

# Eagle Feather NEWS

Free

## Tip the hat to summer ... and horses

Members of the BRHC 4-H Club on Little Pine First Nation Tekkoa Nighthtraveller with Champ, Leader) Joan Buffalo, Tiffany Kakum with Drifter, Leze Pewapsonias with Smoke, Betty Pewapsonias with Joker and Leader Celine Pewapsonias tip their hats after a very successful 4H Achievement Day.



The BRHC 4-H Club has been in existence in Little Pine First Nation since late 2004 and has been a strong club in love with horses ever since. Throughout the years the BRHC 4-H Club has been an active club with the "Light Horse" project. The club held their annual Achievement Day celebration event on June 25, at the HK Memorial Racetrack with special guests, families and friends. The scheduled events included the 4-H Horsemanship Showcase, lunch, congratulatory speeches and awards presentations. There were ribbons given to each of the participating riders in the horsemanship showcase. They were each marked on a scale of 1-to-100 but most members received 1st place ribbons. The Aboriginal Program Development Specialists from the Saskatchewan 4-H Council presented the ribbons to the participants for each category. According to Janelle Pewapsonias, a Youth Activities Coordinator at the First Nations Agricultural Council, they are working in partnership with the 4H clubs to promote the pursuit of agriculture to youth on Reserves. Besides helping to start four or five 4H Clubs per year, the Agriculture Council also helps create community gardens and also runs stay in school programs.

## Maria Campbell to receive Order of Canada

By John Lagimodiere  
Of Eagle Feather News

From the roadside allowance to the upper echelons of Canada's elite, the humble Maria Campbell has seen and done it all.

Her life of activism, writing and leading the Métis people has been rewarded by seeing her named as an Officer of the Order of Canada, our nation's second highest honour.

Maria, a regular columnist with Eagle Feather News was shocked to find out, and quite emotional.

"First they call to see if you will accept being named to the Order," said Campbell about the process.

"I said I would, then I never thought of it for a while. Then I received another call and they told me. My kids filled up my answering

machine and wondered why I never told them. The thing was I didn't know."

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, recently announced 75 new appointments to the Order of Canada. The new ap-

pointees include five Companions (C.C.), 26 Officers (O.C.), and 43 Members (C.M.), as well as one Honorary Officer. These appointments were made on the recommendation of the Advisory Council on the Order of Canada.

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Maria Campbell loves to share her talents with aspiring writers.



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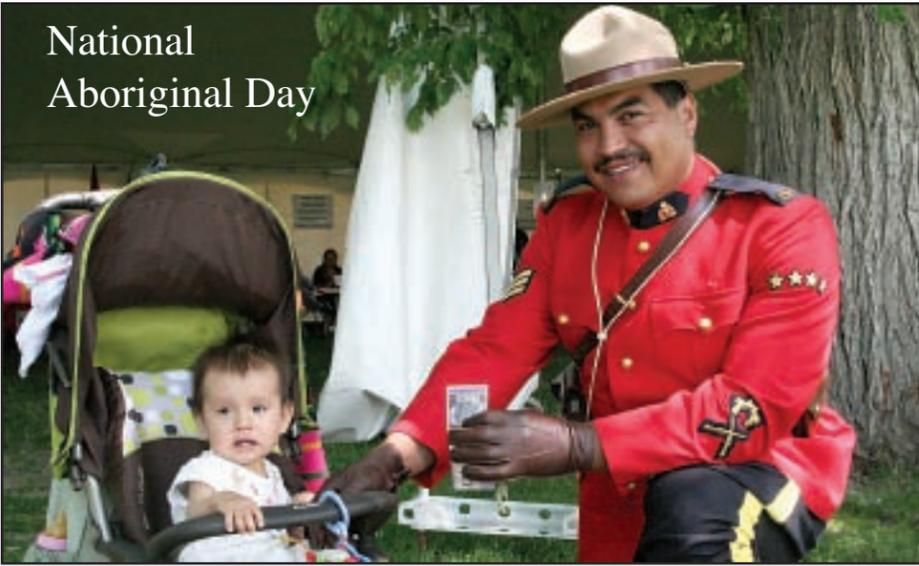
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Welcome to our  
Tourism Issue  
Coming In August:  
North American Indigenous Games  
CPMA #40027204

### National Aboriginal Day



Winona went to her first Treaty Day and had a surprise ... an extra five bucks! She forgot she was born last year. Winona was so stoked to receive a nice ten spot from the very accommodating RCMP officer Dwayne Thomas that she actually stopped crying. Officer Thomas, who is in the Aboriginal policing unit in Prince Albert, was kept very busy during the day performing a very important part of the ceremony of Treaty Day, handing over, in crisp new bills, the hard earned and long honoured treaty payments.



National Aboriginal Day celebrations in Saskatoon were a big hit this year. To start things off, this choir sang O Canada in Michif while the school children used sign language. It was a very sincere rendition for certain. Following the usual speeches, the bannock and soup was on for everyone as the entertainers hit the stage. The Elders were fed, watered and kept shaded and everyone had a great time.



SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS STUDENT EXCELLENCE

## SIGA FIRST NATIONS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) is pleased to announce a new Scholarship Program for First Nations students.

Starting this spring, SIGA will be offering \$25,000 in scholarship funds to eligible First Nations students in Saskatchewan.

Application forms are available on the SIGA website ([www.siga.sk.ca](http://www.siga.sk.ca)). Deadline for applications is July 31.

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

### Want this?



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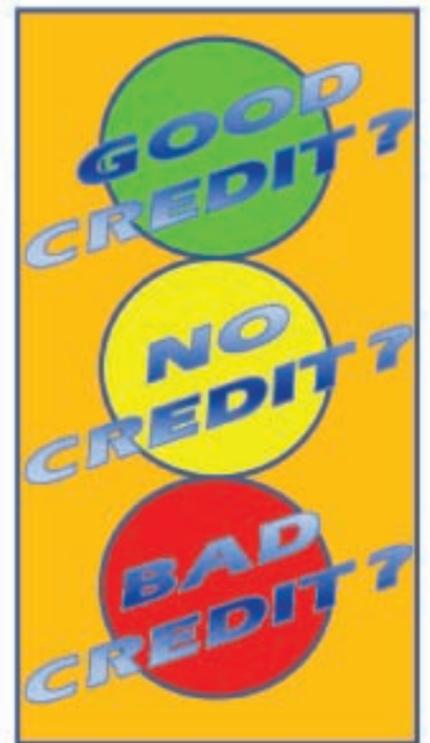
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## Around the province in pictures ...



(Left) Sculptor Hans Holtkamp, Member of Parliament Carol Skelton and MLA Ken Cheveldayoff look on as Whitecap Dakota Chief Darcy Bear and Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison cut the ribbon to officially unveil the statue commemorating the historic meeting between Chief Whitecap and Saskatoon founder John Lake. (Bottom Left) Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison shows Prime Minister Harper where the new south bridge is going to go. Harper was in town to drop off some money for the project. They were joined by Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall and Members of Parliament Lynne Yelich and Carol Skelton. (Below) Lorin Gardypie, the Cultural Resources Manager at Wanuskewin did a dance presentation for special guests who were invited to see what has changed at the Park and to sample a bit of the delicious menu of Wanuskewin's new Chef Doug Hyndford.

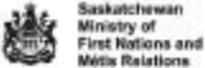



Back to Batoche Days will be held from July 23 - 27, 2008. This celebration is a commemoration of the Métis culture, tradition and heritage. The festivities are an important focus of Métis people from across Canada and are held near the site of the Battle of Batoche.

Back to Batoche Days are an opportunity to honour national heroes like Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. Visitors to this event will enjoy dancing, fiddling, jigging and fireworks while reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones.

I encourage everyone to share in the pride and uniqueness of the Métis.

**Honourable June Draude**  
Minister of  
First Nations and Métis Relations





**Wanuskewin Heritage Park**

### "Seeking Peace of Mind"

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Wanuskewin is pleased to present an unforgettable culinary experience. Wanuskewin's new Chef, Doug Hyndford of the Peepeekisis First Nation introduces his fusion of First Nation traditional food with a European flare!

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Please join us during our regular Park Hours or, for something really unique, to arrange a private dinner party for family, friends or clients, simply contact Chef Doug at the park office or go to [www.wanuskewin.com](http://www.wanuskewin.com) and look under facilities and restaurant for the Prix Fixe Menus.

