefild said. “These activities are key contributors to the quality of life that we celebrate in Saskatchewan.”

The Building Communities Program supports the development of community recreation facilities for all Saskatchewan families and build a better future for our young people.”

The Building Communities Program has established separate criteria that recognize the unique needs of communities in the North. For example, these projects may qualify for funding if they are less than $1 million in total cost.

As well, the total cost of the project may be covered. In the rest of the province, up to 25 per cent of the cost will be covered for those projects that qualify.
John L.: and now, ladies and gentlemen, it’s time for Eagle Feather News’ senior prognosticator, Dirk Dashing. Before we get to your predictions for 2007, how was Christmas, John?

Dirk: It was a busy year, but not too bad. I spent all night painting eggs, stacking them around the house and I had a big bowl of candy for the door all in readiness for the Great Pumpkins who comes by for the birthday of its ancestors. The kids are grown up now, but they still get a thrill from the festivities.

John L.: Uh, Dirk, I think you’ve got a few holidays mixed together there and they’re all in the wrong season.

Dirk: John, maybe you could celebrate both the Sun Belt way, with tinsel, firecrackers and the exchange of chocolate eggs. Get ahead of the curve! Go ahead, stick it to the man. Dashing house we do things different. We make your predictions this year. So, if you don’t want to do it for yourself, then how about you do it for your children and community? Make 2007 the year that you become a leader.

What’s Next in Eagle Feather News

This is a huge year for us at Eagle Feather News. In March we will be starting our tenth year of publishing! That’s a decade of stories, missed deadlines, made deadlines, interesting people, not so interesting people and lots of ink and paper. And it’s not because we’re lazy. Because in our special way, you will see some changes in our usual resolutions so to speak. These changes will occur over the next few issues. Some you won’t notice, other changes will slap you in the face (in a good way!).

We made a resolution to be the best Aboriginal publication in the province, a resolution we intend to keep.

Editorial

The best Christmas album ever made in Canada.

Team Saskatchewan will win the North American Indigenous Games.

FSIN elections in October will be hotly contested. Chief Alphonse Bird and Vice Chief Winston Watson and Wapass all run, but only one gets a seat. One woman will win one of the seats.

Team Sask will win the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships in Prince Albert. The girls finish third.

Chief Lawrence Joseph will get mad at the media... at least once.

• The First Nation University of Canada controversy will die down after the AUCN pulls their mandate. The monkey gets mad and flies off.
• Post secondary institutions see record numbers of Aboriginal students.
• Red Phoebe hosts a dandy First Nation Summer Games in partnership with North Battleford.
• Someone comes forward publicly and denounces the gangs and street life. The reaction is quick, and it works as kids leave the gangs behind for a good life.

Well, we hope that the monkey is right on some of those predictions and is way off on FNNUC losing membership in AUCN.

For the last two years, the FNNUC “crisis” has emptied lots of ink, blood and tears throughout the province and it is time to move on, hopefully in a positive way.

As to politics, that will never change, but as Aboriginal People, we have to realize the power we have if we vote as a block.

There are many ridings provincially that have enough Aboriginal voters to make winners or losers. And you better believe that the three main parties are lining up to get our vote.

Have you ever seen provincial highways paving roads into reserves before the last year? Times are changing and Aboriginal people are moving into positions of power in politics, education and business.

Believe 2007 could be our year. You just have to make the personal decision to get involved. If you don’t want to do it for yourself, then how about you do it for your children and community? Make 2007 the year that you become a leader.

World of Saskatchewan in the federal election.

John L.: the Liberal and NDP and the price of bananas did not go up and only erred a wee bit on the FSIN elections where he took all the risks while the gummint sat on their fat bottoms and told the Indians what they could and could not do. Damn it, they even took out of the pit they had no hand in taking!

As to politics, that will never change, but as the Saskatchewan Taxpayers Federation, you would think so, John. But upon careful review we find that First Nations people were here first. It’s always a pleasure for you, John. But upon carefull review we find that First Nations have been gummint everything. Since time immemorial the NDP gummint has been gunning us on everything from our buffalo hunts, to how we speak to the Creator, to how we should get together to make more little Indians. John, it turns out the NDP gummint has jurisdiction over everything, so we damn well better be thankful.

John L.: That’s about, Dirk. The NDP

Dirk:

Through space and time. You could even pass a law stating you existed when the universe came into being. As for First Nations being here first, this planet operates on the principle of “But we got here second.” It’s called international law.

John L.: So, First Nations will not get a new gaming agreement from the FNNUC. What do you have for us then?

Dirk: John, rumour has it that I’m up for a Pulitzer. Though what the hell I’m supposed to do with another Mander doesn’t know.

John L.: Actually, Dirk, a Pulitzer is an American award given out for journalism, and I don’t think you qualify since you’re Canadian.

