

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Iconic Gordon Tootoosis passes



Gordon Tootoosis with two of his leading ladies, Tina Keeper and Tantoo Cardinal.

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

At the passing of Gordon Tootoosis, horseman, activist, politician, actor, father and Member of the Order of Canada, we have truly lost a national treasure.

The legendary actor passed away July 5 after a battle with pneumonia. He was 69 years old.

Born and raised on the Poundmaker Cree Nation, Gordon shot to fame in the 1970s with the movie, Alien Thunder, and secured his star status in, Legends of the

Fall, and of course, North of 60.

It was this Gordon Tootoosis that I was asked to have lunch with to discuss being on the board of directors of the then rapidly growing Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company. Sitting down to eat dim sum with Gordon Tootoosis is intimidating, let me tell you. More so when you see Tantoo Cardinal sitting beside him, but after the introductions and some awkward gushing on my part, I joined the board of SNTC and became a cohort with this Canadian icon, Gordon Tootoosis.

The theatre company was the brain child of Gordon,

Tantoo and Kenneth Charlette when they were working together on the epic film Big Bear.

They all wanted to pass on a legacy to the next generation of Indigenous actors and open doors to theatre, the movies and TV that they themselves had to kick open. Gordon insisted on a strong cultural foundation for all that happened and thus launched an arts program that captivated youth and the community for several years.

It was with the youth that Gordon shone brightest and to whom he wanted to give the most.

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Welcome to our
Graduation
Edition
Coming In
August:
Justice
Issue

CPMA #40027204



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JUNE 21st, 2011

Thank you to all of the sponsors, volunteers, performers, teachers, students and visitors who celebrated National Aboriginal Day with us at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. The rains came but never stopped the full day of activities.

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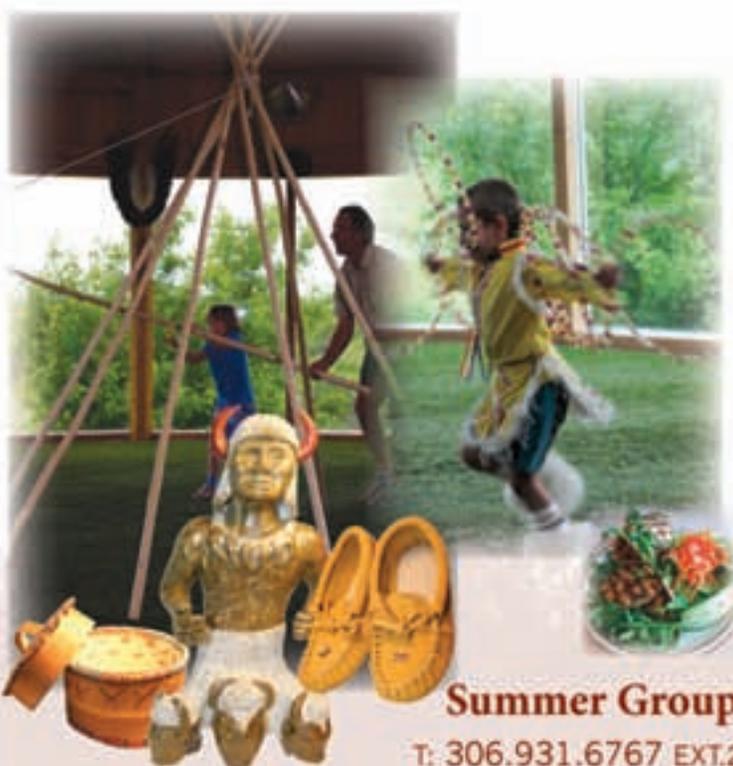


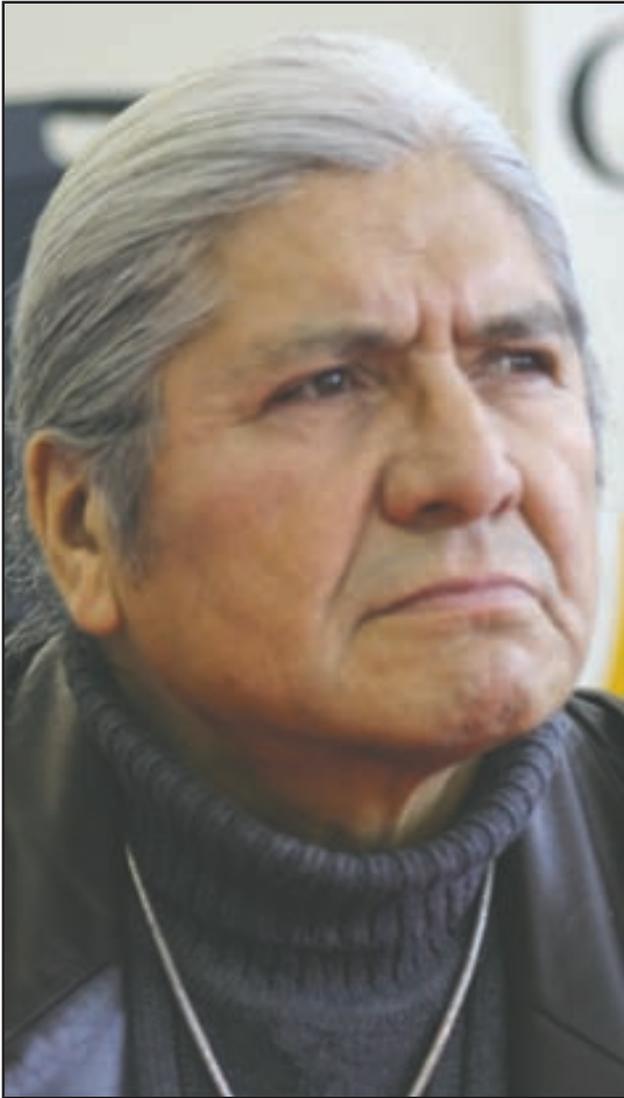
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Tootoosis revered by young people

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Because of his status, he had the youth's attention. He willingly gave his time, knowledge, insight and passion for theatre to the youth and they gobbled it up.

Once anyone got to know Gordon, they knew that even though he was a big star, he acted like a regular horseman from Poundmaker. He was patient, always had a warm smile and a friendly greeting. There were countless times outside the theatre company during breaks in meetings or training that he would be swamped by folks in the 'hood who all had an aunt or uncle that were related to him somehow.

We saw him spend so much time signing people's ripped up smoke packs with a borrowed pen that it became commonplace. He related about once being attacked in an airport by an old white lady for being "that bastard Albert Golo."

Ah, the price of fame.

He was quick to tease and joke. When his cell phone kept going off during a board meeting he apologized because he had to check if it was Stephen calling.

"Stephen who?" we asked. "Spielberg," replied Gordon in his deadpan way as he turned to accept the call. We all cracked up. The man had a voice didn't he?

Gordon always insisted that the real acting was on stage in theatre where there were no second takes. The community was blessed last October to witness Gordon

Tootoosis tread the planks for the first time in 15 years in the play, *Gordon Winter*, by Kenneth Williams. It was on the BackStage stage at Saskatoon's Persephone Theatre. I interviewed him before the play and he was revved up like a young man and said he felt so good to be back on the live stage doing what he loved to do.

It was when I witnessed this play, that I finally understood the acting magic of Gordon Tootoosis. Not only was he a commanding presence as the 'racist' Gordon Winter, but the scene where he was being a little boy, hiding behind his father's legs when the police came to take him to the residential school, that was when I truly understood how good an actor he was.

His mannerisms and the way he hid behind his father's leg and sucked his thumb ... the fear in his eyes. At that point, he was no longer my friend, Gordon, playing a child. He was every child that was ever taken to residential school, just like he was. Most people in the audience were weeping.

His passing has led to a massive outpouring of grief in community. It is not surprising because in his life and on the stage, Gordon Tootoosis challenged people and stereotypes and gave of himself. He was a first rate actor, family man, leader, friend and inspiration to many.

He will be dearly missed.

Here's another standing ovation to you Gordon. Bravo. If only we could get an encore.



GORDON

(Top left counter clockwise) Gordon at Olympic ceremonies, Gordon and playwright Kenneth Williams, Gordon always had time to have a photo taken with fans, and Gordon receives his Order of Canada from Gov. Gen. Adrienne Clarkson.



Editorial

Congratulations to our grads

Welcome to the Back to Batoche and graduation edition. We always get a rush out of covering both these events. Seeing the realization of a dream for students when they graduate from university, trade or tech school and high school is always enriching. It proves to the students they can accomplish something significant in their lives and gives them the tools, and the confidence to enter the labour market and take on the world.

Congratulations to all of our grads this year. You make us proud.

We also get excited about Back to Batoche. The largest provincial Métis gathering has become a July institution. If the momentum from last year's spectacular event can be carried forward, Back to Batoche can be a pivotal economic development machine for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and for communities and First Nations in the surrounding territory.

If we could translate the goodwill from Back to Batoche into political goodwill, we could have an MNLA in Saskatchewan and make some much needed amendments to our constitution and election act. The election in 2012 is just around the corner and we don't want to go backwards now do we?

This and that

Having the FSIN Assembly on a First Nation was a great idea and should be done every year. By all accounts, Onion Lake Cree Nation did a fantastic job of hosting all the Chiefs and delegates.

It was very interesting to watch the Assembly on streaming video from the comfort of a desk. All the political action without having to travel makes for good times, but the video could be improved a bit. One thing we noticed, not a lot of people realized they were on film which led to seeing some people in animated conversations, some smoking and one lucky lady picking at her teeth with a toothpick like there was gold in there. Must have been steak for lunch.

One highlight was seeing the face of Corey Bugler, manager of the Native Sons First Nations United Football Club as First Nation after First Nation donated money to his soccer club. Chief Lonechild ran it like an auction and he the three Vice Chiefs all threw in \$500 personally to help the young role model raise close to \$34,000 for his soccer team that promotes alcohol and drug free living. Nice touch.

Summer safety

Already this year there have been several drownings and deaths from car accidents on reserves and northern communities across Saskatchewan.

Two simple things can almost eliminate both problems. In most drownings, the victims were not wearing life jackets. In most car accidents, the victims were thrown from the car because they were not wearing seatbelts. So please, this summer wear your lifejacket when you are on the water and fasten your seatbelt when you are in the car.

Letters from Inside and next month

Next month we have a few graduates to still acknowledge and some catch-up articles, but the focus will be our justice issue with stories on people working in the system and our letters from inside.

Just a friendly reminder to all our friends inside prisons or remands in Saskatchewan, we are soliciting (sorry, bad word)...we are asking you to send us your opinions on what can be done "inside" of jails, so that when you are done your sentence, you don't come back.

Is it programs? Trade training? Crochet? Anger management? How to get your driver's license, Social Insurance Number and Status or Métis card? What is it? Let us know. If that doesn't fill your boots, then just send us something funny. We'll take anything.

The best three letters will be published in our August Justice issue and will receive a \$50 honourarium sent to a loved one outside to help with the grocery bill or something.