Regular Park Hours – 9am to 5pm daily  
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For more information phone Wanuskewin Heritage Park at 306-931-6767  
 Or visit the website at [www.wanuskewin.com](http://www.wanuskewin.com)

## Editorial

### Sask. great place in summer

Summer is the time for things to grow and people to rest ...so I hope you are reading this while watching the grass grow and swinging in a hammock. It is so hard to get motivated when the lake is calling to hug you in its cool embrace, or if you have a festival or cultural event that is always on the calendar every year.

Being on the road, on the pow wow trail, jiggin trail, rodeos or back home, July should be anything but work.

Saskatchewan is hopping this summer. Even though the cost of gas is wild, the First Nation and Métis offerings are drawing people from around Western Canada.

Wanuskewin still draws them in. Even though it is in transition, the Park restaurant is still top notch, there are displays and the trails are as peaceful as ever. Tourists love this place. The community will, again.

The Treaty Six Medicine Chest Gathering at Thunderchild runs July 21-24 and is a meeting about culture and Treaty. It is a big conference that will investigate what has gone wrong since the promise of health care in the treaties. There should be some interesting discussion and exhibits. The following day, Thunderchild will be hosting their 42nd Annual Pow Wow. Busy times for that community with a full week of tourism and hospitality.

If you like the toe tapping and fiddles there are two events you do not want to miss. July 23-27 sees the annual Back to Batoche celebrations. Lots for the kids to do, the Elders are well fed and looked after and the entertainment will be top notch. Expect more events that include interaction between the Métis site and the National Historic Park. Come on down.

If July doesn't tire you out, from August 8-10 is the 11th Annual John Arcand Fiddlefest. John and Vicky are the most gracious hosts and their "little" event draws thousands of people to the Pike Lake Saskatoon area.

### Shooting Stephen Harper

I got the call the night before from the RCMP. Did I want to attend the Prime Minister's photo shoot the next morning? "Of course," I said ... even though I did not know he was coming. Turns out even the mayor did not know he was coming.

I was told where to show up and when.

I arrived in the morning, cleared security and got a bright yellow target ... I mean tag for around my neck. They herded us photographers and video jockeys, no reporters, into a special needs bus and took us to a parking lot in Diefenbaker Park.

At the side of the lot was an area squared off by ropes similar to the ones that keep you in line during a trip to the bank. The prime minister's media guy said, "You stay behind the barriers."

"The Prime Ministers car will pull up here. He will get out. Shake hands. They will all walk over there. Someone will point. They will walk back, look at a map. They will shake hands, Prime Minister will get in the car."

He did exactly that. Like clockwork. You saw the photo on page 3.

They drove us back, there was a press conference upstairs where Stephen Harper said "screw the West" twice. All before 10:00 a.m. Great start to the day.

### What's next in Eagle Feather News

NAIG, NAIG and more NAIG. By that we mean there will be piles of sports photos and stories from the North American Indigenous Games in Cowichan, B.C. Team Saskatchewan is heading out to defend the championship title it earned in Denver at the last event. Our sports guy Blue Pelletier will bring you the insight and we will also have Warren Gouling photographing our athletes in action. And we are talking pictures, lots of pictures.

And in the news lately, another First Nation man was shot by police, prompting cries from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations for the development of First Nation Peacekeepers on reserve. We will tell you about it in our Justice section.

### Our Bad .... again

We have really shown some ineptitude in our dealing with the St. Mary's Dancers. You see there are two dance troupes, but one is from P.A. and the other is from Saskatoon. Incorrectly in an article we had put in a photo of the wrong dance troupe. In our correction, we referred to them as the "Real" St. Mary's Dance troupe. Bad choice of words of course, because the other school is just as much the "Real" St. Mary's dancers as well. But we miss one every once on a while. Our apologies to the mix up to both St. Mary's Dancers from Prince Albert and the St. Mary's Oskayak Dancers from Saskatoon.



## Our sports guy wins an award

Sports columnist Blue Pelletier has a sideline doing stories and commentary for CBC Radio in Saskatchewan. His producer is our old friend Merelda Fiddler. They recently won a Regional Radio Television News Directors Association Award (RTNDA) for a commentary Blue wrote and recorded. That's them at the CBC studio above. An RTNDA is great recognition to get as a journalist, showing Blue's versatility. Good job, Blue. You can read his award winning commentary on the next page. Another columnist on a roll is our Arts & Entertainment guy Mike Gosselin. Looks like one of his scripts is being turned into an episode of Rabbit Fall starring Andrea Menard. Atta go Mike. And to top it off, Maria Campbell was named an Officer of the Order of Canada. That woman has made the Métis proud. Roadside allowance halfbreed and all. Incredible.

## Campbell's first thoughts were of her father

• Continued from Page One

There were three appointees from Saskatchewan. They were Lorne Scott, former MLA and Minister of the Environment. He was honoured for his work with the environment and named a Member of the Order.

Also making the list as a Member of the Order was Rev. André Poilievre, for his work with social services. Father Andre is well known in Saskatoon for his work with young men that are trying to exit the negative lifestyle associated with gangs.

Maria's first thoughts when she was told were of her father.

"After the way that Canada has treated the Métis people, I never thought I would be emotional or excited about this, but I thought my dad would be so proud," said Campbell of her father.

"It would have meant so much to him. When you think of where we came from, every time my siblings or I accomplished something, my dad would always let people at home know.

He was a single parent and the government took us all away from him even though he was a great father."

Campbell and her siblings eventually escaped the foster system and came back together as a family. Her dad got them together and he knew why the kids were angry.

"My dad taught us to take ugly stuff and turn it into something good," said Campbell. "So when we succeeded, he would say 'Those people will never be able to say that about roadside allowance people again.'"

So there is some redemption for the Campbell clan and for Maria's father who is looking down with pride on his world famous author, playwright and poet daughter.

So when she received the call about the honour, the first person she thought of was him.

"It was good I was alone at home at the time because I could talk to my dad," said Campbell. "He would have been very proud."

Campbell will receive her honour in Ottawa at a later date.



### Eagle Feather News

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# Speak up or our story will never be told accurately

I am part of the 7th Generation, the group of young First Nations people who will bring prominence and a life of prosperity back to our people.

My path in life is what I make of it. Generations before us have felt what it is like to be abused, fought the effects of assimilation, and dealt with so many other hardships.

I have had many reasons to fail, like so many in our communities and within my circle of friends and family. But their experiences do not define what I will become, they empower me.

By bearing witness to their actions and the results of those actions, I have chosen another path, I will take a higher road.

Too many of us sit around and make excuses as to why we can't, instead of telling ourselves how we can! I am not one of those people, I will always seek answers!

I want the challenge of being a leader or being the first to accomplish something. I chose to work in the media because it gives me a voice, a chance to scream at the world when I see a story that needs to be told.

Our people need to stop allowing their voices to be dictated by the comfort levels of others. Speak up, say what is on your mind.

This is who we are, it is our traditional way to tell stories and keep an oral history of the events that shape us. Because if we don't, the picture that people paint for us will never be an accurate one.

I want to create change. I do not enjoy seeing the hardships of my people. Lack of proper education and housing on our reserves, teen pregnancy, high suicide rates, drug and alcohol abuse, these are just a few of the things I see as problems in our communities.

As a leader in my community I can now draw attention to such hardships.

measured simply by monetary gain or notoriety, it will be judged by the impact of my voice and how that one voice will benefit all First Nations people.

I try to bring a traditional approach to this modern world and have learned many lessons at a young age. It is better to put others

needs ahead of mine.

Despite my knowledge of various subjects I really know nothing about this world. Listening to others' experience and recollections of the past is far more interesting than the pages of a book.

the Earth and those who were here before you.

Unfortunately for me, like so many young kids out there, my Dad or presence of a father figure was non-existent. I did not have the privilege of learning my culture from the men around me.

There were very few men around and even less to admire.

I am lucky to have had strong women, with even stronger voices around me.

These women helped make me the man I am today. They have instilled the confidence in me to dream big and to never lose sight of who I am or where I came from.

A long time ago my mother said to me: "words are power my son, if you can master the English language, people will have no choice but to hear your voice."

At the time it sounded like bullshit, but as time went on I watched her achieve success beyond my imagination.

Now, by no means do I consider myself a master of the English language. However, to my mother I do say thank you.

You probably never heard me say this, but those particular words changed my life.



***Too many of us sit around and make excuses as to why we can't, instead of telling ourselves how we can! I am not one of those people, I will always seek answers!***

My success in life will not be

Most importantly, always respect



## St. Michael's School is going green

Recently, a small crowd was invited to St Michaels School in Saskatoon for the grand opening of a Community Green House. The project came about when many of the students took an interest in collecting materials for the compost.