Dirk: Think, Jay Treaty. I do detect a hint of jealousy, but I see your voice carrying the Pulitzer cup in a victory lap around a crowd of crazed female fans who dream of touching your finely sculpted elbows. Don’t you? I’m disappointed in you, John, but haven’t the time nor space to deal with your petty jealousy.

Dirk Dashing on stuff coming down in 2007

Sidewalks in Saskatchewan will be full of unshod children. A few them will be playing “Red Light.”

John L.: and now, ladies and gentlemen, it’s time for Eagle Feather News’ senior prognosticator, Dirk Dashing. Before we get to your predictions for 2007, how was Christmas, John?

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1) What is the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) doing in their role as SARA Pathfinder for Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

CIER’s goal as the SARA Pathfinder is to increase awareness about the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and to help First Nations groups to build their capacity to participate effectively and meaningfully in the SARA process.

2) Why is it important for Aboriginal peoples to learn more about the Species at Risk Act?

Aboriginal involvement in the Species at Risk Act (SARA) is important for two main reasons. Firstly, the purpose of the SARA is to prevent wildlife species from becoming extinct, to help the recovery of species at risk, and to protect their critical habitat. Secondly, involvement in the SARA process is important to prevent and minimize any adverse impacts that this Act may have.

3) In what ways could Aboriginal peoples beneficiate from being meaningfully involved in the Species at Risk Act process?

Due to its protective role of species and habitat, the SARA presents a number of potential benefits to Aboriginal peoples who rely upon plants and animals for food and medicine. For example, the governments have the potential to allocate funds for activities such as wild rice harvesting, mining, commercial fishing, industrial development, etc. In some Aboriginal groups, these activities may have adverse impacts on the activities and health of Aboriginal peoples. By limiting involvement of outside groups, there is potential for Aboriginal peoples to use this Act’s potential for benefits to Aboriginal peoples.

4) How can Aboriginal peoples get involved in the SARA process?

In order to maximize benefits and minimize potential negative impacts, Aboriginal peoples should become involved in SARA’s Act and fulfill certain roles, including:

- Provide input to Aboriginal committees related to species at risk (such as National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk, NACOSAR) and to the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee.
- Become meaningfully involved in consultation with governments regarding potential listing of, and drafting recovery strategies for species at risk.
- Implement stewardship activities on their lands and work together to recover species at risk.

5) What is the history, role and membership of the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) on Species at Risk?

The National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) was established by the Assembly of First Nations, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, Métis National Council, and Native Women’s Association of Canada in 2005. NACOSAR is currently developing an interactive website where Aboriginal peoples can get information about SARA, its role, and activities.

6) What is the history, role and membership of the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) sub-committee?

The Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) sub-committee was established by national Aboriginal governments to advise regarding the protection of species at risk. Including Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in species at risk is important for helping to determine the accurate status of species and bringing forward information and perspectives that are not available in published scientific literature. The ATK is made up of individuals who can serve as a contact point to a broad array of traditional knowledge holders in different regions of Canada.

7) Where can I get further information about species at risk and SARA?

You can access additional information in the ‘Species at Risk Information Package’ on the National Council of Canadian Organizations (NACOSAR) website. The ATK is working with the government of Canada on the Assembly of First Nations website and to help ensure that the ATK is part of any website designed for SARA. The ATK has successfully listed multiple species at risk, including lynx, wolves, and caribou.

8) What impact will the Species at Risk Act have on Aboriginal peoples?

The ATK is working to ensure that the Act promotes the interests of Aboriginal peoples, including the consideration of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge, First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, and their kinship to creation. The ATK is working to inform the government of Canada on the potential benefits that Aboriginal peoples will derive from the Species at Risk Act.

9) How can Aboriginal peoples fulfill their potential benefits to Aboriginal peoples that arise from the Species at Risk Act?

Aboriginal peoples can fulfill their potential benefits to Aboriginal peoples that arise from the Species at Risk Act by participating fully in the SARA process and by working with governments to protect species at risk.

10) What are the potential benefits to Aboriginal peoples that arise from the Species at Risk Act?

The Species at Risk Act provides the potential for benefits to Aboriginal peoples, including the protection of species at risk, inclusion of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) in species at risk documents, consultation with Aboriginal peoples, and Aboriginal involvement in stewardship activities to protect or recover species at risk. NACOSAR is also available to exchange information about SARA and species at risk with governments, organizations, and individuals.

11) What role does the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) play in the SARA process?

NACOSAR is a national council of Aboriginal peoples that plays a role in the SARA process and is an important component of the government’s efforts to ensure that species at risk are protected.