Send the letters to Eagle Feather News PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4. Looking for a powwow list? Check out our website at www.eaglefeathernews.com for the Dennis Fisher ultimate powwow list.



SIIT GRAD

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies President Randell Morris congratulates graduate Jenny Strongeagle. With an economy that is running full speed ahead, Saskatchewan is in the enviable position of having more jobs than available people to employ. Last month alone, there were 13,000 jobs posted on Saskjobs.com, more than double last year's numbers. That is a great economy for these Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology grads to be entering into. SIIT graduates approximately 2000 students per year in varying trades and professions. With First Nation and Métis people being the fastest growing demographic in the province, many employers are looking to Aboriginal graduates from SIIT, FNUiv, GDI, SUNTEP, the U of S, regional colleges and SIAST to fill many vacancies across the province.

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THIS ISSUE...LAST ISSUE...PAST ISSUES.

Traditions important in graduation ceremonies

Congratulations to all our high school, college and university graduates! I hope you had a fun and safe time at your victory dances.

Graduation ceremonies are very formal events. They begin with an academic procession of the teachers, school officials and graduates who take their places on stage, then after many speeches, the graduates walk across the stage to receive their diplomas, often to the lively cheers of their families and loved ones.

All the graduates wear academic robes, hats and hoods that are draped across their shoulders. It is a tradition that dates back to European medieval times when academic teachers and clerics wore specific types of gowns every day to distinguish their profession.

The tradition of graduation gowns came from the old universities in England. Today, teachers no longer wear gowns to teach in but the tradition of wearing academic gowns at graduation is now practiced all over the world.

Each school or university has its own style and colours of gowns, caps and hoods. High school and undergraduate students usually wear a single coloured

gown and cap, as well as a hood or sash with their school colours on them. The doctoral (PhD) gowns, hoods and caps are the flashiest, often made out of velvets, silks and satins and some have rabbit or ermine fur linings. At university graduation ceremonies the professors wear different coloured gowns that represent the universities they graduated from. It's an old fashioned European tradition that lives on today because people value it.

It wasn't too long ago when our people had little hope of completing high school let alone attending college or university. We were denied access to public high schools until 1948-49 when the federal government expanded the residential school system to accommodate high school students and made transfer agreements with provincial schools to pay for us to attend. Until then, the province wouldn't accept status Indians into their schools because we fell under federal jurisdiction and were not taxpayers.

The only exceptions were the handful of students who were sponsored by churches to attend high school. They were also the first among us to attend university, again sponsored by churches, and most became ministers or priests and teachers.

High school has been available to us now for about four generations. And while we still have lots of catching up to do, the numbers of our graduates are slowly increasing.

It is beautiful and empowering to witness First Nations and Métis graduates and professors wearing their gowns, in the English tradition, and their moccasins, beadwork, feathers, and Métis Sashes in their Indigenous traditions.

First Nation and Métis ceremonies that honour our graduates are now conducted all over the province. What makes these so special is that they Indigenous old European graduation ceremonies by combining the cultural traditions of both. Doing it "our way" represents pride in our accomplishments and our cultural heritages.

For many, wearing traditional regalia and old world gowns is an act of self-determination, a public assertion that we are "citizens plus" and have the right to claim and practice the best of both worlds. Walking across the stage with our diplomas in hand is a modern day act of counting coup—despite all the odds against you, you did it! And you make us all proud!

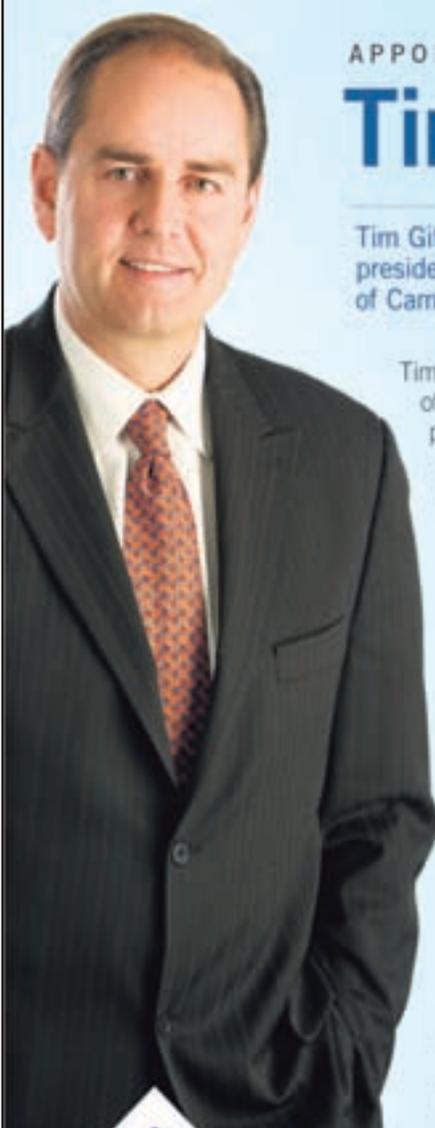
Special congratulations to Oskayak High School graduates! Their numbers this year reached a record high of 30 graduates! That little red school house has come a long way since its early days as the Saskatoon Native Survival School.

During times of celebration it is important to take the time to honour the groundbreakers who have passed on. Heartfelt condolences to family and loved ones of Gordon Tootoosis. He was a champion of education and an inspirational role model for us all, and especially for our young people.

His presence at community events, celebrations, conferences, and on the stage will be dearly missed.

We honour him and give him thanks for the beautiful and empowering legacy he gifted us with.





APPOINTMENT
Tim Gitzel

Tim Gitzel assumed his duties as president and chief executive officer of Cameco Corporation on July 1.

Tim served as Cameco's president since May of 2010. He joined Cameco as senior vice-president and chief operating officer in 2007.

Prior to joining Cameco, he was executive vice-president of the mining business unit for AREVA based in Paris, France with responsibility for global uranium, gold, exploration and decommissioning operations in 11 countries. He also served as president and chief executive officer for AREVA's Canadian subsidiary.

Tim was born and raised in Saskatchewan. He graduated from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan and worked with the firm MacPherson, Leslie and Tyerman in Saskatoon.

He is a past president of the Saskatchewan Mining Association, and has served on the boards of SaskEnergy, the Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce and Junior Achievement of Saskatchewan.

Tim and his wife Bonnie and their children Ty and Bailey reside in Saskatoon.



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What is the NRTA?

A lot of attention is being paid these days to the NRTA. In fact MKO, the organization of northern chiefs in Manitoba, held a conference in Winnipeg on the subject during the last week of June.

The NRTA has been the subject of discussion at meetings in Saskatchewan, including at meetings of the chiefs of Treaties 1-11. What is the NRTA? Why are First Nation chiefs talking about it?

The NRTA is shorthand for the 'Natural Resources Transfer Agreement Act.'

It is not an ordinary Act or statute. An ordinary Act or statute or piece of legislation (these are all synonyms) can be amended by the Parliament or Legislature that created it. But the NRTA is not ordinary because it is not only an Act but it is also part of the Constitution of Canada.

This requires some explanation because it has caused confusion in discussions. The explanation can start with the historical reasons for passing the NRTA and then move on to explain what is needed to change or amend the NRTA. In a later issue the discussion can move on to consider how the NRTA relates to the Treaties, and why it is the subject of concern for First Nations in the Prairie provinces.

When Canada was first created in 1867 by the Constitution Act 1867 the original four

provinces obtained control of the lands and natural resources within the provinces. We can pause here to note that the original name of the constitutional document that created Canada was the British North America Act. That Act no longer exists by that name because it was renamed by the Constitution Act 1982.

When the Prairie provinces were created – in 1870 in the case of Manitoba and in 1905 in the case of Saskatchewan and Alberta – the federal

government kept authority and power over the administration of the lands and resources. During the 1920s, years of negotiations were held between the federal and the prairie provincial governments on the transfer of the lands and natural resources from Canada to the provinces. The Prairie provincial governments wanted to be in the same position as the original provinces and be in charge of the lands and resources.

An agreement was reached in similar terms between the federal government and each of the three province's governments. These agreements were passed into law in 1929 by an Act of each of the provincial legislatures and of the federal Parliament. Each agreement

is a schedule to the Act and is called a 'Natural Resources Transfer Agreement'. In the result each of the three prairie provinces has its own NRTA 1929.

The NRTA 1929 of each province and the federal government was made part of the Constitution of Canada by what is now called the Constitution Act 1930. The original Act that made the NRTAs part of the Constitution of

Canada was passed, as then required by the law of the Constitution, by an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament at the request of the Canadian Parliament. The Act, as the interested reader has now correctly guessed, was originally called the British North America Act 1930.

Canada was passed, as then required by the law of the Constitution, by an Act of the United Kingdom Parliament at the request of the Canadian Parliament. The Act, as the interested reader has now correctly guessed, was originally called the British North America Act 1930.

We turn now to look at how the NRTA can be amended. The Constitution of Canada can only be changed by the special procedures that are set out for amendment in the Constitution itself. Parliament and the Legislatures have no constitutional power or authority to unilaterally amend the Constitution. The Constitution binds all governments and courts in Canada.

The courts can interpret the meaning of the Constitution, but the judges cannot change the

Constitution. There are some general amending formulas in the Constitution Act 1982 which require a great deal of agreement among the federal and provincial governments for amendments. Constitutional change is not easy because it requires very broad political support. But the NRTA (or properly so-called, the Constitution Act 1930) can be amended by the special provision found in each of the agreements. That requires only agreement between the federal and a provincial government. That is a unique way to alter the Constitution of Canada in a very important area: the lands and natural resources of the provinces. First Nations have Treaty rights in those lands and natural resources.

An example of the use of the special amending formula in the NRTA is the Saskatchewan amendment in the 1990s that amended the NRTA to enable the province to pay money instead of providing Crown lands to meet its obligations under the NRTA.

The NRTA can not be challenged directly because it is part of the Constitution. If the Constitution could be struck down by the courts then the Canadian Taxpayers Association, for example, could go to court to ask the judges to strike down s.35 that recognizes and affirms Treaty rights. Next month we can look at what options might be available to secure respect for Treaty rights.



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Yuzicappi plans to go where she is needed

**Yes!
There's
Still
Time...
See page 11**

**By Shinoah Young
For Eagle Feather News**



Kristy Yuzicappi hopes to help Aboriginal youth to believe in themselves.

Champion jingle dress dancer Kristy Yuzicappi earned a Bachelor of Indian Education (Elementary) degree. She says dancing was the key to her success. The 28-year-old mother of two convoked from the First Nations University of Canada on June 7, 2011.

"I turned to prayer and to dancing and that got me through everything," she said.

"I love it because it's a fun, healthy and natural way to celebrate and relieve stress."

Yuzicappi is from Standing Buffalo First Nation, where she chose to do her 16-week teaching practicum this past spring.

"There were not a lot of First Nations teachers when I was school age and I want my students to be comfortable in my classroom," she said.