Rod Figueroa and his Grade 7 class took it upon themselves to seek out sponsors who would help donate sufficient materials and then they would do the rest. After a few months the project was completed and the Green House is now open for all of the school and the community to use.

Walking into their classroom was definitely a sight to see. Aquariums were filled with lizards and other creatures. Plants of all varieties are filtered throughout the class.

Figueroa says that he "enjoys using the Green House as a teaching tool" and that "it is important to stress the effectiveness of visual learning".

St Michaels School is located at 22 - 33rd St West and if you require more information you can contact the school at (306) 659-7420.

### SASKATCHEWAN School Boards ASSOCIATION

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The Saskatchewan School Boards Association is a voluntary membership organization supporting Saskatchewan school boards through advocacy and service. Our member boards of education have a combined workforce of 12,000 teachers and 8,000 support staff.

Our Association is seeking an Aboriginal Employment Development Program Coordinator to assist boards of education in creating a representative workforce. This Program initiative is supported by the Ministry of Education and Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations. This is a one-year term position with a possibility of an extension.

The Aboriginal Employment Development Program Coordinator is responsible for program planning, coordination, and encouraging participation in the Aboriginal Employment Development Program. The Coordinator will build supportive and productive relationships with boards of education and within the Aboriginal communities. Travel within Saskatchewan is required.

The successful candidate will have good communication skills, organizational ability, and be able to provide facilitative leadership to achieve supportive relationships. Extensive knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal communities and their respective cultures and current issues gained through experience is required. A University education in a related area such as Human Resources, Social Sciences, Education, Law or Administration is preferred; however, a suitable combination of education and experience will be considered. Knowledge of the public education system would be an asset. A valid driver's license is required.

**For more information on this position,  
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Please submit your resume with references in confidence no later than July 18, 2008, to:  
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Senior Administrative Assistant 400 - 2222 13th Avenue Regina, Saskatchewan S4P 3M7  
e-mail vdavidowich@saskschoolboards.ca  
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# The mysterious White Clay People of long ago

There was a mysterious long ago First Nation who lived along the South Saskatchewan River prior to the westward expansion of the Iron Nation Confederacy.

They were known by many names. They were called the Rapids or Water Falls people, Willows, Gros Ventre, and Atsina. The name Atsina is considered derogatory and may be a Blackfoot word meaning "gut". They called themselves the Aaninin meaning White Clay People. They are closely related to the Arapahoe and Cheyenne.

The story goes, a long time ago a people were crossing the Upper Missouri River in winter. They crossed in a long line extending from shore to shore. A little boy discovered a horn sticking up out of the ice. He wanted it for a play thing.

He asked his grandmother to chop it out for him. The grandmother chopped at the horn. Blood spurted out and the ice shook. She had disturbed the rest of a water monster which rose up out of the river shattering the ice and causing half of the people to flee to the south of the river and the other half to flee to the north.

They could no longer cross and so they went their separate ways. The people to the south became the Arapahoe and the people to the north became the Aaninin.

The migrations took them north to the rich hunting grounds of present day Saskatchewan. Their territory extended from the north to the south forks of the South Saskatchewan River

The Aaninin presence in Saskatchewan is only known by tantalizing fragments recorded in oral history and in the journals of early traders and explorers.

They had an interesting elite warrior tradition. Coyote warriors trailed their people on their travels. Their task was to alert the band of danger. They howled like coyotes when danger drew near. They traveled alone and could not talk or be with people. The band, however, left food and other provisions out for them. A Coyote warrior's solitude only ended when another agreed to take their place.

It is not known if the Aaninin built the stone figures and medicine wheels of the northern plains. There is one theory they built the wheels upon hill tops with lines extending out to indicate prime buffalo grazing grounds. This oral history recalls 'buffalo lodge' ceremonies conducted at these sites.

Whether they inherited this from an earlier people or whether the buffalo lodge was of Aaninin origin is unknown. It is known they practiced the Sun Dance.

The Aaninin came into conflict with the Iron Nation Confederacy during the latter seventeenth century. The Iron Nation Confederacy is a term coined by Salteaux Elder Danny Musqua of Keeseekoosie First Nation to describe an old alliance of the Cree, Assiniboine and Salteaux Nations.

The Aaninin attacked a Hudson's Bay fort near present day St. Louis. In

response, the Cree and Assiniboine launched a devastating attack that ended the Aaninin occupation of the upper South



Saskatchewan River country.

The Aaninin retreated to the south where they became allies of the Blackfeet. The Blackfeet who had once been allies with the Cree refused a Cree offer to wage war on the Aaninin. The Aaninin were a sister tribe of the Arapahoe. The Arapahoe and Cheyenne controlled the horse trade on the northern plains at this time.

It was to maintain this supply of horses that the Blackfeet refused the Cree's request.

The Aaninin then moved into the Milk River country along the present day Alberta/Montana border. They maintained close ties with their allies, the Blackfoot Confederacy, who helped them ward off their enemies, the Cree to the north and the Sioux to the south.

By the early 1800s they were devastated by small pox. By 1861 their alliance with the Blackfoot Confederacy had broken down, replaced by hostilities between the former allies.

In 1878 they signed the Fort Laramie Treaty and moved onto the Fort Belknap Reservation in North Dakota where their descendants can be found today. They were later overrun on their reservation by gold seekers tapping the hidden wealth of the Little Rocky Mountains.

The Aaninin, like the Kutenai, were among the smaller Plains Nations displaced by the movement of larger tribal alliances during the years following the arrival of the horse.

They were forced from their old lands in Saskatchewan. Later they were devastated by disease and then nearly wiped out by their enemies. During the 1960s the pow wow trail brought together the different Tribal Nations of the Northern Plains.

Such large gatherings had not occurred since the days of the buffalo over a century before. An Arapahoe medicine man, Raymond Harris from Wind River Wyoming, recalled a sweat lodge ceremony originating from the old Aaninin country along the South Saskatchewan River.

He said it was time for this old ceremony to return to the land of its origin. An interesting legacy of the Aaninin is the return of the ceremonial sweat lodge to Saskatchewan. It is often called the turtle lodge and it has two doors, one facing west and the other facing east.

It may be new to the Cree but old to the land it has returned to.

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# Family, police seeking information into murder of Marie Lasas

**P**aul Morrisette made a public plea for people to come forward if they have any information about his granddaughter Marie Lasas since she was last seen on September 21, 2006.

Police believe that is when she was murdered. It has now been one year since finding Marie's remains and no charges have been made.

"...it's frustrating, but I understand the police are doing what they can." Mr. Morrisette told reporters at a press conference.

Marie Lasas, a pretty 19-year-old girl with roots in the Pasqua First Nation, had lived with her grandfather, Paul, in Saskatoon when she was growing up. As the eldest of four girls, Marie assumed the role of little mother at an early age.

Marie was also a gentle, loving mother to her two young daughters and she was working hard to finish high school. In 2005 as part of the organization group for Saskatoon's Annual Day of Mourning, Marie was nominated for a 2005 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award.

Sergeant Mitch Yuzdepski, Saskatoon City Police Service, says any piece of information can be important as "a piece of the puzzle." Investigators have the following information about Marie's actions the night of September 21, 2006:

- 10:30 p.m. - Marie leaves a friend's house on the 600 block of Avenue H South, Saskatoon.
- 10:30 to 11:00 p.m. - Marie stops by her Uncle's house briefly at 504-Avenue H South asking for cigarettes but her uncle has none and she leaves the house a few minutes later.



Marie Lasas, described as a gentle, loving mother, went missing on Sept. 21, 2006. Her body was found in June of 2007 and police determined she had been murdered. But few leads have surfaced and the police are asking for the public's helping in apprehending her killer.



Paul Morrisette spoke to the media, hoping to generate some leads for the investigation into the murder of his granddaughter, Marie Lasas

- After 11:00 p.m. - Marie may have stopped by her home at 200-28th Street West.
- Marie may have left her home again to purchase cigarettes or alcohol from a business in the Idylwyld Drive/33rd Street area.
- June 30, 2007 - Marie's remains are found in the back yard of a storage house on the 200 block of 28th Street.

Marie was five feet six inches tall, 130 pounds, with auburn hair, and brown eyes. She was last seen wearing grey jeans, a black jacket, and a white headband.

Anyone with information about Marie's disappearance and/or her death please contact the Saskatoon Police Service at 975-8300 or call anonymously to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

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**Be prepared... don't let your fire go wild.**

# Screening programs for breast cancer can make all the difference

I am all about the breasts. At least I used to be when I had some. Now I'm all about making sure that all women are aware of the screening programs available.