12) What is the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) doing as the SARA Pathfinder for Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

NACOSAR is working to increase awareness about the SARA process and to help First Nations groups to build their capacity to participate effectively and meaningfully in the SARA process. NACOSAR is working to ensure that the ATK is part of any website designed for SARA and is working to inform the government of Canada on the potential benefits that Aboriginal peoples will derive from the Species at Risk Act.
How Daystar First Nation came to be

O

n the north end of Daystar First Nation there is a high hill which is

the highest point of land between Riding Mountain National Park and the Cypress Hills.

It is an old landmark that can be

seen for many miles, from the plains to the west and across the Quill Lakes to the

north. It is said the Old Man River

saw them fighting an enraged buffalo and no matter how many bullets

they shot at it could not stop it from tearing them to pieces.

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Among those who turned back with Piapot was Daystar. In the Spring of

1870 over 300 Crees and Assiniboine

died in the Battle of the Iron Buffalo. Among the dead was he who cried for

fighting a year before. His way of

dreaming was to lose himself on the path

and they were returning from the Bear Paw

Mountains to their people camped on the

South Saskatchewan River. The

wind picked up and they witnessed a

thunderstorm moving toward them from the west. They didn’t have time to

escape so they lay down in a buffalo

wallow and prepared to wait out the

crashing of thunder and the shaking of

earth. The rain fell in torrents. Through the curtain of rain the men

witnessed a strange sight. They saw

the outline of an enormous bird lifting a great whirring snake in its talons. The

great thunderbird struggled to lift the

snake. Higher up into rain they went

until they vanished in the storm.

In the winter of 1869-1870 a

grieving Cree woman went from winter
camp to winter camp crying for war

against their enemies to the west, the

Blackfoot Confederacy. He collected eleven pipe stems belonging to the war Chiefs of eleven Bands.
Make a ‘grateful journal’

Sandra Ahenakw

Hello readers and happy New Year! I have found the fountain of youth. It has been said “you don’t quit playing when you grow old, you grow old when you quit playing.” Fan fiction that analogy. I have five grand children and it was awesome playing and wrestling with the kids over the holidays. If I can regain any of my youth then please let me know.

Christmas of years past was very different from the Christmas of 2006. Back in the day my family, aunts, uncles and cousins, used to get together every Christmas. Us kids would play outside until our feet ached and our fingers near froze.

Over the years the aunts and uncles stayed with their own little families and we all just drifted apart. This Christmas my brothers, their wives and children made us a surprise visit – when everyone was in the house the headcount was 34!

I hadn’t even met some of my nieces and nephews. It was the best Christmas so far!

With a New Year comes new resolutions to make changes in our lives. This year I am going to lose weight, or at least gain, join the gym or take jazzing lessons.

Whatever the resolution, it seems they all have a common denominator: personal health. We all want to be healthy, or do we?

According to recent studies, the youth of North America get a failing grade when it comes to physical fitness and the adults aren’t exactly passing grade either. They all have a common denominator: personal health. We all want to be healthy, or do we?

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Another banner year for Andrea Menard

Another banner year for Andrea Menard

How did it feel to win three awards at a show you were hosting? Awkward? Yeah I was terrified self-conscious when I won the Award of Excellence, like I should just quickly accept and get off the stage like a good host! But by the end, I felt just say what I wanted to say if you truly felt inspired to my recognition and I wanted to include all the people who made the win possible.

You have been on a roll lately. How many performances have you done in the last three months? I was performing for almost all the music awards shows. The WCMAs, the APCMAs, the San Francisco American Indian Film Festival, and the night before the CAMAs, I've performed at almost all the music awards shows: The WCMAs, the APCMAs, the San Francisco American Indian Film Festival, and the night before the CAMAs, I've performed at almost all the music awards shows.

What is next for Andrea Menard?

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During our interview, Andrea expressed her desire to include all the people who have contributed to her success. She also talked about her upcoming projects and performance dates.

Andrea Menard

Food Banks.

Food Banks.

What is next for Andrea Menard?

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What is next for Andrea Menard?
Beloved uncle was not just another ‘homeless bum’

It is by the grace of God that my path has crossed with Pauleen, Andrew, Brad and the Lighthouse Mission in Prince Albert. I would like to thank Uncle Alvin for his support efforts. Sheltered are provided for women, children, the abused, the disabled, the drug addict, alcoholic, and unless you fit into one of these categories, you Uncle I loved so much is now gone. Next time you walk by a street person at nook, don’t shut them down. I was guilty of doing the same, give something and remember, “your eyes are opened only after it’s gone.”

I brought this issue up to support our missions by giving blankets, socks, gloves, and toques, for those men who give support for themselves. Yes, men in need are out there.

3rd annual Expression
Aboriginal art auction

February 8, 2007
TOU Place
(formerly Confederental Auditorium)
35 - 320 St. E.