"I want to be real, and to encourage Aboriginal youth to believe in their abilities so they can one day reach their goals."

Yuzicappi also volunteers as a substitute teacher and as an after school program coordinator at Tatanka Najin Elementary School while she awaits graduation.

"This is just the beginning," said Yuzicappi. "Education is forever ongoing for me."

"There's so much I want to do with my degree and convocation will push me to succeed even further," she said.

In the future she hopes to complete the Inclusive Education Program which focuses on special needs students. She also plans to attend graduate school to pursue a Masters in Education.

Yuzicappi's aunt, Annette, encouraged her to enrol in the Bachelors of

Education program. Annette Yuzicappi earned her Bachelor's of Indian Education in 2002. Yuzicappi felt if her aunt could do it then so could she.

Yuzicappi's career in teaching compliments her passion for dancing jingle dress.

During summer break, after the school year ends, she dances at a pow wow every single weekend.

Her love of dancing began at age four when she first danced fancy shawl. Three years later, at age seven, Yuzicappi began jingle dress dancing.

As a champion jingle dress dancer, Yuzicappi has performed and danced pow wow throughout North America.

Even after two solid decades of jingle dress dancing, she remains humble when it comes to contest pow wow and is happy to dance amongst her relatives.

Anyone who has seen Yuzicappi knows she is a natural. In fact, Yuzicappi often takes first place.

Yuzicappi has two small children both whom love to dance. Her seven-year-old son chicken dances, while her three-year-old daughter dances fancy shawl.

"I've passed the (dancing) tradition on to my kids," she said.

As Yuzicappi looks to the future, she knows where she wants to go next.

"I enjoy all grades kindergarten through nine and I want to teach in a band school, with any First Nations community, even if it's not my own," explained Yuzicappi.

"Because that is where I am needed most."

Good practice

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Favel named to Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission

By Darla Read
Of Eagle Feather News

A lawyer originally from the Poundmaker Cree Nation is humbled and excited to be joining the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

Paul Favel is one of three new appointees to the Commission.

He practices commercial and corporate law in Saskatoon, and he also focuses on First Nations legal issues. He has worked closely with First Nations organizations such as the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. Favel was also designated Queen's Counsel last year, which is an honour awarded to members of the legal profession to recognize exceptional merit and contribution.

He also devotes a lot of time to volunteering with youth organizations such as Big Brothers Big Sisters Saskatoon.

That's partly why he's excited about the position, because the commission plans to focus a great deal on



Don Morgan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General and Saskatchewan Human Rights Commissioner David Arnot flank new Saskatchewan Human Rights Deputy Commissioner Paul Favel. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

pre-Kindergarten to Grade 12 education on citizenship rights and responsibilities.

"There's no better way to make positive changes for the long-term future of any society than working with children," says Favel.

"I think any education program that will be developed is only going to serve Saskatchewan society generally in a positive way."

Favel says he's a laid-back, objective person who likes to listen to people, and believes that will help him in his new position. He says being a First Nations person makes him aware that there are still problems in how people treat each other.

"Whether people of colour or based on other grounds such as religion. I think you bring that, that ... society generally always has to get better at appreciating people's differences and just try to get along better."

SHRC Chief Commissioner David Arnot says Favel

brings a multitude of assets to the commission.

"I think because he's a First Nations person and a First Nations lawyer, he fully understands the issues facing First Nations people in the province of Saskatchewan. That is an incredible asset to have.

"He's a very intelligent person and a very good lawyer, so that will obviously help us. Secondly, he knows the issues very well that we face.

"We think he'll add a lot. I think he has a balanced view on many things."

Jan Gitlin and Barry Wilcox were also appointed to the Commission. Gitlin is a highly respected member of Saskatoon's Jewish community who has volunteered tirelessly for the Saskatoon Museum of Human Rights.

Wilcox is a senior member of Prince Albert's legal community who is known for his expertise in mediation and alternative dispute resolution, which is something the Commission plans to focus on

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Business community donates large for Station 20 West

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Christine Smillie and Paul Wilkinson of Station 20 West are all smiles, along with Saskatoon's core neighbourhood. The core will have a grocery store again after 13 years without one.

"Essentially, in the last six weeks we raised about \$800,000," says Smillie, project co-ordinator for Station 20 West.

Wilkinson, project manager, was away from the office but last seen by Eagle Feather News at the Refinery where a fundraiser from handmade chapbooks with recipes were being sold – everything from the supplies to the artwork and the labour and the entire proceeds was donated by community writers, musicians, artists, and companies.

"So much of the community has been behind us, but these really big donations that came in from the business community were largely because of Joe Remail."

At a reception April 19 in the Saskatoon Club, Remail attended, listened closely, and asked good questions before announcing he would be donating \$275,000.

"Then he used his influence on colleagues and friends in the construction industry, as well as other people and family members. Jim Yuel donated \$100,000, Joe's brother John and sister-in-law Sonya Remail donated \$100,000," explained Smillie, adding there were many others such as Henry Hamm of Hamm Construction, Greg Yuel, the CEO of PIC Investments, Brian Turnquist, the executive of Thompson Jaspar and Associates and his wife Kathy, each donating \$25,000.

"Michelle and Bill Wright also donated \$25,000 and were instrumental in the Royal Gala Fundraiser in February. And of course the Kinsmen Club, who gave \$225,000."

Smillie explained that it always takes one investor or individual to step up and get the ball rolling. On an individual basis it was Remail, but in the corporate arena she credits Affinity Credit Union for being there from day one.

"Affinity were the first to really step up," she said, adding they pledged their support but didn't make it public immediately.

"Not only did they give us a \$2 million mortgage, but they made a half million dollar donation. Affinity's gift was huge and Remail's prompted the other business people to step up."

Lorne Wright of Wright Construction offered to do construction management at cost, holding the first construction meeting Thursday, June 30. A formal groundbreaking ceremony will be held, possibly as early as July 20, and the project is expected to be complete by July 2012.

"It's not complex, a large two-storey rectangle – not a complicated building to build," Smillie said.

"But we're really excited. The Saskatoon Health Region came in with three major programs."

Kids First will occupy 3,500 square feet. It's a very successful province-wide initiative that works in poorer neighbourhoods. Households with young kids who are low-income and may have other issues are given workers to provide whatever family support is needed to raise healthy kids with invention and prevention, rather than intervention.

A Mother Centre will take up another 1,000 square feet. services and programming will be paid for by the Health Region but created by the women who use the space, modeled after similar successful programs in cities like Vancouver.

Building Health Equity, initiated by the Health Region after the November 2006 Health Disparity Report, will round out the second floor office spaces along with CHEP and QUINT, and the University of Saskatchewan's Outreach and Research Centre which will house permanent staff as well as temporary students and staff to establish programs and initiatives in the core neighbourhoods.

The first floor will be 5,000 feet dedicated to the Good Food Grocery store – a café, seating, and a community kitchen as well as a 2,700 square foot multi-purpose room.

"It can be divided for meetings or used for weddings, feasts, or dances by the community," said Smillie, adding that the Saskatoon Co-op advised them in their grocery store which will be similar to "a Bigway store in a place like Lumsden, a full range of fruits, vegetables, meats and family staples, somewhere between a Safeway and a convenience store."



Station 20 West will soon become a reality.

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

New Horizons for Seniors Program Call for Proposals

The Government of Canada is now accepting funding applications for community-based projects under the New Horizons for Seniors Program.

This funding will support projects that promote volunteerism, mentoring, elder abuse awareness and social participation, as well as provide capital assistance for new or existing projects and programs for seniors.

The deadline for applications is September 16, 2011.

1-800-277-9914
TTY: 1-800-255-4786
www.hrsdc.gc.ca/seniors

Canada

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Take care out there.

International delegates share cancer experiences

How do your boobies feel? The 2011 World Breast Cancer conference was a huge success this past June in Hamilton, Ontario. Delegates from 38 countries gathered to discuss the issues related to breast cancer in their communities.

Breast cancer incidents are on the rise in many underdeveloped countries and myths and misunderstandings in relation to this serious disease are the reason that many women and men will die.

I learned that in some countries you cannot even say the word breast. This mentality has to be addressed if we are to see survival rates increase.

I met a group of nurses from Jamaica who informed us that many of the young women being diagnosed in their countries will die because their men don't want to have a "one titty woman."

Ever sick! Women are so much more than their pieces and parts!

The conditions on many of our First Nations are comparable to the conditions in the underdeveloped countries. Issues like access to health care, language barriers, cultural difference and ignorance.

Breast cancer is a disease of our cells and something that is not contagious yet many women are shunned, isolated and

suffer in silence. The very people that are supposed to support them have turned their backs because they don't understand and are frightened themselves.

Many of the delegates were surprised to hear that the First Nations in Canada are facing similar issues.

"Canada is a rich country, they said, how can this happen here?"

This conference provides an opportunity for doctors, researchers, nurses and survivors to share their experiences and hopefully initiate change in their countries.

It was overwhelming to sit in a room with over 400 delegates, the majority of whom were survivors. We shared stories of hope and loss and by the end of the four-day conference many friendships had developed.

Breast cancer, cancer in general, does not care about race, ethnicity, gender or geographic location. Cancer does not care if you are rich or poor; old or young, it does not care whether you live in a mansion, on the street or in a Tipi. Tapew!



I knew that men could get breast cancer but I had never met a survivor until this year. When he got up and spoke at the conference the whole room (over 400 women) was

quiet. We all knew the emotional journey that he had been on and he was so thankful to be welcomed into "the sisterhood" as he called it.

He has a new zest for life and is eager to get the message out to the men in his country. He started his own support organization for men with breast cancer and appears to be doing well.

To all my brothers from other mothers: don't die of embarrassment if you find a lump in you chest area, underarm or notice something different with your nipple. You need to follow up with your doctor. While you're at the doctor's office, you may as well get your prostate checked.

Something else to think about: many young men are being diagnosed with testicular cancer so if you notice pain or lumps that don't belong there you need to have them checked by a doctor. Many

cancers are treatable if they are caught in the early stages.

There is life after a cancer diagnosis. I have met many people who are 20 and 30 year survivors and they give me hope. Sharing our cancer stories help others to deal with their own diagnosis and helps us heal. I know it's very scary to be told you have cancer but consider that treatments have come a long way and people are living longer.

When I was first diagnosed I went searching for a support group.

You may hear that you should be eating healthy, getting daily exercise and reducing your stress ... not the easiest things to do if you can't afford the food, don't have time to exercise and stress is something you deal with on a daily bases.

These are all common factors for people who live in poverty like many of our First Nation peoples do, but we can make the best out of what we have - we are a resilient bunch of people.

Protect your skin this summer and wear sun screen.

Thanks for your emails and letters. Write to Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7M 3M4 or email Sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

Diabetes: Are you at risk?

By Flo Lavallie
For Eagle Feather News

Many of our adults in Canada and in our First Nations and Métis communities are at risk. Being overweight is a condition that is directly related to Diabetes.

Diabetes is a blood sugar disorder; it also shows up abnormalities in fat and protein metabolism, inflammation and immune system function.

