

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Record crowds expected at Batoche



Photo by John Lagimodiere

**By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News**

Robert Doucette, president of Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) has high hopes for this year’s 125th Anniversary Back To Batoche Celebrations and Commemorations.

“I think that once in a person’s lifetime they get the chance to participate in something that has provided some change. I’m not talking about cosmetic change, I’m talking real change, something lasting and leaving a legacy.

And if there was ever a year and a celebration it’s the 125th celebration of the anniversary of Batoche,” said Doucette.

He sees the event as bringing families and communities back together, with healing and reconciliation

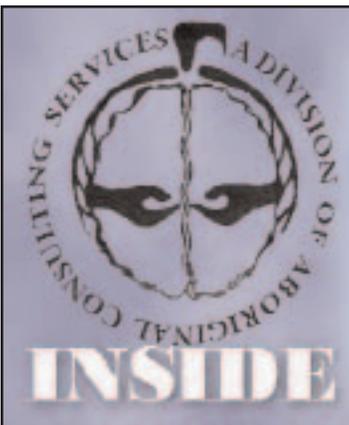
amidst all descendants.

“Something like this, it opens eyes not only nationally but internationally, throughout North America.”

Doucette has already seen all kinds of amazing artifacts – the rededication of the Red Cross flag that flew for the first time on Canadian soil in 1885, tending soldiers from both sides, and held Gabriel Dumont’s pipe in his hands – and heard stories of descendants meeting and reconciling.

“I believe this is an event that is going to leave lasting positive change for everyone in this country and on this continent. And change for the good,” said Doucette.

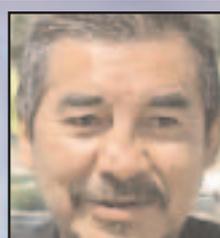
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Tristan Durocher is a SaskTel Youth Award winner.

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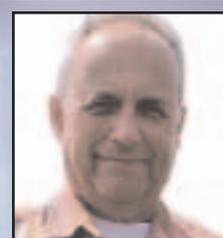
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Welcome to our Back to Batoche Edition Coming In August: Justice Issue

CPMA #40027204

Tristan Durocher born to fiddle

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

Tristan Durocher, winner of the SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Fine & Performing Arts Award, has only been playing fiddle four years.

“I started when I was ten – my grandpa played fiddle so I wanted to try it,” said Durocher, who lives in La Ronge and is proudly Métis.

“I was in P.A. and really, really wanted to get one and it was my birthday so my Gramma got it.

“At first, I played maybe a couple hours a week,” he said, adding his family wasn’t initially too supportive, because it was noisy.

“They were all just wondering when I was going to give up – but I liked it and I didn’t want to quit.”

Since his great-grandpa, who used to play, had passed on already, Durocher was the only fiddler in the family. In fact he says there’s really only one other fiddler in La Ronge, an oldtime fiddler named Ralph Opikokew. So after a year teaching himself, he began weekly lessons.

“He gave me free lessons because he’s an older guy and just wanted to keep fiddling alive,” Durocher said, adding he’s also found Back to Batoche, Kenosee Fiddle Camp, and the annual John Arcand Fiddlefest to be helpful.

“(At Fiddlefest) they have all different teachers and levels and styles of music. French-Canadian is my favourite. I have lots of fiddling friends there, one the same age as me who comes every year from B.C. and owns a John Arcand handmade fiddle too.”

Durocher was able to buy his own Arcand fiddle

by saving up “a couple thousand” from gigs – weddings, fundraisers, and dances – and now owns a \$3,500 fiddle made by the master of the Métis fiddle himself. For someone who’s only been performing for two years, he shows incredible poise and stage presence – in front of huge crowds and a television crew at the Youth Awards, he had a great patter and rapport, bringing laughs between songs and toe-tapping medleys. Not surprisingly his goal is to be a full-time performer.

“I’m doing a CD right now,” he said, of a recording he’s been working on since 2009.

“This guy has a studio right across the road from me, but we’re both really busy – I’m hoping by next year it will be out.”