Many of our readers have asked questions about breast screening and yes men can get breast cancer as well

## How often should I have mammograms?

To find breast cancer early, you need to have a screening mammogram on a regular basis. You should have a screening mammogram once every two years, or as recommended by the screening program or your family doctor.

## How can I find breast cancer early?

1. Have regular screening mammograms at your provincial screening program. Since about 10 per cent of breast cancers are not seen on screening mammograms, you should also:

2. Have a regular clinical breast exam performed by your doctor. Some provincial screening programs have specially-trained staff to do a clinical breast exam for you.

3. Examine your own breasts each month. There are many videos/DVDs and brochures on breast self examination. Check with your screening program or the local office of the Canadian Cancer Society.

## Do I need a doctor's referral?

At most screening programs, you can

book your own appointments. Canada's health community recommends that all women over 50 go for regular screening mammograms.

## How can I be part of my provincial breast screening program?

- Your family doctor can encourage you to participate.
- By invitation from the screening program.
- By calling your local screening program to book your appointment.

## When will I get my results? What happens then?

The screening program will advise you and your doctor of your results. If there is anything seen on your screening mammogram that might need follow-up, your doctor will be told right away.

Your doctor or the screening program will then work with you if you require more tests. A diagnostic mammogram is the most common follow-up test used to focus on the area of concern seen during screening.

About 5 to 10 women out of 100 will need more tests after their screening mammogram. This is a normal part of the screening process.

After these follow-up tests, most women will have a normal result and

should return to the provincial screening program in one to two years.

For more information about cancer call: Canadian Cancer Society CANCER INFORMATION SERVICE 1-888-939-3333.

Now men, I'm not too sure if they're doing mammograms on you – but if you have found a lump in your breast have a doctor check it out. Heck, while you're at the doctors you might as well have your prostate

exam at the same time.

I know that these screening procedures are not too much fun but they are necessary and they do save lives. Cancer can be beaten if it's caught in the early stages.

For all you young women out there you need to know that breast cancer screening doesn't begin until the age of 50, so if you are under 50 have your doctor examine your breasts when you go for your annual check-up.

Unfortunately more and more young women are being diagnosed with breast cancer so you take care of your breasts and the rest of yourself. One of my daughters has had to have a mammogram and biopsy already! She was only 21. The good news

is the lump turned out to be nothing – thank goodness.

If your mother or sister has had breast cancer you may be at a higher risk – let your doctor know. It's very scary to find a lump but don't let that be the reason you don't seek medical attention – you are not alone.

I remember when I went through breast cancer, I couldn't find another young Aboriginal woman to talk with and there were no resources for us back then. Once I had recovered I decided to create resources so that young Aboriginal women would have something they could relate to.

It took a very long time to make the documentary but it's done and I will be screening the documentary about breast cancer sometime in October in Saskatoon. Watch for bulletins from the Broadway Theatre.

The Aboriginal People's Television Network will also be showing the documentary in October, (breast cancer awareness month).

The film is called One of the One Percent - The Sandy Ahenakew Story.

I enjoy reading your emails and letters. If you have any questions or concerns please write to me at Eagle Feather News c/o Sandee Sez, PO Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4 or you can send me an email s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca





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2008 Treaty Six Medicine Chest Gathering  
**“Exercising our Nationhood in Sovereignty”**  
 Thunderchild First Nation, Saskatchewan  
**July 21, 22, 23, & 24, 2008**

Almost from the moment Treaty was signed, there have been different interpretations about the exact meaning, content and specific terms. We will bring forward Topics and Speakers to address these issues.

The Medicine Chest Gathering was developed to help respond to the needs facing First Nations people throughout Canada. Through the collaboration of the Confederacy of Treaty #6 First Nations and three Treaty Six First Nations: Big Island Lake Cree Nation, Onion Lake Cree Nation and Thunderchild First Nation, this event will gather information and develop a “Position Paper” to be brought forward to the United Nations level to start addressing these concerns.

## AUDIENCE

- \_ First Nations Front Line Health Workers;
- \_ Representatives of provincial and municipal governments;
- \_ Representatives of Aboriginal government and advocacy organizations;
- \_ Representatives of other federal government departments; Medicine Chest non-government partners.
- \_ Other participants, primarily from Saskatchewan First Nations

## EVENT CONTENT

A unique opportunity to attend an Event, learning about First Nations History, Culture, and Tradition. Four days of Information Gathering, Networking, and First Nations Entertainment all set on Thunderchild First Nation with camping onsite and in surrounding areas.

- Ceremonial Day, with a “Survival Ride” focusing on Youth & Violence.
  - “Traditional Healers/Herbalists “.
- Breakout Session Categories: Sovereignty/Inherent Rights, Lodge for Traditional Health, Hospitals and Health clinics, International Intervention, Federal Legal & Fiscal Obligations. Various topic items are under each category
  - Entertainment: Indian Idol, and Round Dance & Give-Away.
- Meals will be provided for paid delegates. Individual meal tickets may be purchased onsite.
  - Aboriginal vendors onsite
  - Please, absolutely no drugs or alcohol allowed onsite.
- Curfew in effect for 16 years and under, unless accompanied by a parent

Immediately following the Gathering on July 25, 2008 the 42nd Annual Thunderchild Pow-Wow will begin. The Thunderchild Pow-Wow is one of the most attended cultural events in Saskatchewan with projected attendance at over 10,000 during the three days.

For more information on the Pow Wow, please call Wally Awasis, Pow Wow President @ 1-306-845-8122.

For further information on the Medicine Chest Gathering 2008, please call Peggy Robillard, Event Planner @ 1-306-221-6708. We hope that you are available to join us and ask that you confirm your participation register online @ [www.thunderchild.ca](http://www.thunderchild.ca) with us as soon as possible so that we may finalize our planning.

Sincerely,

*Chief Ernest Sundown*  
 Chief Ernest Sundown  
 Big Island Lake Cree Nation

*Chief Wallace Fox*  
 Chief Wallace Fox  
 Onion Lake Cree Nation

*Chief Dale Awasis*  
 Chief Dale Awasis  
 Thunderchild First Nation

*Chief Wayne Moonias*  
 Confederacy of Treaty Six





# EXERCISING OUR NATION

## MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008 - CEREMONIAL DAY

(In the Event of Inclement Weather, All outdoor Events go to Tent #1)

7:00 a.m. Pipe Ceremony Tipi with the Treaty Six (Stem)  
Camp Set-Up

12:00 p.m. "Survival Ride" – Focusing on Youth & Violence

## TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008

7:00 a.m. Prayers

7:30 a.m. Breakfast (Hand Games Area)

8:00 a.m. Registration (Gathering Headquarters)

9:00 a.m. Opening Ceremony, Pow Wow Arbor  
Master of Ceremonies, Eldon Okanee and A.J. Felix  
Grand Entry and Event Protocol  
Smudge Man  
Eagle Staff carried by each First Nations Grass Dancer  
3 Host Chiefs/Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations Followed  
by their Elders  
3 Host Council Members w/flags  
Medicine Chest Committee  
Dignitaries  
Grand Chiefs, Chiefs and Headman  
Veterans, Dancers  
Welcoming Remarks  
Invocation by Elder, TBA  
Chief Dale Awasis, Thunderchild First Nation  
Chief Ernest Sundown, Big Island Lake Cree Nation  
Chief Wallace Fox, Onion Lake Cree Nation  
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, TBA

10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Panel of Presenters – POW-WOW Arbor  
History and Pre-Treaty, Presenter: Chief Dale Awasis, Thunderchild  
First Nation  
Indigenous Universal Health and Health System  
The Inherent Rights to Health, Presenter: Ron Lameman & Jerry  
Saddleback "Treaty Six World View" Confederacy of Treaty Six Nations  
Purpose of Protocol and the Spiritual Process,  
Presenter: Sol Sanderson, A.J. Felix, and Jerry Saddleback

12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. Lunch (Hand Games Area)

1:00 pm to 5:00 p.m. (Health Break: 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.)