That is why diabetes is so destructive to the body and its organs. The hormone, insulin, promotes the uptake of blood sugar by cells throughout the body.

Diabetes can occur when the pancreas (hormone producing gland) does not produce enough insulin. Or if the cells of the body become resistant to insulin.

When the sugar carried by the blood it cannot get to the cells.

This can lead to serious complications - such as heart disease and stroke, high blood pressure, blindness, kidney disease, gum disease, pain such as arthritis, poor circulation in the legs, muscle, pain called fibromyalgia, depression, autoimmune disorders and thyroid disease.

• Trying to achieve ideal body weight in early stage of type 2

diabetes can restore normal blood sugar levels.

• Family history of diabetes - If a family member has diabetes or a grandparent one must be very cautious of lifestyle, eating habits, exercise, drug use, smoking, alcohol use should be kept to limited amounts.

• In my opinion, stress is a factor, example - death in the family, an accident, a divorce, sexual abuse, workplace stress, racial experiences, repetitive stress syndrome are all contributing factors in diabetes and should be considered. Counseling, food treatment plans, could be effective.

Signs and symptoms are: dizziness, craving sweets, headaches, feel shaky, irritable if meals are missed, feel tired and weak when a meal is missed, need to drink coffee to start your day, need to have a cigarette, (sugar is the first ingredient you taste in tobacco since it is a plant) feel impatient and moody, poor memory, forgetful, calmer after eating.

If you suspect you have diabetes a person should consult their physician.

Part 2 next month

good food bites

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In the summer you can find an abundance of berries in Saskatchewan such as strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and of course Saskatoon berries

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So eat your bright red, blue, purple and black berries all summer long!

BERRY SMOOTHIES

1 cup milk
½ cup yogurt (vanilla, berry or plain)
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Add 1 cup ice cubes if using fresh berries. Makes 3 servings.

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Families anguish over mysterious disappearances

By Delaney Windigo
For Eagle Feather News

It has been one year since Carol Wolfe last saw her daughter, 20-year-old Karina Wolfe. Wolfe's family has been left wondering and waiting for the past year.

Carol Wolfe was waiting for the bus when she saw her daughter Karina on the evening of July 2, 2010. Karina asked her mom for the keys to their house and was then seen getting into a grey Corvette on the 800 block of Appleby Drive in Saskatoon.

When Carol's birthday rolled around a couple weeks later and she still hadn't heard from her daughter, the concerned mother became worried.

Karina who would sometimes stay away for days at a time would never miss her mom's birthday.

"I knew something was wrong because she would normally come," said Wolfe.

It was out of character for Karina to be away that long and it was then her mother decided to file a missing persons report.

Now, one year later, her family is hoping to spark renewed interest in the case. The mysterious disappearance is under investigation by the Saskatoon City Police major crime unit.

Carol Wolfe is deaf and she spoke through a sign language interpreter at a recent press conference. Wolfe made a plea to the public to

come forward with any information they may have regarding her daughter's disappearance.

Although Wolfe believes someone kidnapped her daughter, she remains optimistic that Karina is alive.

"I miss her deeply. I just have to be positive and be strong," said Wolfe.

The police say they do not have a lot of information to go on.

"When we went to the public we did get some information. We did get some tips but truth be told we didn't get a lot," said Sgt. Grant Little.

As for the grey Corvette, "That vehicle was tracked down. The person who operates that vehicle has been interviewed multiple times," said Little.

Police are calling that individual a person of interest but they are stopping short of calling him a suspect.

"Until we can exclude people to the satisfaction of the investigators they remain persons of interest," said Little.

The police are also looking into an individual involved in a sexual assault case that happened around the time of Karina's disappearance and in the same area she was last seen.

Wolfe is described as 5-7 in height, 110 lbs, with brown eyes, medium length black hair.

She has a heart-shaped tattoo on her left hand and a birth mark on her upper lip.

Another Saskatchewan family is searching for their loved one. Cody Ridge Wolfe (no relation to Karina Wolfe) went missing from the Muskowekwan First Nation on April 29.

The 17-year-old was last seen at his grandmother's house when he set out on foot to visit a friend. It would have been an eight-kilometre trek but Wolfe never made it. Wolfe's paternal aunt Myrna LaPlante said he was texting a friend until about 2:20 a.m. and the texting stopped.

LaPlante says Cody was a good kid, with a sense of humour.

"He was a shy, quiet, respectful person."

LaPlante says Wolfe has never been in any serious trouble and it is not his character for him to run away.

Wolfe lived with his parents near Wynyard, Saskatchewan. He frequented the

Muskowekwan First Nation, his mother's home reserve. Wolfe was last seen on a Friday and was reported missing on Sunday May 1.

Up until a few weeks ago, an active ground search was taking place on the Muskowekwan First Nation.

The RCMP conducted aerial searches of the area. At the time of Wolfe's disappearance there was flooding, with some washed out roads. Dive teams have since scoured the water in hopes of locating Wolfe. Thus far, there has been no sign of Wolfe.

LaPlante says foul play is not suspected.

"The RCMP have talked about potential hypothermia," said LaPlante.

The family plans to renew their momentum for a ground search. In the meantime, they are hopeful of his safe return.

"We have hope. We hear stories of things happening and years later a person is located, so we're not giving up yet," said LaPlante.

Wolfe is not first person in his family to go missing. Wolfe's grandmother Emily Osmond went missing from the Kawacatoose First Nation in 2007.

Wolfe is described as 5-7 in height, 110 lbs. He has black hair and brown eyes and a scar between his nose and upper lip.

Anyone with information on the missing persons mentioned are asked to call the RCMP or Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477.



KARINA WOLFE



CODY RIDGE WOLFE

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Wishing you and your family safe travels and unforgettable memories as you experience Back to Batoche and the Powwow Trail this summer.

Batoche newly improved, open for business

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

The Elder's lodge is completely renovated, and the Saskatchewan Pavilion is now finished and both are ready to welcome thousands of visitors to this year's Back to Batoche gathering.

There are now 20 buildings on the Back to Batoche Days festival site. The improvements are thanks to the generous support of the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF), The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Metis Nation-Saskatchewan, The Back to Batoche Committee and the hard working event management team lead by Claire Belanger-Parker of CNT Management Group.

The site is now a three-season event centre. CCDF has helped with investments at the Back to Batoche site. With over \$1 million in support from the Fund in the past several years, the site now has more cabins, pavilions, electrified sites, two new kitchens and also some much needed operating dollars.

"To me as an event manager in this province, I would say that they are the most spectacular outdoor event grounds in Saskatchewan. There's nothing like it anywhere else. With stage capacity, cabins, pavilions, Elder's lodge and full operating kitchens," says Belanger-Parker.

"It is a dream location for any event to re-locate and we are open for business at Batoche. The Back to Batoche site welcomes relationships and growth."

According to Belanger-Parker, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been invested in the surrounding communities in the area during Back to Batoche days, by travelers and visitors to the festival. So aside from being the newest three season event grounds in the province, the site once again will be host to thousands during Back to Batoche Days.

This year's Back to Batoche Days is expected to pull in record numbers again.

"We are ready for the crowds this year!" Exclaims Belanger-Parker.

"But none of this would be possible without the enormous support of volunteers. Volunteerism at Back to Batoche Days is something that is growing and embraced with open arms at Batoche. Without the volunteers, last year's Celebrations would not have been what they were."

The Back to Batoche Days Committee is again this year making a call out to volunteers to help in every aspect of the festival.

"If you've ever walked the grounds at Batoche, you're walking for a long time." says Committee Co-Chair Robert Doucette.

"Many of our elders are camping in the area and need to be transported and we need people to help out. To sign up you can fill out a form on the back to Batoche website, www.backtobatoche.org".

Last year's Back to Batoche 125th Anniversary Celebrations drew in over 30,000 new visitors to the site over an eight day festival. The Celebrations were nominated by Saskatchewan Tourism as Event of the Year for the 2010 Awards of Excellence.

This year's festival will return to the traditional four day event with competitions beginning as early as Thursday, July 21, when the gates open, until the closing day on Sunday, July 24.

A large list of Métis artists as headliners for the main stage, plus traditional competitions including fiddling, jigging, square dancing competitions, bannock baking, traditional voyageur games, Métis Got Talent, Mini- Métis program, Métis Artisans Village, slow-pitch tournament, world record spoon ensemble attempt, a tribute to Métis veterans, a

national youth gathering, traditional Métis foods, plus the always popular chuckwagon and chariot races are set to take place over the four days of activities.

"This Year's Festival is sure to be a fantastic event," says Co-Chair Shirley Isbister.

"We are getting at Back to Batoche."

back to the grassroots of the festival, such as highlighting local Métis artists like Donny Parenteau, Darren Lavallee and Ryan Keplin (aka Fiddling Lefty). For me, being a part of the festival over the years is a pleasure.

"Being able to see the growth of the facilities and venues, it's a real tribute to the festival, Métis culture and its growth in popularity."



Chuckwagon and chariot races are always a popular attraction

(Photo by Kymber Rae Photography)



Back to Batoche 2011

**Jigging, Fiddling,
Square Dancing**

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Competition Prizes!**

July 21 - 24

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Sports & Voyageur Games

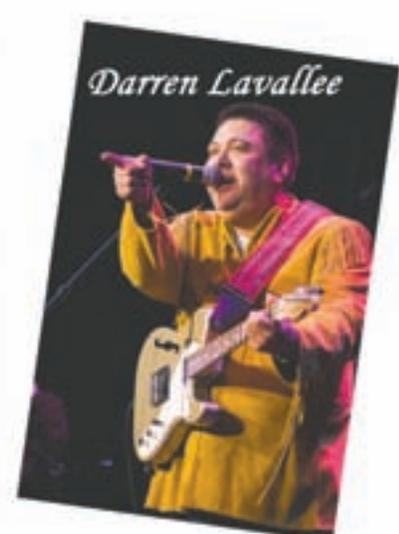
"Métis Got Talent"

Youth and Elders Programs

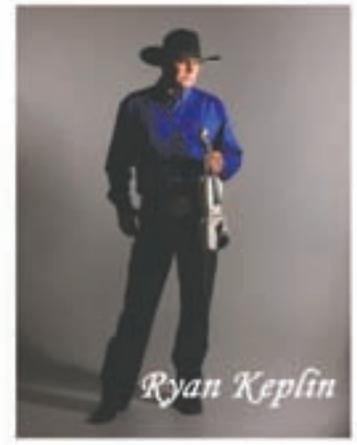
Chuckwagon Races



Donny Parenteau



Darren Lavallee



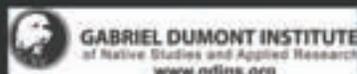
Ryan Keplin

<i>John Arcand</i>	Full Festival Passes	Daily Passes
<i>Just The Boyz</i>	Adult \$50	Thursday \$10
<i>Krystel Pederson</i>	Elders & Youth \$35	Friday \$20
<i>Alex Lamoureux</i>	Children 12 and Under FREE	Saturday \$20
<i>Dallas Boyer</i>		Sunday \$10
<i>Ovide Pilon</i>	www.backtobatoche.org	
<i>Brian Sklar</i>	batoche@cntgrp.ca	
<i>Mel Vandale</i>	(306) 423.5368	
<i>Lenny Dumont</i>		









Festival goes at back to Batoche will have another chance to break the spoons playing record. The goal this year is over 1400. We think it can be done!