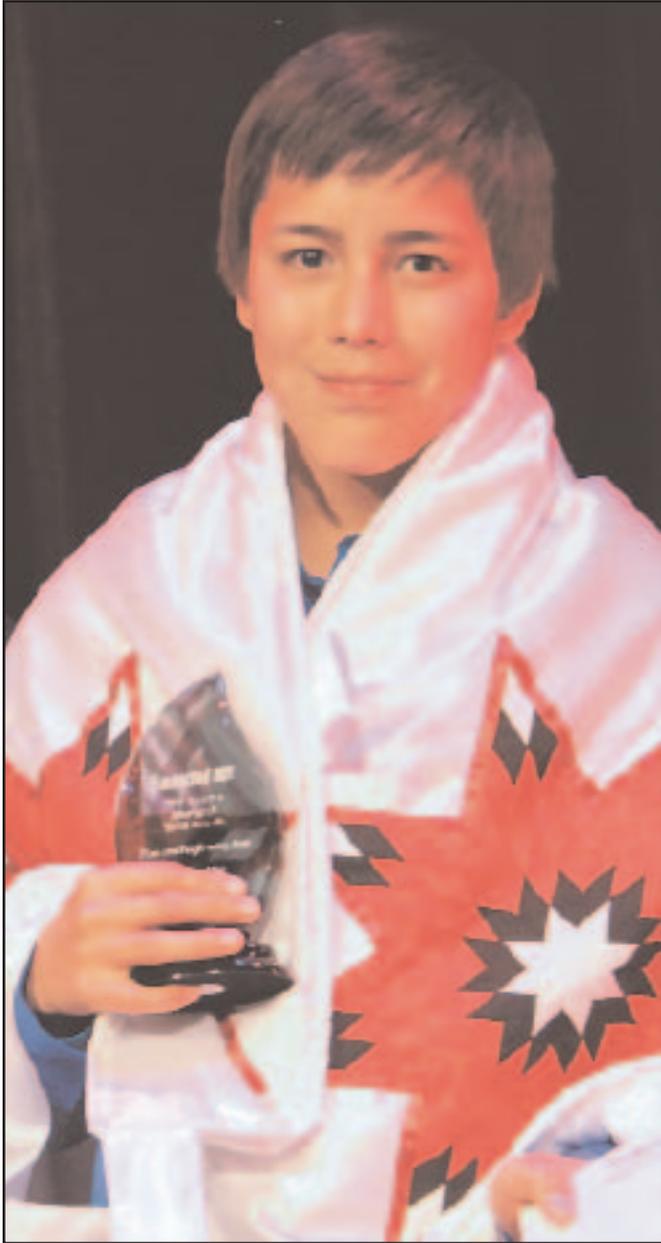
Since he’s still a few years away from driving, his Mom is his “little manager” for road trips, occasionally with a piano or guitar back-up, but usually just on his own. He says it was a pretty big thrill to win the Award, and it made the front page of “The Northerner” and his teacher had the cover page hung up.

“My classmates all think it’s cool,” he said, when asked about their reaction. As for Durocher, he was surprised.

“It happened quite fast. I really liked to see all the other kids – what they did and their interests – their stories and a lot of what they’ve been through, it was inspiring.”

His advice to other aspiring musicians?

“Don’t give up, whatever anyone says – who cares what they say? Just practice – you can’t do it overnight. Lots of people give up, but it takes hours and hours.”



Tristan Durocher is a SaskTel Youth Award winner.

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Louttitt running 100 km in her moccasins

By Dana Jacobs
For Eagle Feather News

Six years ago, when Shannon Loutitt decided to butt out her last cigarette, lace up her running shoes and hit the trails, she couldn't have known that her path would lead right into the history books.

On July 17, in honour of fallen veterans including those who gave their lives in the 1885 Northwest Resistance, Honour Runner Shannon Loutitt will run nearly 100 km from Saskatoon to Batoche in her moccasins. The journey coincides with Back to Batoche Days with a special reconciliation-ceremony taking place at the historic site the following day.



Damian, 10, hopes to run 15 km with his mom.