Art viewing 6:00 p.m.
Live Auction 8:00 p.m.
Tickets $35.00
Corporate tables available

For tickets, please contact:
Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company
Ph: (306) 933-2262 Email: info@sntc.ca

• Featur Guest Artist: Dale Auger •
Master of Ceremonies: Gordon Toolstono • Auditor: Orest Murawka

To view the artwork, please visit our web site:
www.info.ca

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Storytelling Week
Provincial Launch
March 5, 2007
Saskatchewan Government Relations
council Building
1200 York Avenue
Regina, Saskatchewan

Visit our website:
www.saskaboriginalstorytellingweek.ca

Storytelling Programs at Saskatoon Public Library
Museums, Sharing and Creating Stories
Monday, February 5, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 6, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m.

For more information or to book a program, please contact the library.

Aboriginal Women’s Storytelling Circle
Thursday, February 8, 1:30 p.m.
1190 12 St. E.
Saskatoon

For more information, please contact:
Wendy Black

Annual Gathering of Nations
February 10, 2007
Whitecap Cree Cultural Centre
Dundurn
Saskatchewan

For more information, please visit our website:
www.saskaboriginalstorytellingweek.ca

Another banner year for Andrea Menard

Andrea Menard

What was the most gratifying?

“I was terribly self-consciously when I won the first award.” - Andrea Menard

I've performed at almost all the music awards shows: The WCMAs, the APCMAs, the San Francisco American Indian Film Festival, and the night before the CAMAs, I’ve performed at almost all the music awards performances have you done in the last three months?

Another banner year for Andrea Menard

What is next for Andrea Menard?

You have been on a roll lately. How many performances have you done in the last three months?

What is next for Andrea Menard?

I was guilty of doing the same, give something and remember, “your eyes are opened only after it’s gone.”

I brought this issue up to support our missions by giving blankets, socks, gloves, and toques, for those men who give support for themselves. Yes, men in need are out there.
In the running for the Top 10 Songs of 2006 is Carrie Underwood with #3 – ‘Before He Cheats’. The album ‘Some Hearts’, released in early 2006, saw Underwood move away from the country sound of her first album and towards a more pop sound. The lead single from the album was ‘Jesus, Take the Wheel’, which climbed the charts and reached #3.

From the West Coast, Gordon Lightfoot’s #6 hit ‘Wreckoner’ is a sure candidate to make the Top 10. The singer-songwriter’s 16th studio album, ‘Wreckoner’, released in 2005, was a return to form for the prolific artist. The album showcased Lightfoot’s distinctive voice and his knack for writing powerful, evocative songs.

The other interesting candidate is #9 – ‘I’m Not Like That’ by Daze Dene. The song, which was released in 2006, is a tribute to the indigenous people of Canada. The song’s message is that indigenous people are not stereotypically - a message that is very relevant in today’s society.

The Top 10 Songs of 2006 are likely to be a mix of new and old songs. It will be interesting to see which songs make the cut and which ones fall short.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, the Top 10 Songs of 2006 are a reflection of the musical landscape of the year. From country to folk, from pop to rock, the songs cover a wide range of genres and styles. It will be interesting to see which songs make the final cut and which ones are left behind. As always, the Top 10 Songs of 2006 will be a testament to the power of music to bring people together and to provide a voice for the voiceless.
How Daystar First Nation came to be

O

n the north end of Daystar First Nation there is a high hill which is the highest point of land between Riding Mountain National Park and the Cypress Hills. It is an old landmark that can be seen for many miles, from the plains to the west and across the Quill Lakes to the north. The area is a part of the Touchwood Hills, an old wintertime ground of the buffalo and the people who hunted them. The high hill remains to this day an isolated and mystical place.

The story centers around Chief Daystar who, in 1874, signed Treaty Number Four and took his reserve on the land shown to him as a vision, a dream or both.

Chief Daystar began as a counselor in the camp of Chief Piapot. His people traveled far out onto the plains on to the border of Blackfoot country and as far south as the Upper Missouri River in what is now central Montana.

In his younger days Daystar was attacked by a buffalo which hooked his belt upon its horn and tossed him violently about. His people killed the buffalo sparing Daystar's life. Among those who turned back was Chief Piapot. In the Spring of 1870 over 300 Cree and Assiniboine died in the Battle of the Iron Buffalo. Among the dead was he who cried for war and fought against all, since wounded. Among them was Little Pine’s War Chief, Chief Massamias, my paternal great-grandfather. It is said the Old Man River ran red with Cree blood that day.

The battle site is below the University of Lethbridge in southern Alberta.

Daystar was also given a prophetic dream. He felt his body and traveled in the land of the highest hill in the Touchwood Hills. He was shown the land that was to become Daystar First Nation. He landed upon the hill and a voice said: “Daystar, this is where you will raise your grandchildren.”