5:00 p.m. Supper (Hand Games Area)

SPECIFIC TOPICS WILL BE INTRODUCED IN EACH TENT  
THAT WILL PROVIDE FOR THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INHERENT RIGHTS TO HEALTH  
AND A TRADITIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Tent #1</b></p> <p>Sovereignty and Inherent Right to Health</p> <p>Facilitators:<br/>Ron Lameman and Jerry Saddleback<br/>Confederacy of Treaty Six</p> | <p><b>Tent #2</b></p> <p>Traditional Medicine<br/>Traditional Health<br/>Facilitator:<br/>Chief Dale Awasis<br/>Thunderchild<br/>Kathy Tseto<br/>Letcher, Dept. of Health and Social Services</p> |
| <p><b>Tent #4</b></p> <p>Traditional Justice and Protocol Processes</p> <p>Facilitator:<br/>Sylvia McAdam,<br/>Meadow Lake<br/>Tribal Council</p>             | <p><b>Tent #3</b></p> <p>Traditional Justice and Protocol Processes<br/>FASD (Health)</p> <p>Facilitator:<br/>Elsie Sanderson<br/>Nancy Letcher</p>   |

7:00 p.m. Indian Idol, M.C. Vern Lew  
Karaoke Talent Show, w/ prizes

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008

7:00 a.m. Prayers

7:30 a.m. Breakfast (Hand Games Area)

8:00 a.m. Registration (Gathering Headquarters)

10:00 a.m. Panel of Presenters - PowWow  
Medicine Chest Provisions of the Treaty  
Presenter: Ovide Mercredi, Minister of Health  
Oral Understanding of the Medicine Chest  
Driftpile Cree Nation  
Treaty Right to Health and Health Care  
Regional Director, First Nations Health  
The current and contemporary health care system  
Presenter: Dr. Richard Kekewich

12:00 p.m. Lunch

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Tent #1</b></p> <p>Sovereignty and Treaty Right to Health and Health Care<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Regina Crowchild,<br/>Chief Rose Laboucane,<br/>Driftpile Cree Nation</p> | <p><b>Tent #2</b></p> <p>Oral Understanding of the Medicine Chest<br/>Facilitator:<br/>Eric Tseto<br/>A.J. Felix<br/>Eleanor Sanderson</p>                                     |
| <p><b>Tent #4</b></p> <p>Lodge for Traditional Health, Medicine Wheel, Teepee Model<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Eunice Louis and Jerry Saddleback<br/>Confederacy of Treaty Six</p>   | <p><b>Tent #3</b></p> <p>Youth Health<br/>Facilitator:<br/>Dakota<br/>Tent #3<br/>International Indigenous Health<br/>Presenter: Kekewich<br/>Md, Dept. of National Health</p> |



# NEIGHBOURHOOD IN SOVEREIGNTY



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Tent #2</b></p> <p>Medicines and Mental Health<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Eunice Awasis,<br/>Thunderchild First Nation<br/>and Minnie Meecho Health Services, NWT</p> | <p><b>Tent #3</b></p> <p>Tipi Model Teachings and Education<br/><br/>Facilitator:<br/>Eunice Lewis,<br/>Confederacy of Treaty Six</p> |
| <p><b>Tent #5</b></p> <p>Parenting (Effects)<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Dakota House<br/>Rocky Dumais</p>   | <p><b>Tent #6</b></p> <p>Youth/Health<br/><br/>Facilitators:<br/>Dakota House<br/>Rocky Dumais</p>                                    |

## JULY 23, 2008

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...ow Arbor  
...of Treaty Six ,  
...Misipawistik Cree Nation  
...Medicine Chest, Presenter: Chief Rose Laboucan,

...the Health System, Presenter: Peyasu Wuttunee,  
...ions and Inuit Health  
...ary Health and Health System,  
...uni Blaisdell, Hawaii

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Tent #2</b></p> <p>Understanding of the Treaty Six<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Totoosis<br/>Felix<br/>Sunchild</p>                                 | <p><b>Tent #3</b></p> <p>Current &amp; Contemporary Health Care, Indian Hospitals and Health Clinics<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Peyasu Wuttunee and Dr. Janet Tootoosis</p>   |
| <p><b>Tent #5</b></p> <p>Health<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Dakota House<br/>Tent #7<br/>Intervention<br/>Kuni Blaisdell,<br/>Native Hawaiian Health</p> | <p><b>Tent #6</b></p> <p>Federal Legal and Fiscal Obligations<br/>Facilitators:<br/>Sol Sanderson, Peyasu Wuttunee, Regional Director First Nations and Inuit Health</p> |

7:00 p.m. "Round Dance & GiveAway"  
Pow-Wow Arbor

## THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008

7:00 a.m. Pipe Ceremony

7:30 a.m. Breakfast (Hand Games Area)

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Presentation from the Tent Facilitators from Day One and Day Two  
Moderator: Mr. Eldon Okanee and A.J. Felix

10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Focus on the Work Plans and Strategies, Ovide Mercredi, Misipawistik Cree Nation Sol Sanderson and Chief Rose Laboucan, DriftPile Cree Nation  
Implementing the Inherent Rights to Health and the Treaty Rights to Health through a First Nations (Indian) Traditional and Contemporary Health and Health System  
Preparation of Policy Documents

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. International Intervention on Health

2:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. Health Break

2:15 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. First Nation Governments, Jurisdiction and Law respecting the implementation and control of Indian Health and a Health System.  
Major Task Force on Indian control of Indian Health & Health Care Implementing "The Inherent & treaty Right to Health & the Medicine Chest Agreement with the Crown"  
PANEL: Chief Awasis, Chief Sundown, Chief Fox and Confederacy of Treaty Six Rep.

3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Leaders FORUM

4:30 p.m. Signing Ceremony w/ Host First Nations and Confederacy of Treaty Six

5:00 pm CLOSING Remarks  
Chief Dale Awasis, Thunderchild First Nation

### Closing Ceremonies

### CONTACT INFORMATION

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Peggy Robillard, Special Event Coordinator</b><br/>Cell: 306 - 221 - 6708 Email: peggy.robillard@sasktel.net</p>                      | <p><b>Linda Okanee</b><br/>Steering Committee Chair, Thunderchild First Nation<br/>Cell: 306 - 845 - 7414 Tel: 306 - 845 - 4330</p>            |
| <p><b>Gloria Chocan</b><br/>Steering Committee member, Onion Lake Cree Nation<br/>Cell: 780 - 870 - 2683 Tel: 306 - 344 - 4200 ext 2526</p> | <p><b>Colleen Sandfly</b><br/>Steering Committee member Big Island Lake Cree Nation<br/>Cell: 780 - 872 - 4063 Tel: 306 - 839 - 2277 ext 6</p> |
| <p><b>Audrey Parke</b><br/>Steering Committee member, Onion Lake Cree Nation<br/>Cell: 780 - 870 - 8049 Tel: 306 - 344 - 4762</p>           | <p><b>Anita Pooyak</b><br/>Steering Committee member, Big Island Lake Cree Nation<br/>Cell: 780 - 201 - 2586 Tel: 306 - 839 - 2330</p>         |
| <p><b>Marilyn Wapass</b><br/>Steering Committee member Thunderchild First Nation<br/>Cell: 306 - 845 - 0135 Tel: 306 - 845 - 3779</p>       | <p><b>Ron Lameman</b><br/>Steering Committee member<br/>Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations of Alberta<br/>Tel: 780 - 944 - 0334</p>         |

# TREATY SIX MEDICINE CHEST GATHERING



## Thunderchild First Nation, SK Canada

# JULY 21 to 24, 2008

### “Exercising Our Nationhood in Sovereignty”

#### JULY 21

#### CEREMONIAL & CAMPING DAY

#### Treaty Six Pipestem Ceremony Arrival of “Youth & Violence Survival Ride”

#### DRESS CODE

- All females must wear long skirt at all times -  
(no tank tops or mini skirts)
- Men - no muscle shirts -

#### JULY 22 - 24

#### BREAKOUT SESSION CATEGORIES

#### Sovereignty/Inherent Rights Lodge for Traditional Health Hospitals and Health Clinics International Intervention Federal Legal & Fiscal Obligations

#### EVENING EVENTS

#### Indian Idol - Round Dance & Give Away

#### HEALER/HERBALIST VILLAGE

#### REGISTRATION FEES

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Pow Wow President  
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# Hookers: A Documentary conveys message of hope, strength and power of woman

**H**ookers: A Documentary, was recently premiered by Saskatoon filmmaker Marcel Petit at the Roxy Theatre on 20th Street – the notorious city street where much of the back story for the film took place.

Petit approached this project with a set of fresh, experienced eyes – he also had a strong kinship tie to his subjects. He told the story of his mother, two sisters, cousin and a family friend, who all grew up on the streets of Saskatoon and spent their formative years pulling tricks as a means of survival. Petit was there too.

“I grew up around these women. I was raised by them. I even acted as their protection on a few occasions. This was as much about telling these women’s story as it was telling a story of hope,



MARCEL PETIT

power and strength.”