"The idea to honour run came to me when I found out about the reconciliation event," said Loutitt, "from there, it just started to grow – as these things have a way of doing."

To honour the Year of the Métis, Loutitt decided she would run in her moccasins.

"Then I thought, well, this would be a perfect opportunity for me to pass on the knowledge that I got from my grandfather's spirit so we decided to train 12 youth in the essence of honour running."

The 12 Saskatoon youth will deliver a special dispatch for the commemoration and reconciliation ceremony at Batoche National Historic Site. While Loutitt will run the entire six-hour, 100-km route, the youth will have an opportunity to rest in a following caravan, but one new messenger will be with her at all times. The messengers will set their own distance goals. The message will be etched into the monument at Batoche to be reflected on by site visitors for generations to come.

Loutitt, who is of Métis ancestry, said she initially wanted to make a contribution to the historic event because her family has a long tradition as soldiers and service people.

"I wanted to give back and for me, the best way I know how to do that is to go by what my grandfather's spirit taught me and that's the essence of honour running."

"The physical aspect is a small element in the action," said Loutitt who describes honour running as a non-competitive, holistic approach to running.

"You will be calling upon your intellect, emotion, spirit and body to take you there and the spirit and the spirits of others is what's really going to fuel you."

Loutitt's ten-year-old son Damian, who is one of the youth involved in carrying the message, expects to run as much as 15 km of the route.

"I think it should be good, my mom has been training me since I was about seven. It's a challenge but I can do it."

Recognizing that many people will not be able or available to take part in the run, Loutitt is inviting anyone who is interested in being part of this historic event to donate five dollars to the development of the garden monument at Batoche and have their name, or the name of a loved one, etched onto a wall or scribe on the site. Donation details can be found at mycharityauction.ca.



Shannon Loutitt in training for the big run.

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Editorial

Ride with a Rebel a lesson in Métis history

The Year of the Métis has been celebrated in many different ways and will certainly go off the charts with the expected 25,000 people expected at the Back to Batoche events due to begin on July 17.

There have been lunches, ceremonies, and National Aboriginal Day recognition, but the memory of the Year of Métis I will most likely carry into the future was a day spent on a horse with a dozen other riders, on the old Carlton Trail on the other side of the South Saskatchewan River from Batoche.

It all started with a READ Saskatoon fundraiser coordinated by Roberta Cross, where a horse ride at the Willow Creek Guest Ranch was auctioned off, with the lucky riders being led by me and John, the ranch owner, as we spoke about the history of the Métis in the territory and the events around the 1885 Resistance. It was billed as a "Ride with a Rebel" which I suppose was me, rebel that I am.

The high bidders for the ride were Don and Susan and they brought along several friends. With cooks, volunteers and guides, the posse for the ride numbered around 14 people. Of note, most people, including myself, had not been on a horse for several decades. We were all a bit apprehensive, but the hosts, John and Bette, were super professional and the horses were all really friendly and not prancing around, so the riders were very appreciative of that.

My horse was named Buck, which concerned me a bit, but he turned out to be a real gem of a horse. A Tennessee Walker who was saved from euthanasia at the vets, Buck was big, chestnut and had an affinity for Métis guys who hadn't been on horses for a while. We set out from the ranch, heading down the Carlton Trail on the opposite side of the river from Batoche.

According to John, whose family has lived on the land for several generations, the Carlton Trail split at Gabriel Dumont's crossing, and depending on where you were heading, you either took the north or south route to haul your trade goods. John was regularly teaching as we rode and at rest breaks. His knowledge of the land and people was limitless and a real asset to the trek.

We rode over hills, through fields and bush and at one time we had to power through a trail that was so saturated with the monsoon rains that have hit the province that the horses were up to their knees in mud. The horses all proved to be very surefooted and strong. Surprisingly, the riders, even though we were mostly novices, held fast through the tough ride and escaped unharmed except for the mud splatters.

We all stopped and across the river we could see the National Historic Site and the spire of the church steeple reaching to the sky through the woods. We took time to let the horses graze as we all breathed in the history of the territory and the people. After a history lesson by John and me about the Resistance and the impact on the Métis people, we set off on the last hour leg of the journey, facing some wind, nasty clouds and lightning in the distance.