(Photo John Lagimodiere)

It's one more try for spoon record

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

The Back to Batoche Days Festival is once again attempting to break a Guinness World Record for largest spoon ensemble.

The group had made the attempt last year, and fell 31 players short of the record. The official record, as it stands is held by a Chinese group that had 888 spoon players, but that record was smashed on July 4, with (unofficially) 1,364 spoon players by a group in Indiana.

The group headed by Phillip Collier and Steve the "Spoon Man" Tankersley, a professional spoon player; who also happens to be Collier's cousin. Collier said the idea came to them after Tankersley told him about a workshop he conducted with participants playing the spoons.

"As I got everything set up for the attempt, I looked and saw that previously England had held the record prior," says Collier.

"So that got me to thinking, who else has tried this? After some research I found the Back to Batoche 125th Celebrations attempt of last year and they were trying again this year, so I'm curious to see what's going to happen north of the border on July 22."

The Back to Batoche Committee is gearing up, getting ready for the Friday, July 22 of the festival where Donny Parenteau and Band will be playing Big John McNeal in an attempt to have over 1,400 spoon players play along with them. Organizers are encouraging everyone coming to Batoche and surrounding communities to come to the Festival that night to help them break the record.

As for Collier, he had this to say about the attempt in Batoche: "My cousin would kill me if he heard me say this, but I wish them the best of luck and we'll see what happens, I will certainly be paying attention!"



You can expect lots of fiddling and jigging again at Back to Batoche. There have been improvements to the main Clarence Campeau Development Fund Gathering Place, and to the Elders lodge.

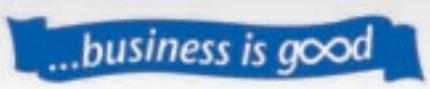
(Photo by Kymber Rae Photography)



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Duty to never forget Veterans

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

To pay tribute to the Métis soldiers that made great sacrifices for our freedom and for the country, the Back to Batoche 125th Anniversary Committee laid the groundwork towards a Memorial Gardens and monument at the Back to Batoche Grounds.

To carry on that legacy, the Métis National Council General Assembly declared 2011 – 2020 the Decade of the Métis Nation.

This declaration followed in the footsteps of a tremendously successful 2010 Year of the Métis, a year that put the Métis Nation on the world stage and one that saw the 125th Anniversary Celebrations become the largest Métis festival in North America.

“These successes set the tone for a vision, which will continue for ten years, each year to be dedicated to a specific theme. The year 2011 is dedicated to paying tribute to our Métis veterans,” said Clément Chartier, Métis National Council President

Métis were present during the First World War and the Second World War, fighting shoulder to shoulder during combat, some members in the army and navy, others members of the air force and some working as medical support helping to save the lives of their injured brothers.

“Today, all of our World War I veterans have passed on and only a handful of our World War II veterans remain with us. The Métis Nation will continue the fight for recognition and support of our veterans who may have lost their voices and we salute those who have sacrificed for our freedom and our ability to have choice – the Métis Nation will not forget the brave men and women who were not fortunate enough to return home as well as those who returned home and never received any or adequate compensation for their duty,” added Chartier.

During this year’s Back to Batoche event, 15 Métis veterans from across Canada will be honoured for their services at a commemoration at the Veterans Gardens on July 22. They will be presented with plaques as a small token of appreciation for their services.

“It is because of our promise to never forget those who have been to or are currently at war that the Métis Nation has dedicated the first year of the Decade of the Métis Nation to Paying Tribute to our Métis Veterans.” adds Chartier.

“It was their duty to fight. It is our duty to never forget.”



Veterans observe a moment of silence at last year’s dedication of the Veterans gardens. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Batoche has drawn fiddlers from across Canada and the United States in the past.



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Parks Canada invests in Métis projects

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The federal government recently announced \$4.25 million for the creation of 18 projects that will help Métis communities preserve their history and culture as well as present their rich heritage to all Canadians.

This announcement was made at Riel House National Historic Site, a site of great importance to the Métis.

“These projects will significantly contribute to the preservation, awareness and promotion of Métis history and culture.

“In funding these projects, we are recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of the Métis people across Canada,” said Rod Bruinooge, a Member of Parliament from Winnipeg.

“Our government is committed to building strong, effective and mutually beneficial working relationships with Métis and other Aboriginal groups so their stories can be told and appreciated by all Canadians.”

This funding will not only allow Parks Canada to help local Métis communities and organizations preserve their history and culture but will above all be used to further explore how Parks Canada and its Métis partners present their important role in Canada’s history.

Through public education programs carried out at national parks and national historic sites in Western and Northern Canada, Parks Canada will highlight how the Métis people have enriched the lives of all Canadians, socially, economically, politically and culturally.

Projects in Saskatchewan include:

- The creation of an art exhibit at Batoche National Historic Site

- Parks Canada is working with the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan to tell their stories at Fort Battleford, Fort Walsh, and Batoche National Historic Sites, and Grasslands National Park. Together they will develop interpretive and outreach products for target audiences.

- The Role at Fort Walsh/Cypress Hills Massacre National Historic Site. This project will allow Métis people to present their perspective on the tragic events that took place at Cypress Hills National Historic Site.

Pedestrian access will be provided along the river Valley between the ruins of the Métis Village north of the palisades and the Cypress Hills Massacre site and trading area south of the palisades.

The art exhibit at the Batoche National Historic Site was assembled by curator Sherry Farrell Racette and includes an amazing array of artists.

The exhibit is in a new part of the



Guest curator, Sherry Farrell Racette, stands by a Métis hooked rug by Marie Grant Breland (1820-1889). The rug is one of the pieces in the current art show, *Resilience/Resistance: Métis Art, 1880-2011*, on display at Batoche National Historic Site through the summer. (Photo by Peter Beszterda for GDI)

remodelled and rejuvenated Batoche Historic Site visitor reception centre which just received a multimillion dollar face lift this past year.

Other than the grand walkway and the renovated theatre, most visitors won’t notice the changes as much of the

upgrades were mechanical and building related, but now the building is more efficient for visitors’ and school groups to enjoy their visit.

There is a grand opening ceremony on July 22 during Back to Batoche celebrations.



Batoche National Historic Site Lieu historique national de Batoche

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Métis art exhibit: *Resilience / Resistance 1880-2011*

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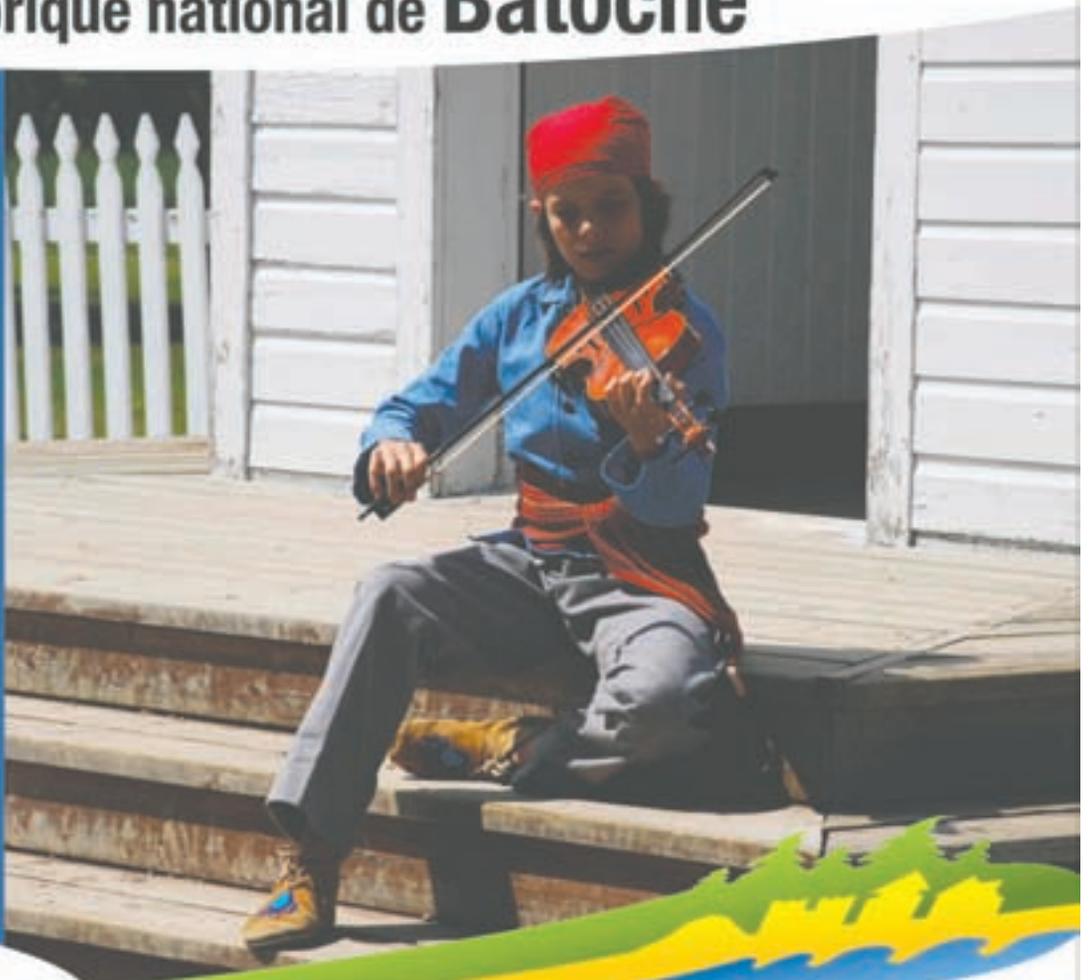
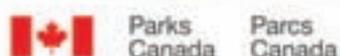
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Australian Martu see benefits of mining

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

How often do you get a group of Aborigine from a desert in Australia boating down a northern Saskatchewan river on their way to a traditional Dene feast of smoked fish, fried caribou, ribs and caribou head?

As it turns out, some people had the experience at least once in their life.

A delegation of Martu business and political leaders were guests of Cameco Corporation for 12 days in July and they were taken on a whirlwind tour of cultural centres and Cameco mining sites.

The Martu People of the western side of the Gibson Desert in Australia are in an enviable position. Within the past several years, they have won recognition of their ownership of most of their traditional lands, in the form of 'native title'.

The territory on which they have title has a fine deposit of uranium and they are interested in developing that resource with the company that holds the development rights. That happens to be Saskatchewan grown Cameco, the world's largest uranium producer.

Sean Willy, director of Corporate Social Responsibility for Cameco Corporation has worked closely with the Martu people as they develop a relationship that will hopefully lead to business for both parties.