The idea to make Hookers: A Documentary, hit Petit a couple years back when he was attending film school in Vancouver. The Picton murder trial was receiving mass coverage from every form of media and docu-

mentaries about prostitutes and their tragic lives started popping up and, reacting from his experience on the streets, Petit saw a hole in their stories.

“With no disrespect to any of the filmmakers, I felt they missed the mark on what can happen when a prostitute makes a positive change and turns their life around. This film is all about the power of woman.”

Petit instituted a simple approach: turn on the camera and let the women talk. He confessed much of what they said was difficult, being he had such strong emotional ties to each of them.

“My mom would tell me things I didn’t want to know. I felt so helpless because I just wanted to stop filming and hug her, comfort her. But I couldn’t. I would’ve lost so much had I done that.”



Aside from a handful of short films, Hookers: A Documentary, was Petit’s first full-length film and it had a few glitches – a few choppy transitions, a sound gaffe or two and a little redundancy with respect to content. With trivial criticisms aside; the writer, director and producer was able to achieve his vision and tell a story our society needs to hear.

“My hope is the film lets the mainstream discover the humanity involved. Many of the girls on the street selling themselves are not there by choice; they’re not dirty or promiscuous. They’re human and, in most cases, want nothing more than to change their lives around and get their shit together.”

All of the subjects in Hookers: A Documentary, have done just that. Petit’s mother, Sylvia, is a successful counselor who, as part of her job, works with male inmates – many of whom are convicted of sexual assault and soliciting prostitution. After the screening, she participated in a panel to answer questions and was asked how it feels to work with the same types of men who picked her up on 20th so many years ago.

“They’re human too, ya know. They need to heal just like me.”

A mid-twenties Caucasian male then asked the panel what he, a white boy living in the hood, can do to help or at least reach out to the girls he sees on the street.

“I was standing on 20th and a husband and wife walked by with their baby,” said Petit’s sister, Donna, in response. “They passed me and stopped. The woman came back to me and asked if she could give me a hug. I didn’t really want to hug her but I did and that simple act of kindness pretty much changed my life.

“She wasn’t hugging a hooker. She was hugging a human being.”

The most refreshing aspect of the documentary was not engrained in trudging up the past and talking about how hard it was for the women. The message

is about the individual digging deep and realizing they have the power to control their own lives and live up to their potential and dreams. It’s a message Petit hopes will find its way to the people who need it most.

“It sounds cliché, but if the film can help even one girl out there working on the street, then I’ve done my job.”

And here’s to you, Marcel Petit, for a job well done.

DVD Contest:

Although he grew up in Saskatoon, where is Marcel Petit originally from? Send answers to crazymoonbymike@yahoo.ca The first correct response will receive an autographed copy of Hookers: A Documentary.

This ‘n’ That:

I would like to give a huge Eagle Feather News SHOUT OUT to Joey Stylez for his track, Living Proof. The video has been climbing Much Music’s Rap City Top Ten and reached at #9 at the time of publication. The lyrics speak to the effect Residential Schools has had on First Nations people and asks why it’s such a surprise the descendants of thousands of Residential School survivors now make up over 90 per cent of our prison system. Nothing like holding up a mirror to society, eh. Oh yeah, Joey Stylez just happens to be from Saskatoon.

John J. Cook is fast becoming one of Western Canada’s premiere musical talents. A staunch do-it-yourselfer, Johnny J has recently garnered some international acclaim and is currently gearing up to record an album with a renowned producer in London. Go Johnny Go!

If I actually have any faithful readers of this space, you may remember a few years back when your humble scribe wrote about the Aboriginal Entertainment Movement. Back then it was just a thought. Today, you need not travel any further than the set of Rabbit Fall, a TV series shot in Saskatoon, Martensville and Duck Lake, to see proof. Since production started in May, I have seen Arron Naytowhow, Curtis Peeteetuce, Delvin Oppissinow, Kristin Friday and Tim Cardinal (am I forgetting anyone), all who have worked with or been trained by SNTC.

Watch for a follow-up story in next month’s Eagle Feather News.

|  |   |  |  |
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# Summer thoughts ...

By Paul L.A.H. Chartrand, IPC  
For Eagle Feather News

I love summer. I am a summer boy, for sure. I was born in the summer and I am energized by the long sunny days. The summers in Western Canada are very short compared to just about everywhere else, at least to the places where I have traveled.

So the summer time is very special here, and crammed with summer things.

For many people a highlight of the summer is the annual July gatherings at Batoche, where folks mingle, gossip, listen to music, play games, attend mass and remember what happened in this region in 1885 and those who gave their lives in the last days of freedom for the Plains people.

A bit further west, up at Lac Ste Anne in northern Alberta, Métis and First Nations folks continue the historic pilgrimage of healing each July. Lac Ste Anne was at one time the largest Métis community west of Red River and this year folks from First Nations and Métis communities from the three prairie provinces will again be attending.

Along with the many annual meetings of organizations, people are traveling in the summer, and it is not the best time to find people at home or at the office.

The berries and other plants ripen in our short summers and provide us and the bears with delicious nourishment. I loved picking berries when I was young. Yes, I was young once.

My favourite berry was the high bush cranberry because it is easy to pick and you can fill a pail in no time flat. Hardest was wild strawberry. You pick for hours and your jar never gets full.

I don't even know the English words for some of the various things we picked and ate, including wild rose petals. We ate the provincial emblem of Alberta, the wild rose. Today 'Marie of the Wild Roses' up at Lily Plain Summer near Prince Albert makes jellies and such from the fruits of the land, including my favourite, wild rose petal jelly.

She puts the little jars inside fancy birchwood boxes tied with leather thongs and they make great gifts for visitors. We have used them at the university and they have been given to dignitaries and guests from Australia and New Zealand to Africa.

In the old days not that long ago, there were many baseball tournaments in Métis and First Nations communities in the summer. I was a 'hired gun' pitcher and got to travel around and meet many people at these tournaments. Lots of good stories to trade about that.

Although I played at the national and international level, I did not make it as far as some of our people did who played in the major leagues in the United States. There is a great book about the life of Louis Sockalexis, the first American Indian to play in the Major Leagues. He played for Cleveland, the team now called the Cleveland Indians.

The book is called "Indian Summer" and it was given to me by Tony Mandamin, who was a provincial court judge in Alberta and is now on the federal court in Ottawa.

Today, golf is consuming many of our people, who can be found teeing it up from top-notch courses like Dakota Dunes at Whitecap Dakota to modest country clubs with sand greens.

A few of our judges are included here, and I am not saying they are taking time off their important work, but they include not only Tony Mandamin and his wife Joyce, but also our Cree Court judge Gerry Morin and Her Honour Rose Boyko out east in Ontario.

Rose still likes to tease me about the time she asked to join Donald Worme and I when we went to play at Kananaskis near Banff after attending a conference out there.

She was my playing partner and delighted in waiting until we were on the first tee to announce that she had never played the game before! We had a great time, though.

Not everyone can play like Notah Begay, the American Indian who has won on the PGA tour, but there is a long list of well-known indigenous folks such as Jim Sinclair, Joe Quewezance, Ray Ahenakew, Willie Littlechild and Bill Wilson who enjoy or have enjoyed the summer game.

The Assembly of First Nations has its annual fund-raising golf tournament for literacy. It started in conjunction with the late Peter Gzowski and it draws people from across Canada.

I heard that one Gzowski tournament was played on Arctic ice and the winner of that tournament has a record that will stand forever because the ice melted after the tournament!

Not everyone shares that passion for the Scottish game, though. Some like to recall that Oka started with a dispute over a golf course, and just cannot see what motivates people to swipe at a tiny round ball with a great big club.

Our Maori friend, Nin Tomas in Auckland, New Zealand, is one of those. She wondered what it is that makes people bash a ball around and then try to make amends by coaxing it into a little hole on the 'green'.

Ah, summer! May you enjoy our short life-giving season.



To celebrate the opening on National Aboriginal Day, the plaques were unveiled by, from left, Terry Boyer, Member of Parliament Brad Trost, Elder Rose Fleury, Norman Fleury, and Métis Nation-Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette.

(Photo by Susan McKenzie)

## Tourond's Coulee honours Métis history

Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek is a cultural landmark, not only as a famous battle site, but also as the southern boundary of the Métis St. Laurent Settlement. The Tourond family established homestead at the coulee prior to the 1885 conflict, hence the local reference and traditional name of the site.