John and I rode ahead, Buck, my horse, wanted to giddy up a bit, so I let him. As John and I were riding along he stopped for a minute and I caught up to him. He pointed to a big hill in the distance.

"That's All Mighty Voices hill," he said and then continued on. I had a shiver.

The history in the area is rich. The drama and heartache that played out for the Métis and First Nation people in the territory in 1885 and beyond was there in those trails, hills and land. All the stories are tied to that land, and being out on it on a horse like my ancestors and with a great guide and steward of the land like John, tied me to that history like never before.

We arrived back at the ranch, and after I tenderly alit from my horse, I gave Buck a good rub on his neck and thanked him for the great ride. Buck then gave me a friendly and gentle bump with his shoulder, like he was acknowledging me for being a good passenger.

When everyone else arrived, we then barbequed and visited, reflecting on the trip and the memories we all carry. What a ride.

What a memory.

Rank Comix

Adam Martin



Comments, letters, suggestions

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Phone: 306.978.8118 Toll Free: 866.323.6397 Fax: 306.978.8117

Publisher/Editor: John Lagimodiere, johnl@eaglefeathernews.com

Associate Editor: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

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

Protecting the Earth is everyone's responsibility

It's powwow, rodeo and Sundance season again and folks are on the road doing their summer rounds. Despite the challenging weather much has been going on around the province and country.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park almost burned down during a grass fire and had its grand re-opening ceremony. And 1885 commemorative activities are happening across the province, some of which are drawing considerable controversy. FNUC got a one year conditional reprieve. The Truth & Reconciliation Commission had its first big event in Winnipeg last month that drew thousands of participants from across the country.

The weather affects some folks more than others. Modern conveniences usually protect us from harsh weather but for those who live on the land and depend on the land for their survival are more vulnerable. Farmers are having a hard time, the mosquitoes are eating alive all the two-leggeds and four-leggeds with no access to Deep Woods or Raid, and most recently, our relatives at Poorman's endured a tornado that destroyed 15 homes leaving many families facing great hardships.

For many, it's been the heaviest summer rainfall in living memory. The Old

People and the scientists are telling us the climate is changing and it will get worse unless we change how we treat the Earth.

The biggest pollution culprits are multi-national resource exploitation and industrial corporations. Timber barons clear cut forests which results in soil erosion, loss of animal habitats, water pollution, and air pollution entering the atmosphere as greenhouse gases. It's the green areas that help filter and clean the air. Hydro electric development and mining are also ravaging the land, and now we have uranium mines.

Global warming makes for warmer winters but its impact on the environment and all living things will be catastrophic if we don't make it stop now. Global warming happens when the average temperature of the Earth's surface (land and oceans) increases. Since the 1950s, the global surface temperature has increased by little over 1 degree Fahrenheit which doesn't seem like a big deal, but it is because it is rising faster than it ever has before and will continue to rise unless we change our behaviour.

An increase in global temperatures is causing the sea levels in our oceans to rise, glaciers and polar ice to melt, the frequency and intensity of animal species extinctions, agricultural production, changes in the amount and frequency of rain, and extreme weather conditions.

A handful of companies are trying to reduce their footprint on the land, water and air but most aren't and our leaders and government are not doing enough to make them develop healthier practices. While we point fingers and slap all the blame on big corporations, reality is we are just as responsible.

Driving a vehicle or using gas, propane or coal to heat our houses increases the concentration of greenhouse gases in the air which is the major cause of global warming. Most folks don't realize that in Saskatchewan most of our electricity comes from burning coal. Our garbage dumps destroy the local environment and emit noxious gases, and our sewage destroys the water and affects all living things that depend on it including ourselves. We're seeing the affects of global warming all over the Earth and here

at home we have massive rainfall levels.

Sometimes it's hard for folks living in the city to think about what they are doing to the land because they don't see the impact of their actions. The garbage truck comes once a week and takes away household waste, the city sewage system looks after our grey and black water waste, and folks have just kind of accepted that air and noise pollution are a part of life in the cities.