He was a Chief in his own right when camped at the elbow of the south Saskatchewan River he received word it was time to make Treaty Number Four at Fort Qu’Appelle. Daystar followed his dream and selected his land as the spirit had told him. Piapot, a true Plains Indian laughed at Daystar for choosing to raise his children in the trees.

This is how Daystar First Nation came to be. Even to this day the reserve begins where the trees begin. The northern half is rolling hills with birch and poplar stands, meadows and small lakes.

Common Ground

John Cuthand

Watch for the Tenth Edition of Eagle Feather News. Just around the corner!

Explore New Opportunities

As Canada’s first entrepreneurs, Aboriginal people have a tradition of creating new opportunities. If you’re interested in doing the same today, we can help. We, at the Saskatchewan Business Service Centre, are a resource for entrepreneurship seeking support.

Our one-on-one services can help you find what you need to start or grow your business. Call or visit our office for a wide range of business information and services. Call or visit us for a wide range of business information and services. Call or visit us for a wide range of business information and services. Call or visit us for a wide range of business information and services.

Tip 1: Watch for the Tenth Edition of Eagle Feather News. Just around the corner!

Tip 2: Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

PSIN Vice-Chief Glen Pratt and Nekaneet Chief Alice Páltayken are alerting Saskatchewan First Nations about an elk hunt scheduled by Saskatchewan Environment for the Cypress Hills area. “PSIN is stepping in to inform First Nations hunters about this opportunity because Saskatchewan is an Environment failed to do,” Vice-Chief Pratt said.

“First Nations living in the area and throughout the province deserve the right to begin hunting immediately so they can provide meat for their families. The Cypress Hills area is an important hunting ground for...”

Chief Páltayken echoed Vice Chief Pratt’s comments regarding the importance of the hunt. “The game found in the Cypress Hills provides necessary sustenance for our people and the animal hides are used for First Nation traditional crafts. The use of these hides has significant economic value to First Nation people as well.”

There are 775 adult elk living around the centre block of Cypress Hills but Saskatchewan Environment says its goal is to maintain a population of only 300 animals so they don’t damage the nearby crops. Removing adult females and young adults is the best size. First Nations hunters can begin their hunt immediately on unoccupied Crown land and on private land as long as they have permission in writing.

Tip 3: Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

Tip 4: Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

Tip 5: Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

Wanuskewin Park receiving $2.5 million from province’s Building Communities Program

The Wanuskewin Heritage Park near Saskatoon will receive funding from the $100 million Building Communities Program that has been designed to assist in addressing regional cultural and recreational infrastructure needs. Culture, Youth and Recreation Minister Glenn Hagel was in Wanuskewin Heritage Park recently to announce that the Building Communities Program is providing $2.5 million to support the continued development of the national and provincial heritage property site.

The Building Communities Program supports the Provincial Government’s commitment to making life better for Saskatchewan families and building a better future for young people.

Cultural and recreational activities are key contributors to the quality of life in our province,” Hagel said. “The community has demonstrated that the Wanuskewin Heritage Site is essential to the cultural vibrancy of the region. The Building Communities Program is one more way we are ensuring that Saskatchewan families and communities benefit from our strong economy.”

Located five kilometres north of Saskatoon, the Wanuskewin Heritage Site is planning a significant expansion to enhance the visitor’s experience. This includes new trails and the addition of exhibits.

“There is a significant historical, cultural and spiritual significance to how all people experience the park,” Wanuskewin Heritage Park acting chair Ken Pontikes said. “Extensive discussions with First Nations people and others in the community as well as museum professionals has brought about a better understanding of how we can tell these stories through our Park renewal.”

The Building Communities Program will provide $100 million over three years – up to $20 million in the first year (2006-2007) and $40 million for each of years two (2007-2008) and three (2008-2009). This includes $2 million for infrastructure needs in northern Saskatchewan.

Tip 6: Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

Tip 7: Elk season open in Cypress Hills area

Wanuskewin Park would be receiving $2.5 million to expand its facility and programs.

When propane leaks, it smells like rotten eggs.

Ken Pontikes, Cy Standing, Glen Hagel and Sheila Gamble were present for the announcement that Wanuskewin would be receiving $2.5 million to expand its facility and programs.

But don’t wait until you smell it to make your home safe.
Organisation determined to raise awareness of Species at Risk Act

1) What is the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER) doing for SARA pathfinder for Manitoba and Saskatchewan?

CIER’s goal as the SARA pathfinder is to increase awareness about the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and to help Indigenous peoples build their capacity to participate effectively and meaningfully in the SARA process.

2) Why is it important for Aboriginal peoples and communities to learn more about the Species at Risk Act?

Aboriginal involvement in the Species at Risk Act (SARA) is important for two main reasons. Firstly, the purposes of the SARA are to protect wildlife species from becoming extinct, to help recover them, and to protect their critical habitat. SARA is closely aligned with the goals of many Aboriginal groups to ensure that plant and animal species are around for future generations.