"They have known they had uranium for over 20 years," said Willy.

"We purchased the project in 2008 and we are in the process of getting their support for the Kintar Project. We brought them here to show them what we have done in northern Saskatchewan and our relationship with the Aboriginal people.

"We can tell them all we want, but if you have a visual and tactile aspect and actually bring them here so they can get first hand input from communities that have lived in the uranium industry for 50 years, the Athabasca Dene, the Métis, and the Cree, it is powerful.

"We wanted to show them our focus on indigenous employment, education, training, business development, community investment and environmental stewardship."

The tour included stops at Rabbit Lake Mine, visits to the communities of Black Lake and Stony Rapids and a meet and greet with northern suppliers and partners. There was also a cultural aspect to the tour that included stops at Wanuskewin, Batoche, a gathering and traditional feast at Pine Channel and a visit to the FSIN Assembly.

"A lot of the tour was learning about uranium mining, but the second part was also the cultural exchange," said Willy as he reflected on the tour.

"We wanted to show how your culture can survive with development. That it can actually be extenuated. At Pine Channel, they received such a warm



This photo of the Martu delegation was taken at Pine Channel, between Fond du Lac and Stony Rapids. Some flew in on a Twin Otter while the Martu were brought in by boat from Stony Rapids. The Martu were treated to caribou and smoked fish. It was an amazing day and site to see the Martu exchange cultures. The Martu loved the people, the trees and water. One of the Martu is wearing Chief Napoleon Mercredi's headdress. (Photo Cameco)

welcome from the Athabasca Dene. The most touching moment was when they played an Honour Song for them at the FSIN Assembly. I saw some of the group crying. It was very emotional."

Billy Landy also known as Butler, is the chairperson of the Martu development. He was impressed with the expansive trees and water up north and the hospitality of the communities and of Cameco.

"I blame Cameco for spoiling us," joked Butler. "We have been eating ever since we arrived. This is very interesting this trip. They have taken us to First Nations and to their mine site and I have some stories to bring back to our people.

"At Rabbit Lake we went to where they mine it, produce and truck it out. It was good to see in first person and to hear stories from the employees. And at their tailing pond for water, I notice ducks are swimming there. They do a fantastic job."

His job, and that of the delegation, is to now take back what they have observed and tell their people about it.

"We have taken pictures and one of our students is filming it. I want to tell our people, in our language, what we have been hearing," added Butler.

The Martu suffer from the same social problems as many First Nations in Canada.

"I think the Martu are looking for an honest relationship and their own solutions for their communities, just like in Saskatchewan," said Willy who is also a northerner.

"Growing up in this area, it is my country, but to see it through their eyes for the first time or even being in a boat for the first time. It shows how far people are apart geographically, but really how similar we are.

"They have the same concerns as we do here. Radiation or the safety of the water and dust.

"They are asking all those questions. Both to the technicians at our mines and to the community Elders. This has been

such a positive experience.

"We showed you can create paths for youth, maintain your culture and to be able to introduce them to many of our partners and suppliers was rewarding."

Butler was impressed with the territory and the operation and he has one focus when he returns to his home fire.

"I want, as a chair person, to be united and have one voice," said Butler. "This is amazing, the amount of water and trees, all on the uranium land. And

Mother Nature has been well looked after up here.

"But I want to take back from here business opportunities. If we get together back home and have one voice, and start running our own business and be close with the companies.

"Maybe we have our people be directors of companies and sit on boards. I want our people to own things and to benefit the future and educate our young ones."

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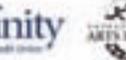
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GDI launches two new initiatives

By Gaylene Poulin
For Eagle Feather News

Métis students will now get the assistance in gaining the skills they need to find and keep jobs through two new initiatives announced during a media event hosted by the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI).

The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative under the federal Strategic Partnership Fund and the signing of a GDI-Saskatoon health Region Scholarship will provide partnerships within the industry as well as opportunities for support to both the employer and recipient.

The Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative is one of eight projects across Canada funded under the federal Strategic Partnership Fund and will receive \$2.4 million over two years. The project will empower Métis and Aboriginal peoples to enter apprenticeship programs and gain employment in the growing trades sector throughout the province.

"In a constantly evolving labour



Joe Black (CEO, Saskatchewan Apprenticeship and Trade Certification Commission), Robert Doucette (President, Métis Nation Saskatchewan), Maura Davies (President and CEO, Saskatoon Health Region), Kelly Block (MP Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggart), and Glenn LaFleur (GDI Board of Governors Vice Chair) took part in the Aboriginal Apprenticeship Initiative signing.

(GDI Photo by Peter Beszterda)

manage apprenticeships between Aboriginal workers and employers, as well as developing a long-term strategy for apprenticeship programming at GDI.

"This is an important day for GDI and Aboriginal peoples," said GDI's Vice-Chair Glenn LaFleur.

"As the economy of Saskatchewan gets stronger and Aboriginal population grows, Apprenticeship Initiative will

These scholarships are just one piece of our overall Aboriginal Health Strategy and our commitment to improving the health and well-being of First Nations and Métis individuals in our community."

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation II Scholarship fund will be awarded to 17 recipients over a four year pilot project at \$1,000 per award.

The recipient must be training in the health fields of Hard to Recruit Areas (As defined by the SHR), Management, Therapies, Science and Technology, Nursing, Social and Community Workers, and applicants interested in working in SHR rural Communities.

Recipients can apply through GDI and GDTI as early as October of 2011.



Bonnie Blakley (Saskatoon Health Region Vice President of People Strategies) and Glenn LaFleur (GDI Board of Governors Vice Chair) at the signing of a GDI-Saskatoon Health Region Scholarship.

(GDI Photo by Peter Beszterda)

market, it's important that Canadians get the skills and training they need to succeed," said Saskatoon-Rosetown-Biggart MP Kelly Block.

"Through projects like this, our government is bringing together Aboriginal organizations, various levels of government, businesses and community organizations to ensure Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan are able to take full advantage of economic opportunities and ultimately, get good jobs."

GDI will work with its partners to build capacity by training educational counselors who will coordinate and

create more opportunities for Aboriginal peoples to gain the necessary skills for employment."

Another partnership announced was with the Saskatoon Health Region that will provide scholarships for Métis students to pursue post-secondary education in the health sector.

"We are very happy to partner with GDI on this worthwhile initiative," said Bonnie Blakley, Saskatoon Health Region Vice President of People Strategies.

"It benefits the Region and the province to have a workforce that represents the community we serve and live in.

The Gabriel Dumont Institute, in partnership with Parks Canada, is looking for people who can share Métis history, information and stories about Fort Battleford, Fort Walsh, and Grasslands National Park and the surrounding areas around the Battlefords, Maple Creek, Swift Current, and Val Marie. The partners are looking to identify and interview Métis community members who have a connection to these historically and culturally significant places.

**Are you Métis?
Do you or your family have a historic and contemporary connection to the areas in and around Fort Walsh, Fort Battleford or Grasslands National Park? Would you like to share your stories with the partners?**

If so, please contact me so we can arrange an interview.

**Darren Préfontaine
Gabriel Dumont Institute
2-604 22nd Street West, Saskatoon, SK,
S7M 3Z4
T: 306.65711
E: darren.prefontaine@gdi.gdins.org**

If you would like to call collect, please phone 1-877-488-6888 and ask for Darren Prefontaine. Please leave a message with your contact information if we are unable to speak directly.

Marsii/Thank you for your time and consideration!

New resources available from the Gabriel Dumont Institute

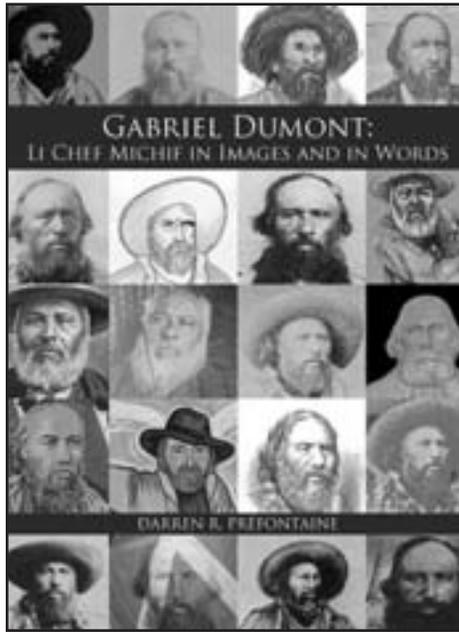
By David Morin
For Eagle Feather News

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to announce that new resources from their award-winning Publishing Department are now available.

The first is a new children's story by Leah Marie Dorion called *Relatives With Roots: A Story About Métis Women's Connection to the Land*.

This book is a heartfelt story about a Métis grandmother who takes her granddaughter out into the bush to teach her how to pick traditional medicines.

As the granddaughter learns the traditional beliefs and stories about how the Métis people use the plants for food and medicine, she feels happy to be a Métis child with access to such wonderful cultural knowledge.



This charming and vibrant book introduces young readers to key concepts in the traditional Métis

worldview while focusing on the special relationship between a young Métis girl and her grandmother.

Relatives With Roots is the second in a series of children's books relating to traditional Métis values by Leah Marie Dorion. The first book, *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story*, was nominated in 2010 for a Willow Award in the Shining Willow category.

Gabriel Dumont: Li Chef Michif in Images and in Words is a compilation written by Darren R. Préfontaine, collecting all known images and accounts relating to Gabriel Dumont.

Gabriel Dumont is an iconic figure in Métis and Canadian history. In the popular imagination, he is well known for leading the Métis forces during the 1885 Resistance, and for being a renowned bison hunt leader, a Wild West show performer, and a husband to his beloved Madeleine.

But outside of printed history and a fragmented oral history what do we really know about him? How has he been imagined over the past 125 years?

This book answers these questions by focusing on visual and journalistic representations of Gabriel Dumont through time and space.

Many of the book's images — some commissioned for this project and several newly found — have never before been published.



A youngster keepin' it Riel for National Aboriginal Day at the Batoche National Historic Site.

(Photo by Peter Beszterda for GDI).

Compiled together for the first time, these eclectic sources provide



The Parks Canada beaver mascot, Parka, gets a group hug from students at National Aboriginal Days at Batoche National Historic Site.

(Photo by Peter Beszterda for GDI)



poignant vignettes of Gabriel Dumont's life, which will greatly enhance our knowledge about him, while further contributing to his legend.

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Legal questions leave cloud over Lonechild's leadership

Review could take place at fall assembly

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

The issue of Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation (FSIN) Chief Guy Lonechild's leadership dominated the spring session of the Legislative Assembly.

As soon as the agenda for day one was to be adopted, Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson raised the issue, noting she had a band council resolution and wanted to know when it would be on the agenda.

That started a firestorm of comments, with English River First Nation Chief Ralph Paul saying he didn't want to spend another assembly discussing the matter. Much of the winter assembly was spent talking about Lonechild's leadership, and much of it was behind closed doors.