As individuals we can do a lot to stop the increase in global warming. We can demand our city and community leaders provide alternative energy sources like solar (sun) and wind power, and thermal heat (from the ground).

We can drive our trucks and cars less often, stop wasting water, plant more trees, and recycle our waste products. And my major pet peeve: STOP using disposable diapers! Each baby uses thousands of disposable diapers until she or he is potty trained. That's billions of disposable diapers each year adding tons of toxic waste not just in garbage dumps and tons of pollution from the manufacturing process that makes the plastic, pulp and paper.

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Celebrating Achievements and Excellence

The enduring ghosts of Wanuskewin's White Clay People

I made a visit to Wanuskewin recently. The interpretive center has changed quite a bit. The old buffalo pound has been moved outside. The wildlife and buffalo jump exhibit are gone, as is the original archaeology lab.

The main display area is a large hall featuring Allan Sapp paintings describing First Nation life in the 1930-1940s. Modern Cree Elders speak from large visual displays.

There are very few ancient artifacts and there is very little mention of the people who lived here long ago, before the Cree. The exhibit, though well designed and presented, is sadly missing a more ancient content.

In a time before the horse there were a people who lived along the South Saskatchewan River valley called the Aaninine, the White Clay People. They were allies of the Blackfoot and close relatives to the Arapahoe.

The White Clay lived in camps scattered between the river forks from where the Red Deer meets the South Saskatchewan and to where the North Saskatchewan meets the South Saskatchewan.

The Wanuskewin site was certainly a well used camping and hunting site of theirs for perhaps a thousand years. The remote world of the White Clay people dominates Wanuskewin like an ever present ghost.

The White Clay appeared to have migrated sometime in the distant past from the Upper Missouri region of present day Montana.

Their origin myth tells of a crossing of the frozen Upper Missouri in winter. A long line of their ancestors were crossing from north to south when a child saw a horn poking out from the ice and asked his mother to retrieve it for him.

She chopped at it and blood spurted out. An enraged water monster then arose from the ice and thrashed about sending the people running to either bank. Neither could cross and so they went their separate ways.

Those who stayed on the south became the Arapahoe and those on the north became the Aaninine.

When the French explorer Laverendre first met the White Clay he

asked them by what name they called themselves. This question was interpreted as where do you come from. They replied in sign language extending their hands forward and down. Laverendre thought they meant big belly or Gros Ventre people.

They were showing him, however, that they came from the place of the waterfall (Great Falls Montana?)

The Aaninine may have lived along the South Saskatchewan River for over a thousand years. They are the people who most likely left behind the mysterious stone medicine wheels and hundreds of stone tipi rings.

They are not mentioned in the Wanuskewin literature despite their lengthy most ancient presence. They need to be.

They left behind artifacts of stone, buffalo bone beds and fire pits. Their sheltered valley was a perfect camping site and no other so suitable existed for many miles. They were the ones who most likely built on a nearby high hill the most northern of the medicine stone wheels.

The Aaninine descendants are very much alive and living in North Dakota. The tribal historians I have communicated with are very much interested in Wanuskewin and other historical sites along the river valley.

They have a rich oral history that could be a basis for a most interesting Wanuskewin interpretive display.

There is an understandable reluctance among contemporary First Nations people to acknowledge another people lived here long before them.

There is a fear that should such knowledge become widespread it would endanger land rights and land settlements. This argument does not stand. Land rights are intact.

There is also a tendency for people to emphasize their world as they know it. Contemporary issues and a powwow culture predominate.

Five thousand years of history, however, are contained in multiple layers of soil like the pages of a book. Wanuskewin is older than the pyramids.

There should be no reluctance in bringing forth such a fascinating history.



REBEL RIDERS

The READ Saskatoon Celebrity Auction Fundraiser included a horse ride with Eagle Feather News publisher John Lagimodiere and horses and leadership from John and Bette at the Willow Creek Guest Ranch located near Rosthern. The tour included mudding, grazing and beautiful views of the South Saskatchewan river valley and the Batoche National Historic Site.