Secondly, Aboriginal groups should become involved in order to maximize the benefits and minimize any adverse impacts that this Act may have.

3) In what ways could Aboriginal peoples benefit from being involved in the Species at Risk Act?

Due to its protective role of species and habitat, the SARA presents a number of potential benefits to Aboriginal peoples that rely upon plants and animals for food and medicine. For example, the government holds the power to delegate management responsibilities to Aboriginal peoples, including designation of areas for hunting, mining, commercial fishing, industrial development, etc. It is Aboriginal groups whose activities may have adverse impacts on the species and health of Aboriginal peoples. By limiting involvement of outside groups, species that are used by Aboriginal peoples for food, social, ceremonial, and commercial purposes are more likely to be around for future generations.

In order to maximize benefits and minimize any adverse impacts that may have, Aboriginal peoples could benefit from involvement in the SARA process.

4) How can Aboriginal peoples get involved in the SARA process?

In order to maximize benefits and minimize potential negative impacts, Aboriginal peoples should become involved in SARA activities. This can be done in the following ways:

- Provide input to Aboriginal committees related to species at risk (such as National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk, NACOSAR) and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee.
- Become meaningfully involved in consultations with government (regarding potential listing of and draft recovery strategies for species at risk).
- Implement stewardship activities on their lands and waters to help protect and recover species at risk.

5) What is the history, role and membership of the National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) or Species at Risk?

The National Aboriginal Council on Species at Risk (NACOSAR) was established in September 2005, and has since been working to help recover species at risk and ensure the recovery of species at risk. The council is made up of individuals who have a role in natural resource management and who are elected through a representative process. The council has the power to make recommendations to the federal government on the listing of species at risk.

6) What is the history, role and membership of the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee?

The Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee is a group of experts that are responsible for advising CIER on the status of species at risk. The subcommittee includes members from various Indigenous groups, including the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Métis National Council, and the National Wildlife Council of Canada. The ATK subcommittee meets regularly to discuss the status of species at risk and to develop recommendations.

7) Where can I get further information about species at risk and SARA?

You can access additional information on the Species at Risk Information Package or the Species at Risk Act (SARA) through the CIER website (www.cier.ca), the Species at Risk Act (SARA) Toolkit on the Assembly of First Nations website (www.asfnational.org), and the government of Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca). Additional information is also available through the ATK subcommittee and the Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) subcommittee.

The ATK subcommittee is made up of experts from various Indigenous groups, including the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (ITK), the Métis National Council, and the National Wildlife Council of Canada. The ATK subcommittee meets regularly to discuss the status of species at risk and to develop recommendations.

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Eagle Feather News
JANUARY 2007

What's Next in Eagle Feather News

This is a huge year for us as Eagle Feather News. In March we will be starting our tenth year of publishing! That is a decade of stories, missed deadlines, made deadlines, interesting people, not so interesting people and lots of ink and paper. Because it is our special year, we will see some changes to the way we do things.

We have made resolutions to be the best Aboriginal publication in the province, a resolution we intend to keep.

We welcome your reception. In February, we will have coverage of the Excellence in Action business conference being hosted by the Province, the FSIN and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund. This event will earn us a new Aboriginal business from around Canada.

There will be stories on health and wellness and of course all of our talented and interesting columns will be there to tease your brain and to challenge the status quo. We hope to see you there.

Happy New Year.

Eagle Feather News

Contributing Writers

John L.: and now, ladies and gentlemen, it's time for Eagle Feather News senior political correspondent, Dirk Dashing. Before we get to your predictions for 2007, how was Christmas, John?

John L.: Great, Dirk. I spent all night painting eggs, startling them around the house in a big hula of candy by the door all in readiness for the Great Pumpkin which comes by for the birthday of his cat. The kids are grown up now, but they still get a thrill from the festivities.

John L.: Uh, Dirk, I think you've got a few holidays mixed together there and they're all in the wrong season.

Dirk: John, maybe you should consider celebrating through the constitutional way, with timid, firepower and the exchange of choosy gifts. Go ahead, seek up to the colonizers, Cuddle up in the warm blankets of state sanctioned buffets and pickled hams. At the Dashing house we do things different. We stick it to the man.

John L.: Uh, why don't you get your predictions. What can we expect in 2007?

Dirk: Well, John, I was reading Doug Callahan's column the other day and it turns out he is more than your average bubbling crock pot of male hormones. No, John, he is very much the soul. Every now and then, Doug Callahan makes a point. John L.: Well, what point would that be?

Dirk: Mr. Callahan was going on and on about how the 1994 gaming agreement between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority and the NDP government really shuffled the cards for First Nations. First Nations raised all the money, took all the risks while the gaming set on their fat bottoms and told the Indians they could and could not do. Damn it, they even took out of the bag they had no hand in baking!