"It's just going to waste my time, dealing with this issue again," said Paul.

Many chiefs agreed the issue had already taken up too much time, and they said that was why they wanted it dealt with.

Lonechild also spoke to the issue, calling it a waste of time and energy.

"It's time, I think, to work on issues that affect our people. And, as chief of the FSIN I'm quite disappointed that we're not doing that, we're looking to fight one another," Lonechild said.

Legal counsel Don Worme addressed the assembly, cautioning the chiefs about following the proper procedures.

"If you want to entertain a motion of non-confidence, as you are absolutely entitled to do, there's a process to follow. And, that process must be followed, or any decision that you take, I'm afraid, will become reviewable. And, the integrity of this assembly will suffer."

On the first day, the chiefs voted to make amendments to the Executive Act, which now appears to make

it easier to impeach Lonechild. Instead of requiring a certain number of chiefs to entertain a non-confidence motion, a majority of however many chiefs present is all that is required.

Twenty-six chiefs voted in favour of those changes, while 10 opposed them and two abstained.

No non-confidence motion was brought up at assembly, but Worme had told chiefs that paperwork would need to be filed with the clerk, who would then convene a special meeting within 30 days and provide written notification of it. Each side will have to make a presentation to the Indian Government Commission, and if the resolution is approved, they will have to call another assembly in the fall.

Other issues were discussed at assembly. International Indigenous legal expert Sharon Venne spoke about the implications of changes to the Canadian Human Rights Act.

She warned delegates that while it appeared First Nations people were gaining human rights with the repeal of Section 67, giving First Nations access to the act, they were in danger of losing collective or treaty rights.

"Your treaties are not attached to individual rights because individuals do not make treaties. Treaties are made by nations.

The federal government has introduced legislation to repeal section 67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act which prevents persons, often Aboriginal women and persons living or working on reserves, from making complaints of discrimination arising from actions taken or decisions made pursuant to the Indian Act.



FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild

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5. Coordination of the Treaty education process.
6. Support for the inclusion of First Nations, Métis and Inuit content in curriculum.
7. Development and coordination of an anti-racist education staff development process.
8. Coordination of applications to government and non-government agencies for grants related to First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education.

Inquiries may be directed to Gordon A. Martell, Superintendent of Education, at 659-7056 or gmartell@gscs.sk.ca.

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The prospects for FSIN leadership

John L.: First there was Bill Shakespeare. Then Al Einstein. Now Dirknanimus Dashing. Dirk, my'man, I understand we are going to look at the goings-on with the FSIN.

Dirk: John, The FSIN is steeped in history, legacy and tradition, and it is one of the strongest First Nation organizations on this planet. Today it is mired in questions over leadership.

John L.: You are talking about the challenge to Chief Lonechild as the Chief of the FSIN, right? I hear he was served Band Council Resolutions from 25 First Nations calling for his resignation.

Dirk: That's right, John. As per First Nation law, Chief Lonechild was served 25 BCRs at the Legislative Assembly held in Onion Lake, though it is unclear whether his conviction for impaired driving is the reason for his political problems or if there are other issues at play, or both.

John L.: Are you suggesting that there may be other reasons why the Chiefs of Saskatchewan are calling for his resignation?

Dirk: I may not believe it, but I am thinking it loudly. For instance, here we have a Chief that took a courageous stand and did things to save the First Nation University from ruin. Had he not taken the initiative, the Anti-Indian Movement for Loud Empty and Simplistic Solutions would have used the debacle as a monument to First Nation incompetence and a waste of taxpayers' dollars.

John L.: Is there resentment over his handling of the affair?

Dirk: Yes, there were a few Chiefs that got their beaks bent over how he handled the matter. While the majority of Chiefs had no problem with the saving of University, many took issue with how it happened. Smarter people than me know what that means.

John L.: Smarter people than you, Dirk. That I find hard to believe. Are there other issues dogging Chief Lonechild?

Dirk: Of course there are, John, and while those issues are legitimate, they are too complex for me to deal with here. But almost all share one thing in common: some Chiefs want Chief Lonechild to take action, while others fighting to maintain the status quo and still others have other priorities and want to get on with business. This is not unusual.

John L.: What do you mean? This happens a lot?

Dirk: The FSIN Chief is always negotiating and navigating rival and competing demands of 74 Chiefs. To help him – or her in the future – First Nation laws and systems have been established, thanks to the work started by our veterans. So this is not a bunch of yahoos making stuff up as they go along – these are serious people using serious processes to solve serious issues.

John L.: So what are you suggesting? That consensus amongst the Chiefs is not automatic?

Dirk: That's right. Sometimes it takes the Chiefs time to become of one mind, but it is a professional organization.



For instance, once the debate on Chief Lonechild's leadership concluded, the Chiefs got down to debating and deciding other pressing matters.

John L.: Alright, hearing the Chiefs got down to business is good news. So what happens next, with Chief Lonechild?

Dirk: It is unclear what the next steps are for those who want Chief Lonechild to stay – and there are plenty of Chiefs who want that – and for those who want him out. While there are questions whether First Nation laws are being upheld, and what they really are, I see a couple of interesting issues.

John L.: Alright, my breath has been baited, I am at the edge of my seat, I am suitably intrigued. Also, I am itchy. Lay the truth on me, brother.

Dirk: First, the overwhelming majority Chiefs of Saskatchewan embody the integrity and honour of their offices. If convicted of something they know they must resign or risk being dragged out by their ankles by the authorities. These Chiefs are puzzled and some are upset that Chief Lonechild didn't handle his conviction differently.

John L.: Wow, those are strong words, Dirk. "Embody" was a particularly nice touch. And the second point?

Dirk: It takes courage to be a Chief. Some say sacrificing the needs of family for the betterment of our people hints at a sort of madness. Or courage. The question is, will anyone with the stones and the brains want to step up to the plate after what has happened, right or wrong, good or bad, for better or worse? Who would want the job? What would our veterans think, the ones who stepped up to the little Hitlers 65 years ago?

John L.: I am impressed, Dirk. This has been one of your most serious columns ever. I know most people only think of you as the eye-candy of this outfit. Now they have to think of you as having, well, a brain.

Dirk: I know, Mr. Leftoveroutoverhere. Brain. Hurting. Next month, Mr. Answer Guy. Readers ... send questions. Dirk rest.

Dirk says, Those who forget the pasta are doomed to reheat it.

dirkdashing@shaw.ca

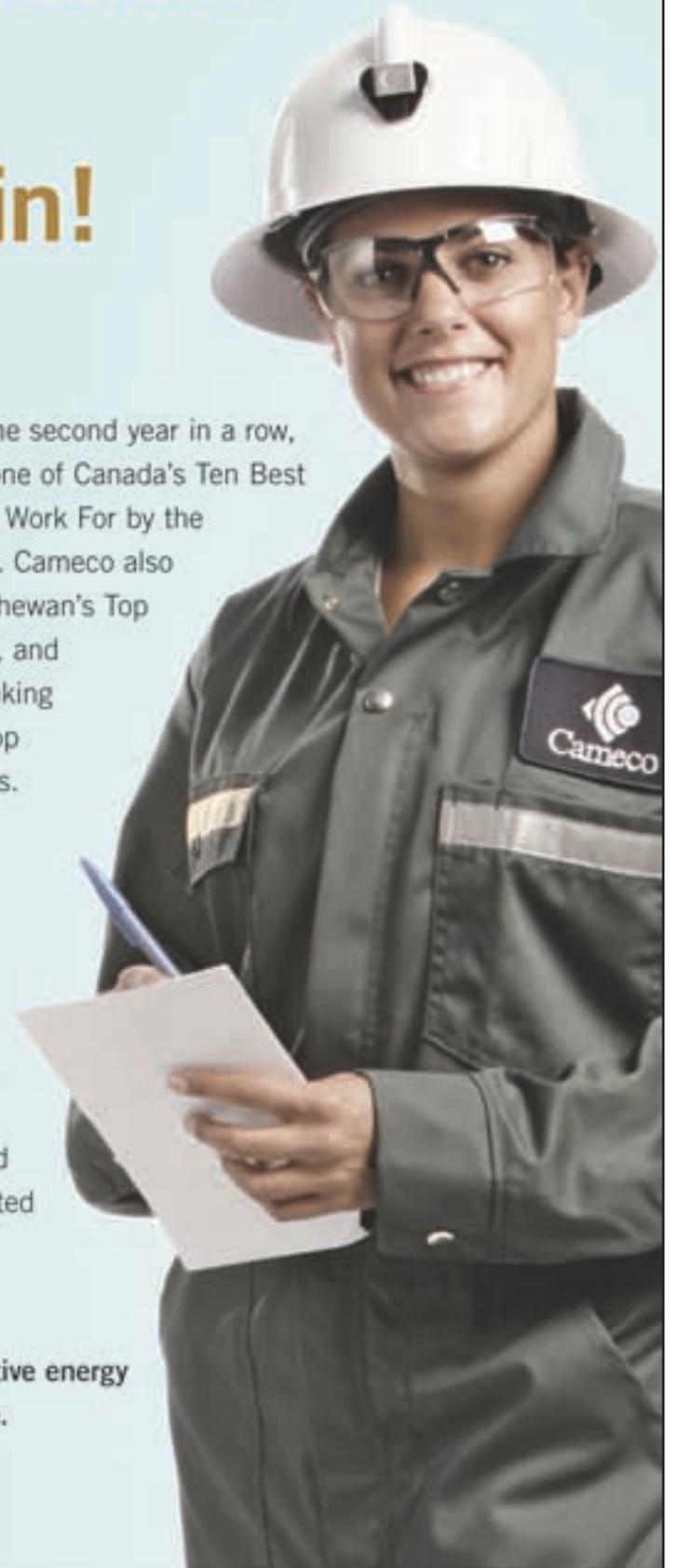
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In recognition of their accomplishments, 19 graduates received scholarships to encourage them to continue their post secondary school education.

Aboriginal graduates honoured at special SIMFC event

By Bill Mintram
Program Coordinator

Honouring our Aboriginal Grade 12 graduates and encouraging pursuit of post secondary education is a priority for the Saskatoon Aboriginal Community. This year the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre hosted with excellence the 27th Annual Native Graduate Recognition Night. With 46 graduates in attendance a banquet and ceremony was held in their honour and recognizing their achievements. To encourage lifelong learning and post secondary education 19 scholarships were handed out.

The 27th Annual Native Graduate Recognition Night Scholarship Recipients are: Ashley Howe - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Spirit Award; Lisa Henderson - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Academic Award; Cassidy Eikel - Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Métis

Legacy Award; Ashley Howe - CHEP Good Food; Dakota Kematch - Saskatoon Police Service; Keaven Simes - SIMFC Athletic Award; Sherri Dillon - Les Bird Memorial; David Bear - Aboriginal Business Students Association; Keaven Simes - Central Urban Métis Federation Inc.; Keaven Simes - Gabriel Dumont Institute; James Dejarlais - PotashCorp; Darren Kayseas - PotashCorp; Anthony Herman -

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Our community would like to thank and recognize our event sponsor Potash Corp for their monetary, volunteer, and scholarship contributions. This sponsorship was made in correlation with the United Way's Day of Caring and has made an impact in the educational goals and overall lives of our young people.