A Métis panel, with the Gabriel Dumont Institute as the main proponent, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada agreed to change the name of the site from Battle of Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada to Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada. The change was requested in recognition of its traditional name prior to the 1885 conflict and to be more inclusive and respectful of diverse voices.

On National Aboriginal Day this

year, dignitaries participated in a special unveiling of Commemorative plaques, with the inscription in French, English, Michif-French and Michif-Cree, that will now be on permanent display within a short distance of the historic battlefield and archaeological remains of the home of the Tourond family.

Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek marks the spot where General Middleton's Canadian militia forces and the Métis and First Nations forces, under the direction of Gabriel Dumont, met for the first time on April 24, 1885. The battle that followed saw casualties on both sides and delayed Middleton's advance on Batoche for two weeks.

Known locally as Tourond's Coulee, after the family that homesteaded there, it is a significant place for Canada's Métis and First Nations.

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# Fresh from the set of Rabbit Fall

By Mike Gosselin  
For Eagle Feather News

Being that I have the distinct privilege of working in the Story Department on Rabbit Fall, there are certain perks and I use them to the fullest. I try to get on set as much as possible to marvel at the miracle known as TV production. Here's the inside scoop...

Saskatoon's Barry Hotel, which is slated for destruction this summer, is being used for an action-packed episode set in a hotel room. Can anyone think of a more fitting swan song for the notorious hotel known as much for its history as the shenanigans that went on there? Word from Director Allen Goluboff is the Barry is absolutely perfect and fits the vision of writer Bob Crowe to a 'T'!

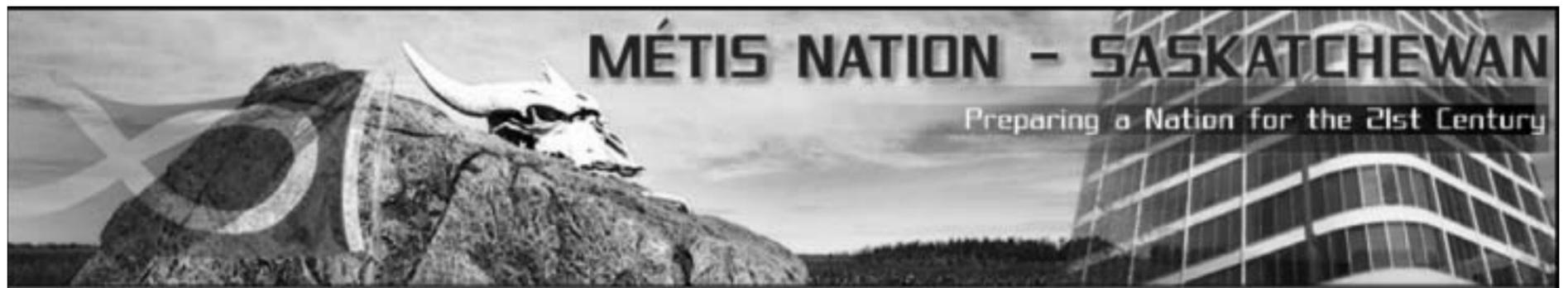
During a visit to the standing set in Martensville, I was excited to see our star, Andrea Menard, being a loving, responsible dog owner and walking her two pooches, who she brings with her every day. She even had her co-star Kevin Jubenville, who plays Bob Venton, lend a hand. It's so nice to see actors who care for each other enjoying their down time.

Chatting with Booth Savage, who plays Sergeant Stanton Martin-sky, I found out my favorite poet, lyricist and hero Gord Downie (of The Tragically Hip) auditioned for the role of Ken Dryden in A September to Remember; the CBC movie about the 1972 Summit Series between Canada and Russia. Mr. Savage said Gord wasn't bad but the movie was shot during the NHL lockout and sourcing hockey talent wasn't exactly a problem ... so Gord never got the part.

Peter Lauterman, a renowned Canadian screenwriter, is co-writing the last two episodes of Rabbit Fall with Trevor Cameron, whom you read about in last month's A & E section. Lauterman, who's best known for his work on North of 60, doubled as Senior Story Editor for Season II. I had the distinct pleasure of being the, well, third person to read an early draft of one of the scripts he's writing ... it's alright. Oh, just getting cheeky! It's awesome, almost like Lauterman has done this before.



Tinsel Korey plays Zoe in Rabbit Fall: Season II.



## Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly and Annual General Assembly

The MNLA will be taking place in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on Monday, September 8th and Tuesday, September 9th. Upon completion of the MNLA on September 9th, there will be an Annual General Assembly where Métis citizens will be heard by their elected Métis leaders.

### Métis Nation Legislative Assembly

September 8th 9am-5pm TCU Place, Saskatoon  
September 9th 9am-12pm TCU Place, Saskatoon

#### Topics include:

- Social, Political and Cultural Issues
- Also updates on:
- Exciting new partnerships
- Duty to Consult Legislation
- Métis Rights
- Residential School settlements and omissions

### Annual General Assembly

September 9th 1pm-5pm TCU Place, Saskatoon  
Open microphone

Your chance to be heard by your elected Métis Leaders from around the province.



#### Provincial Métis Council

Back row left to right: Bob McLeod, Max Morin, Lennard Morin, Louis Gardiner, Helene Johnson, Allan Morin, Robert LaFontaine, Billy Kennedy, and President Robert Doucette.  
Front row left to right: Karen LaRoque, Beverly Worsley, Marlene Hanson, Gabe Laford, Mevis Taylor, Pat Krudsen, and Darlene McKay.

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Website...we're working on it...did we mention we have lots on the go?

# History month recognizes Aboriginal contributions in Saskatchewan

By Andrea Ledding  
For Eagle Feather News

June was again named Aboriginal History Month in the province of Saskatchewan and the City of Regina, due to the efforts of Regina Aboriginal Professionals Association (RAPA) – and RAPA is hopeful it will continue to spread.

A motion was put forth June 12 of last year by MP Jean Crowder in the House of Commons to officially designate June as National Aboriginal History month across Canada.

“First Nations and Métis people are foundational to Saskatchewan’s current success and this is a fitting way to pay tribute to their many contributions,” First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said while presenting a commemorative certificate of proclamation to the RAPA board on June 16.

“So many world-renowned leaders, artists, athletes and performers hail from First Nations and Métis communities in Saskatchewan. It is our pleasure to help RAPA promote their many positive and inspiring contributions.”

RAPA is a non-profit organization founded to develop a network of people committed to fostering opportunities for Aboriginal people in education, employment and economic development initiatives. According to president Joely BigEagle, it began 12 years ago, inspired by a similar Calgary group.

Besides socials and networking, RAPA gives back to the community. One project raised over \$30,000 for a new playground for Thompson School. But the campaign

for Aboriginal History Month was partially inspired by all the negative press the mainstream media carries, including a 2007 Maclean’s article which called BigEagle’s community of North Central in Regina

and determination to tell Aboriginal stories.

This year’s celebration was launched June 2 with a Free Indian Taco and Pop Luncheon for the community. Other events held throughout the month in conjunction

with the National Aboriginal History Month

Other gatherings and assemblies focussed on special governance and empowerment, business partnerships, and urban treaty day celebrations. BigEagle hopes the trend will continue with organizations across the country celebrating Aboriginal History without waiting for a formal proclamation or federal law.

“Just do it. Organize events, highlight history and successes – just take it and run with it,” she advised. “There’s no stamp we need or official letter. The government will follow.”

“We want to promote confidence not only amongst professionals but youth – to be proud of history and who they are, to showcase how much Aboriginals have influenced Canadian history and affected it in a positive way,” said BigEagle.

“The youth hear enough about the negative. We want to raise the social consciousness of people and say we have a colorful history, and at the same time highlight some of our future leaders, our up and coming youth and professionals.”

“Aboriginal History Month is important because we need to remember where we come from and be proud of our heritage, history and cultural contributions to Canadian society and it is great to share that with all, especially our young people,” BigEagle said.



RAPA was presented with a certificate by the Honourable Minister June Draude at the Legislature. They are seen here with the Minister, campaign supporters, and the RAPA Board which includes Joely BigEagle Kequahtoway, Trish Watier, Cherish Deegan, Melanie Cote, Marjorie Lavallee, Jason Bird, Eunice Tanner and Lonette Pelletier. Missing Board members are: Treena Amyotte, Lorne Kequahtoway

“Canada’s worst neighbourhood”.

“We thought, how can we act positively to this,” said BigEagle. “Not only to honour the good initiatives we see, but to acknowledge and promote the past in a positive way.”