As to politics, that will never change, but as Aboriginal People, we have to realize the power we have if we vote as a block.

There are many rudies provincially that have enough Aboriginal voters to make winners or losers. And you better believe that the three main parties are lining up to get our vote. Have you ever seen provincial highways pavin' roads into reserves before the last year? Times are changing and Aboriginal people are moving into positions of power in politics, education and business.

I believe 2007 could be our year. You just have to make the personal decision to get involved. If you don't want to do it for yourself, then how about you do it for your children and community?

Make 2007 the year that you become a leader.

John L.: That's absurd. Dirk. The NDP through space and time. You could even pass a law stating you existed when the universe came into being. As for First Nations being here first, this planet operates on the principle of “But we got here second”. It's called international law.

John L.: So, First Nations will not get a new gaming agreement from the NDP. What else have you got for us?

Dirk: John, rumour has it that I'm up for a Pulitzer. Though what the hell I'm supposed to do with another awarder-I don't know.

John L.: Actually, Dirk, a Pulitzer is an American award given out for journalism and I don't think you qualify since you're Canadian.

Dirk: Think, Jay Treaty. Do I detect a hint of jealousy. But if you see yourself carrying the Pulitzer cup in a victory lap around a risk of crucified fans who dream of tearing your finely sculpted elbows. Don't you? I'm disappointed in you, John, but I haven't the time nor the space to deal with your petty jealousy.

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These were the monkeys' predictions in 2006, and they predict:

• The best Christmas album ever made in Boney M even.

• Team Saskatchewan will win the North American Aboriginal Games overall title.

• The price of bananas goes up and I get very very very angry.

• The First Ministers Meeting money promise to First Nations was to fire the Great Swami, the person we hardly knew. It was to fire the Great Swami, the person we hardly knew. Times are changing and Aboriginal people are moving into positions of power in politics, education and business.

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What could they and could not do? Damn it, they even took out of the bag they had no hand in baking!

Dirk says, “If you don’t eat your meat, you don’t get your dessert.” By the way, I hear you have a monkey making your predictions this year. So, if your monkey gets his predictions for 2007 wrong, do you spank it?

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Barry Wall will suffer through an unseemly bout of publicity.

Jim Pankiw will join the STF, also known as the Saskatchewan Taxpayers Federation.

To reflect its new direction, the STF will change its initials to SNABLA.

John L. I’ll have to look that up. Dirk, thanks for your time.

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John L. I’ll have to look that up. Dirk, thanks for your time.

Dirk: It’s always a pleasure for you, John. By the way, I hear you have a monkey making your predictions this year. So, if your monkey gets his predictions for 2007 wrong, do you spank it?
T he Northern Village of Pinehouse has received $248,000 from the Canada-Saskatchewan Municipal Roundtable Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) to build a new hockey arena.

Funding was announced recently by Carol Skelton, minister of Natural Resources, Minister of Northern Economic Diversification, and Community Resources Minister and Aboriginal Affairs, on behalf of Government Relations Minister Harry Van Mulligen.

Cameco Corporation, the world’s largest uranium producer, has uranium operations in northern Saskatchewan, as well as in Ontario and Manitoba.

The Saskatchewan-based mining company will contribute more than $145,000 to the project, including in-kind donations.

“The government’s new funding is getting done for the people of Pinehouse,” said Skelton.

“We are working to promote fitness and healthy lifestyles for families. This arena will give the residents of Pinehouse new recreational options and will benefit the community for years to come.”

“The government is very proud to contribute toward the funding of a new arena, which will make life better for local families, especially young people, by providing a high-quality recreational facility,” Belanger said. “Saskatchewan has been home to many terrific hockey players, from Corrie Ford to Herb Caen, the NHL’s first Canadian First Nations player, or Hayley Wickenheiser with the Canadian women’s hockey team. This arena will give the children of Pinehouse another arena in their community for them to grow up with and build their skills.”

“The MRIF will assist communities in the North with developers and forestry companies in establishing separate criteria that recognize the unique needs of communities in the North. For example, these projects may qualify for funding if they are less than $1 million in total cost. As well, the total cost of the project may be covered. In the rest of the province, up to 25 per cent of the cost will be covered for those projects that qualify.”

SaskPower supports post-secondary education by offering scholarships to students for the May to August term in various Saskatchewan Technical Institute programs. To participate in this program, students are to first be concurrently attending a program in a full-time basis and registered to attend in the fall of 2007.

SaskPower offers opprtunities for same courses across the province, including: 
- Power/Engineering
- Financial Accounting
- Leadership
- Environmental Science
- Engineering
- Law

We welcome students to apply for our summer program by February 28, 2007. We will review all applications and notify students by March 15, 2007.