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BHP Billiton is dedicated to encouraging and supporting Aboriginal traditions and knowledge. As we build our business in this province, we recognize the great foundations that Aboriginal people have built within the economy, culture and identity of Saskatchewan. We will continue to expand our community development programs, such as the Punnichy Career Transition Initiative, to help ensure that local communities benefit from our growth.

BHP Billiton looks forward to working with the Aboriginal people of Saskatchewan to build thriving communities that we are all proud to call home.

Poet finds clarity, peace

This month, instead of finding art, art found me. Recently a friend of mine was invited to a barbecue in Prince Albert, and I really wanted to go, so I invited myself along.

Thankfully, my friend was gracious enough to allow for my imposition and happily took me with her.

It was a gay/lesbian and family barbecue, and I didn't belong to any of those categories which made me wonder if they might deny me their free food, ha ha. Of course they didn't. I met a group of wonderful people who made the most delicious bannock burgers I've had in ages.

I also met a young poet: Janelle Sakebow, 19, from Pelican Lake First Nation. She had a new poem stored on her Blackberry and she was showing it to her friends and family. I asked to see it, and was blown away. It was a poem about gay pride and I was immediately reminded of how meaningful art is always an expression of something.

Art that has no meaning often falls flat and vapid, refusing to plant itself in your memory, settling on the outskirts somewhere until something exciting and inspiring comes along, ploughing the way into your soul.

All artists need this, want this and crave it – emotion, impact, resonance. Sometimes the desire of expression is there, but it just isn't coming out. Usually I think what blocks artists is their brain, or more accurately, their inner-critics.

One way to handle this is to connect with the emotion and just create. Your critic may be allowed in afterwards, to fiddle with the technical elements of your craft. But only then! If your inner critic begins judging your craft at the very beginning, your art will suffer as you struggle with your own judgment.

In the case of Janelle Sakebow's poem, it was so rife with emotion that the more technical aspects of structure, rhythm and cadence flowed smoothly behind; accents that enhanced the emotion, but didn't detract from it. In short, it left an impact on me, and I was still thinking of her poem two days later.

I remembered Janelle from the picnic and she seemed quite self-assured and proud of herself and her identity. Even as we sat together and discussed her poems and her life, she was very comfortable discussing her sexuality. I didn't mean to pry and seem nosy, but I wanted to try to understand her motivation as a writer, and much of it seemed inextricably intertwined with her identity as a lesbian.

It was educational, and humbling, really. To sit across from someone who has a very different life and perspective from you can be a gift, to help you see part of the world you don't see.

She always knew she was a lesbian, but she was in denial for a long time.

"When I finally came out, not to

everyone, but to myself – I noticed that everything changed," says Janelle. "It was like putting glasses on. Everything seemed so clear. Everything just started to make sense."

I was super stoked when Janelle agreed to share her poem with Eagle Feather News.



Rainbow

-Janelle Sakebow

A rainbow glimmering in the distance,
After every storm,
It shines bright,
Whispers, dark stares,
A simple misunderstanding.

Hand over mouth,
False surprise,
Don't wind up,
Let the rain fall,
For you are that rainbow,
Beautiful, diverse, and full of vibrant colors, alive.

Confident,
Comfort, and love is here. Within the storm,
Look beyond and have patience.
You are beautiful,
All the colors, be yourself.
And shine forever,
Happy.

"This was something I had written on my walk home the day before the Pride Parade," explains Janelle. "I had been reflecting on my own experiences and breaking through, coming out, realizing that it's more important for me to love myself before I can let anyone love me; because people can feel that, when you have no respect for yourself, why should they?"

She attributes much of her peace and happiness with her incredible support network.

"At times I know the biggest help was having someone to talk to," says Janelle.

She is so grateful for the acceptance she experienced that she is now considering mentoring gay and lesbian youth. If any youth would like to get in touch with her for support, to answer questions or share their experiences, she welcomes email letters. She can be reached at: janelle_nelle81@hotmail.com

If you have an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, drop me a line at: snazyjess@hotmail.com. See you next month!

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LOTTERIES



Loss of Gordon Tootoosis casts pall over SNTC

By Darla Read
Of Eagle Feather News

With heavy hearts, the administration and board of directors of Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company try to rebuild and move forward.

SNTC general manager Alan Long says that will be tough now that founding board member, Gordon Tootoosis, has passed away.

“A big part of it was his vision. He stuck it out through all the hard times and the good times and has always been there for the company to be a figurehead, a leader and a role model.”

Long notes that as SNTC made plans to downsize and restructure, Tootoosis stepped up and became a co-chair of the board.

“He always emphasized that the company, for him, was about the youth. That’s his legacy, really, is the youth that have come through here.”

Long says Tootoosis’ presence at events, particularly his cultural and spiritual knowledge, will be missed the most.

“Those things were really important, that the youth saw someone as successful as him that was connected to his culture and knew his language.

“We’re just going to take some time to take stock of things and figure out where we go from here.”

Long says there are a lot of strong Aboriginal people, as well as strong artists in the community, and he’s sure one of them will be able to serve on the Board.

SNTC recently moved its offices into the offices of La Troupe du Jour on 20th Street West. Another theatre company,

Tant per Tant, which translates Catalan plays into English and vice versa, is also housed there.

“We’re hoping to make it kind of a hub of theatre activity on 20th Street.” SNTC’s new artistic director, Curtis

Peeteetuce says the move makes sense from more than just an administrative point of view.

Peeteetuce says SNTC will begin prepping for its annual Christmas show and then a professional show in the spring.

“We want to just continue the tradition of theatre that SNTC is famous for in terms of the quality of production that we do and the quality of story-telling. It’s very much about culture, language and history for us.”

While Peeteetuce began his career with SNTC in 2001 with the Circle of Voices program, he has spent the last eight years honing his skills in many areas of theatre.

He says it means everything to him to be the company’s AD.

“I definitely came in with stars and fame and fortune mentality. And, all of the workshops, all of the artists involved in that program ... really helped me see that the arts and culture are part of the human make-up,” he explains.

“It was a really humbling and grounding experience. It’s an opportunity to continue that now that I’ve taken the helm at AD.”



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Long says there are definite advantages to three theatre companies sharing space.

“La Troupe du Jour works with a community outside the mainstream community like we do,” he notes. “You can bounce ideas off each other.

Peeteetuce, says the move makes sense from more than just an administrative point of view.

“Artistically, I’ve already talked with Denis, the AD of La Troupe, and we’ve already talked about some great ideas that we could see a couple of seasons down the

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Tourney helps badminton players keep eye on the birdie during slow season

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

There was an awful lot of bird abuse going down at Walter Murray High School in early July. No, people weren't plucking live crows, they were actually hammering badminton birdies at each other during the First Annual National Aboriginal Badminton Championships.

The event was hosted by the Saskatoon Tribal Council as an option for youth who had no events for this time of year.

"We started to talk about doing this because there was no NAIG last year," said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

"It was a year where there was nothing available for our kids and badminton is a strong part of the winter games and we have a vested interest in keeping the sport going for our kids," said Thomas.

"So we agreed to do badminton and we are hosting it next year but we would like to see it every year."

Over 100 youth and adult athletes attended this year, travelling from across Western Canada for the event. It was kicked off with a clinic run by an Olympic coach and a couple of Olympic badminton players.

"One of the players said that she wasn't as talented as some of these kids are at this age," said Chief Thomas. "But through hard work and dedication, she became an Olympic athlete so it gave lots of the kids a boost that they can do it, too."

Thomas was on hand watching his son Joshua play. Joshua had a great tournament to say the least, winning



Joshua Thomas left, and his partner Wade Harris won the doubles category at the National Aboriginal Badminton Championship in Saskatoon.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

mixed doubles, doubles and singles in his age group.

"The competition here has been really good, not quite as big a tournament as nationals, but still, really good competition and practice," said Joshua who loves badminton because as he says, "It is the world's fastest game that involves reflexes and quick movement."

Chief Thomas was happy with the turnout and

competitors this year.

"We look at these events as investments, not costs. We had 102 players this year with open categories. Most players are youth, but there are some older people," said Chief Thomas. "Next year, we host again and the kids that came this year were dedicated and no problems. It was a pleasure to host them and we encourage more next year."

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Thunderchild making final plans for Summer Games

By Alina Perrault
Of Eagle Feather News

Thunderchild First Nation will be embracing a holistic approach as they welcome young aboriginal athletes from 13 different Tribal Councils to the 35th Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games in August.

The 4,500 athletes range from 10 to 17 years old. Among the sports the youth will be competing in are golf, canoeing, archery, athletics, soccer, and softball.

Some of the preparations they've been working on are the construction of three new soccer fields and updating ball diamonds. There will be shower trailers, portable washrooms, campsites and plenty of firewood. Athletes will be well fed with mobile kitchens and will have nightly entertainment.

Kelly Villeneuve, manager of the Games, is encouraging visitors to utilize the canteen on the grounds or support local restaurants and business to help the region's economy.

"One of the philosophies of our games was to make sure that we were bridging communities in terms of Turtleford, St. Walberg, North Battleford, Edam – you know, the surrounding communi-

ties from Thunderchild – so that we improve the economy of the region as well," said Villeneuve.

The summer games will kick off on August 6 with spectacular opening ceremonies. They will begin with the arrival of the sacred lance runner.

"Sacred lance is very similar to a torch run in the Olympics where it goes from one past host to the current host so that will kick off our opening ceremonies. That's going to come from Onion Lake First Nation and it will end at the opening ceremonies," said Villeneuve.

The opening ceremonies will also include the parade of athletes, cultural dancing, live entertainment, dignitaries, and fireworks.

"It's going to be spectacular opening ceremonies where, really, it's going to rival what the North American Indigenous games have done in the past. We're really pumped about how that's going to turn out," said Villeneuve.

Organizers invited business and education institutions to attend to help athletes plan for the future. They will have daily workshops that talk about teen pregnancy and gangs.

"It's that whole philosophy when you



This runner from Onion Lake went all out at a previous Summer Games. Thunderchild First Nation expects 6000 athletes to visit their community in August. (Photo supplied)

have that many kids there, you want to make sure you're giving them not only the experience of competition, but the holistic approach as well, involving the cultural side as well as their future careers," said Villeneuve.

The biggest thing they are proud of, with the direction Chief Delbert Wapass and council, is they wanted to have this event on another level in terms of having all of the kids there for the entire week.

"As a host, we want to make sure that

those kids have the down time so that they can attend the career fair, get more leisure time, and start forming relationships with the different people that are here as well. We want to encourage that," said Villeneuve.

The Saskatchewan Indian Summer Games will provide a positive experience for the young athletes and visitors.

Thunderchild First Nation is proud to host from August 6-11.

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