The 1996 national declaration of June 21 as National Aboriginal Day, combined with the inspiration and success of Black History Month, led to selecting June to raise a positive profile of Aboriginal communities and help youth embrace their heritage. Other goals include building cross-cultural relationships while encouraging a sense of pride

with or promotion of the theme, as well as many applicable events promoted on the groups and websites (rapanetwork.ca and facebook pages for both RAPA and Aboriginal History Month), included action and leadership seminars, feasts, Smudge Walks, a CBC Radio Special, and a gathering and lunch during Prime Minister Harper’s Res-

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# SIIT lands \$2.75 million investment from aviation companies

The Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) recently announced that leading global aerospace and defence companies Lockheed Martin, The Boeing Company and Rockwell Collins have invested a total of \$2.75 million to support development of SIIT's aviation trades training.

With these significant contributions, the three companies are supporting development of a training program that will help build the aircraft maintenance and other aviation trades workforce in Saskatchewan and Canada, and will develop skills and employment opportunities for First Nation youth.

"I am deeply appreciative of the contributions made by Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Rockwell Collins," said SIIT President Randell Morris.

"These companies understand that First Nation youth are our workforce of the future.



Roger Schallom and Masherrl Conyer of The Boeing Company with Saskatchewan Institute of Technology President Randell Morris.

The companies have become more than investors. They are our partners and will serve as technical advisors as the project develops."

Lockheed Martin contributed \$1.5 million, Boeing contributed \$750,000 and Rockwell Collins invested \$500,000. Concerned with the upcoming mass retirements that will affect the global aviation industry, these companies have chosen to invest in developing young Aboriginal Canadians as an integral part of the next-generation workforce.



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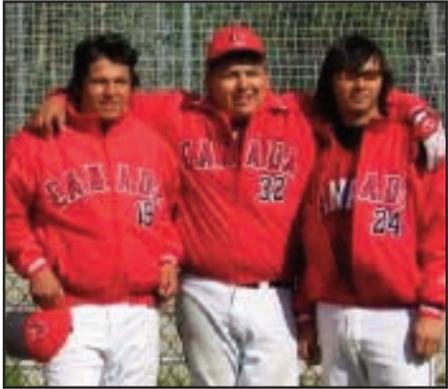
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# Team Sask has a golden trio for NAIG

If you haven't heard their names yet, trust me when I say it's only a matter of time. Dustin Keshane, Terrell Ray Walker, and Dennis Iron have won numerous medals in their softball careers and hope to add a second NAIG gold to their trophy case.



Terrell Ray Walker, Dustin Keshane and Dennis Iron will bring a lot of talent to the NAIG in Cowichan.

These three are not only a part of Team Sask, over the summer they have been playing and travelling with Team Canada's Junior National Team. The team lost to Australia at the recent ISF World Junior Championship in a 2-1 extra inning thriller. Second best was obviously not what they wanted but it is a very respectable showing.

Keshane, who calls Norquay home, was one of the top pitchers at the event, posting a remarkable ERA of 1.50 and leading the tournament with 43 strikeouts.

His best game might have come on the final day of competition when he no hit Team USA and nearly hurled a perfect game. He would also go on to win two key playoff games for Canada.

Walker played at an all star level throughout the tourney, starting every game and providing stellar defense. He hit .324 for the tourney and was one of the key offensive catalysts for the team.

Walker keeps himself busy in the offseason pursuing his Business Admin degree from First Nations University in Regina. He says his goals are to "excel at a sport (he) loves and also set an example for other Aboriginal youth to follow."

Dennis Iron played throughout the tournament and contributed when called upon. His hustle and effort will always find a way into the ball game.

Dennis plays his club ball with the Saskatoon Chiefs and when he's not busy with softball he dabbles in hockey, being

named an all star on defense at this past year's National Aboriginal Hockey Tournament.

With these three leading the charge Saskatchewan has a great chance at repeating and bringing home yet another gold medal in softball.

## Local youngster looks forward to second trip to NAIG

Kate Monture may be only 15 years old but she is already a NAIG veteran. She will be making her second trip to the games and looks forward to it following her experience in Denver.

At the previous games Kate was named team captain of Team Sask Bantam Girls Soccer squad. They were able to bring home the bronze medal.

Kate and her family are members of the Thunderchild First Nation and moved to Saskatoon in 2001. She recently finished her Grade 10 year at Aden Bowman Collegiate.

She looks forward to travelling to Cowichan and is "very excited to be a member of Team Sask again."

## Delorme swings with the big boys on golf links

Cadmus Delorme may not be Tiger Woods just yet, but he got his chance to show what he could do at the recent stop on the Canadian Tour in Saskatoon.

The Saskatchewan Open was played at the Dakota Dunes and had a field of international players who play regularly on the Canadian Tour.

Delorme who hails from the Cowessess First Nation had a rough first day shooting a round of 77.

On the second day he was able to find his swing and show a little more

composure shooting a respectable round of 70.

Albeit not good enough to make the cut, the experience of playing with such a large field of professionals and holding his own bodes well for his game and confidence in the future.

## Riders off to a great start as defending Grey Cup champs

I know it's still early, but it sure is nice to be a Rider fan right now and being able to cheer for your first place team.

This, following two really good games in which the Riders look like they just might be able to, dare I say, REPEAT!

Yeah I said it, so what. And last year when I said the same thing there were so many doubters. But my argument is this:

1. They dominated the fourth quarter against their first two opponents. Something the old Riders always had trouble doing.

2. They already beat the team I consider second best. They did it with a third string quarterback, and in BC.



3. Their defense looks faster and better than last year's. Did we ever doubt the moves Tillman made? Ummm ... no.

So come on everybody, jump on the bandwagon and let's do something we have never had a chance to do around these parts.

Call our Riders the best and watch them coast to a repeat!

## Some random thoughts from the sports world

Exactly who is making the moves for the Toronto Maple Leafs, **Jeff Finger** gets \$4 million a year, are you kidding me ... Yes the Jays did fire **John Gibbons**, finally. Now besides bringing back Cito, how about we bring back the Blue Jay Song? Let's Let's Play Play Ball ... that'd be awesome. I really don't like watching Women's Basketball but **Dianna Taurasi** has me watching the WNBA ... The Celtics look like they could win the next couple of NBA Titles unless Kobe and TD team up ... RIP Beanz.

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## 'Arts' project tackles Regina's notorious north end social problems

By Chelsea Jones  
For Eagle Feather News

In a small downtown Regina suite, the lights are dimmed as jazz music lingers over the handful of people waiting to hear Edward Poitras speak about his art.

A young man walks in, draped in a blue robe with an embroidered dragon on the back. He has a towel around his neck to stop the sweat. He laces up his bright red gloves and begins throwing punches in the air, as if boxing against an invisible opponent.

Poitras enters. He shows his audience his work – recognizable across the country – while the boxer, Simon Moccasin, continues his fight. Then, Poitras casually talks about one of the most innovative undertakings Regina has seen, The Dewdney Avenue Project.

"We're just trying to go in there and see what's possible," says Poitras.

Dewdney Avenue is in the city's notorious north end, home to a high Aboriginal population and seen as a place of social squalor by many outside the area.

Alongside Moccasin, Poitras will go door to door dressed in business clothes (comparable to Mormons, he said). They'll display art and share stories with people on Dewdney Avenue. The process will be posted online.

In real life, Moccasin is a performance artist, a director, and a teacher.

"We're going to be blasting through some of the stereotypes that are out there," he says.

One of their first projects will be displaying bannock shaped as a skull and cross-bones, and talking about it with those who will listen.

"It's like saying all these products given as rations at treaty times weren't good for you, like white flour and lard," Moccasin explains.

Sponsored by Common Weal Community Arts,

the project includes Cheryl L'Hirondelle, who has already set up a radio station that broadcasts the stories of people living in the area, Terrance Houle will be working on a video project, and Sandra Samchuck will use photography as her medium.

Poitras says the idea is to directly engage the public in the arts.

"It's having a presence in the neighbourhood, almost like trying to start little fires."



Artist Edward Poitras with Simon Moccasin

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**FLAG EXCHANGE**

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette made sure that CUMFI had a Métis Nation flag to fly outside their new building. He presented the flag to CUMFI President Shirley Isbister while Master of Ceremony Louise Oekle looks on.



**ELDERS**

Elders and dignitaries were on hand for the Grand Opening. In proper custom, the Elders got the best seats and were fed first, and very well.

**CUMFI celebrates opening of new location**



**FLAG RAISING**

Western Region IIA Area Director Bob McLeod, who was once the President of CUMFI, and Elder Kay Mazer had the ceremonial honour of raising the CUMFI flag before the singing of the Métis National Anthem. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

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