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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community support is provided by:
- CIBC
- Suncor Energy Foundation
- Petro Canada
- Suncor Energy Foundation
- Talisman Energy
- Canadian Red Cross
- Government of Canada - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
- Canada Energy Company
- Casino Rama
- Canadian Red Cross
- Government of Canada - Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

For more information, visit our web site at www.saskpower.com or call 1-877-477-4011. For more information, visit our web site at www.saskpower.com or call 1-877-477-4011.
Dumont Institute lands $22 million to establish new training division

The Honourable Carol Skelton, Minister of National Revenue, on behalf of the Honourable Monte Solberg, Minister of Human Resources and Social Development Canada recently signed a $22.1 million Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement with the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Under the agreement, Gabriel Dumont Institute will establish a new training and employment arm that will offer a broad range of human resources development programs in rural, Northern and urban Métis communities through 10 regional delivery offices.

“Canada’s New Government is committed to ensuring that Métis people in Saskatchewan can access the services they need to find long-term employment, build stronger communities and increase self-sufficiency,” said Minister Skelton. “Our mission is to build a stronger Canada, and a strong country begins with a strong labour force.”

Canada’s New Government is committed to meeting the employment and training needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people in Saskatchewan, and one with the University of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Advanced Education and Employment Development Corporation, to address the employment and training needs of Métis people, and one with the Saskatchewan Indian Training Assessment Group (SITAG) to meet the employment and training needs of First Nations people.

In next month’s Eagle Feather News we will feature a profile of Gabriel Dumont Institute’s Vice Chair, Doyle Vermette.

Mountie’s death the saddest event of 2006

• Continued from Page One

In the sports world, Team Saskatchewan did us all proud by winning gold at the North American Indigenous Games this summer. It was a remarkable accomplishment by our young athletes.

In the courts, progress is finally being made on the thousands of claims from residential school survivors. The year 2006 should go down as a turning point in the history of this scandalous affair. In April, the Minister of Indian Affairs, Jim Prentice, announced the details of a comprehensive compensation package.

On the education front, there was good news and distressing news in 2006. At the University of Saskatchewan, De Marc Battiste, Academic Director of the Aboriginal Education Research Centre, played an integral role in the launch of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Unfortunately, the news coming out of Regina was not so positive for the First Nations University of Canada. Turmoil at the University of Saskatchewan, Dr. Marie Prentice, announced the details of a comprehensive compensation package.

With the announcement, there are now two Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement holders delivering labour market programs and services in over 400 locations across Canada.

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Westside takes championship home

The Westside Warriors from Saskatchewan were able to ride on a undefeated record all the way to the championship. Led by Tournament MVP Mike Linklater and Tournament All-Star Robin Daniels.

They met Standing Buffalo in the final after they defeated another Saskatchewan team, the Bad Guys in the semi-final.

Some athletes to watch in 2007

A special mention to a few athletes who are making big impacts in the sports community:

Jaye Bourdoues and her phenomenal status in the soccer world, watch for this girl in the future.

Nathan Dixon and Mike Linklater are two of the most promising up on the basketball courts in Alberta; look for both of them to play on bigger stages in the near future.

Desai, Sierra, and Savannah the Walkingbear brothers, have the tools to make it big in volleyball.

In the coming year watch for the Kevin Macau Memorial Tournament, this will be the final year. Kevin was a rising basketball star, and the tournament that honours his memory draws some of the best basketball talent in Canada.

This year the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships will be played in Prince Albert. Look for this to be a major success, and let’s hope Saskatchewan keeps the title here.

Happy New Year to all of our readers and supporters!!

CRAIG MCCALLUM

The Cote First Nation held their first annual Basketball Tournament December 15 and 16. Teams were made up of First Nations individuals from across Saskatchewan.

The big news of the year came over the summer when Team Saskatchewan brought back the title from the 2006 North American Indigenous Games in Denver, Colorado. Sports such as Volleyball, Softball, Swimming, and Athletics were dominated by Saskatchewan athletes.

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The year in review

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CRAIG MCCALLUM
Three heads are better than one.

It's official! Saskatoon, Langham and Shellbrook Credit Unions have joined together to form a whole new financial services company for Saskatchewan.

Introducing FirstSask Credit Union — where outstanding personalized service, a wide array of competitive financial products, and an unparalleled commitment to our communities truly set us apart.

Ready to think outside the bank? Stop by any of our 19 convenient locations or visit us online at firstsask.ca or call 1.866.863.6237.

We're building a better credit union for you.

A year of sadness, accomplishment and progress

It was a year that some people in Saskatchewan people will never forget, and, yes, 2006 will be one that others will like to purge from their memory banks.

For men like Member of Parliament Gary Merasty — named Eagle Feather News' Newsmaker of the Year — and Lawrence Joseph, the newly elected Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, 2006 can be considered the high points of their distinguished political careers.