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What's next and what's new in Eagle Feather News ...

Are you in jail?

The August edition of Eagle Feather News will be our justice issue. With Aboriginal men and women being way over incarcerated in our Saskatchewan penal institutions, most people realize there has to be change.

Our August issue will focus on crime, punishment and rehabilitation. Recently we received a letter from a fellow on remand in Saskatoon describing some of the rotten conditions and food that they have to deal with as they are warehoused for future court dates. It does not sound like a good place to be.

We distribute Eagle Feather News to many prisons and jails for our brothers and sisters that are inside so they can stay up-to-date on the community and to be able to avoid some of that relentless boredom, at least for a while. Thanks to our friend inside for the compliments in the letter ... which made us think.

There must be a million stories going on inside of our jails and we want to let those inside tell those stories. So, dear inmates around Saskatchewan, here is your chance to be heard. Please send us stories about life inside. The stories can be funny, sad, about your cell mate, a bad guard, a nice guard, the food, lifting weights, gangs, how you are innocent, how they can fix the system ... whatever fills your boots.

There is a bit of a catch though. We need these letters before August 5. We know that is a bit of a short time frame with little notice but how about some motivation? The three best letters will be rewarded by us sending \$50 to your child, kohkum or family to help with some expenses while you are inside. Is that motivation enough for ya?

The three best letters will be published in August. Now don't worry, we will withhold your name if requested because we do know that what comes around goes around inside so we will protect your identity. We are not here to get you sent to the hole, or stabbed up in the yard. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mail your letter to:
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As you can tell, this is the Year of the Métis and the biggest Back to Batoche celebrations ever are planned for a week in mid July and Eagle Feather News will be there in full force with three different writers and photographers' descending on the joint to get the scoop on this massive cultural event. Those stories and photos will be in our August edition.

What's new?

Well, we found a new Arts and Entertainment columnist and we didn't have to look far. Our own freelance writer Jessica Iron has stepped up to fill the big shoes left behind by Mike Gosselin. We look forward to Jess bringing us the A&E scene from around Saskatchewan. Welcome Jess!

We also want to welcome Peggy Robillard as our new advertising consultant. Peggy is from James Smith and has a strong background in sales and event planning. Welcome Peggy!

And we welcome Adam Martin to the team as our political/humour/insight cartoonist. Adam is a student at FNUC in Regina and has made a name for himself with his

scathing cartoons about the decline of FNUC. We expect him to challenge our readers with his bold ideas and no fear approach. You will enjoy him. The reader below, not so much.

Angry reader

We received this letter from a reader upset with last month's Rank Comix from Adam Martin.

"Hello, I would just like to say that the Rank Comix by Adam Martin has got to be one of the most idiotic depictions of First Nation's people to date. The June issue has what appears to be a First Nations man wearing a gang style bandana with an eagle feather in the back. The character is making what are obvious gang related gestures with his hands, while all the while smiling as if it were cool, or a part of First Nations heritage to be gang associated. With the association of this comic with the catch phrase "Happy Aboriginal Day" posted all over it would give the reader the impression that First Nations peoples are somehow proud that we have the highest rate of gang activity per capita in Saskatchewan. What are you guy's thinking? Do you not realize the negative connotations that First Nations people already have due to gang violence and activity amongst First Nations communities? I am very disappointed that this even made it to print, furthermore I will no longer be a reader and supporter of Eagle Feather News."

Just as an FYI, the face of the offending gang member is actually the face of the mascot of the Cleveland Indians. And as to the gang signs, we know scads of young people, not in gangs, that flash signs all over the place, all the time. We hope this reader comes back.

“

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Kawacatoose reeling in wake of tornado

By Creeson Agecoutay
For Eagle Feather News

In a matter of seconds Allan Dustyhorn and his family lost everything when a tornado touched down on the community of Kawacatoose First Nation. All that was left was the family's basement.

It was something he will never forget.

"Bang! And a big boom happened and within a second the place tore apart. It was history," Dustyhorn said.

"We were out on the balcony watching this cloud and it kept getting worse, seeing a funnel cloud going up and down. All of a sudden the trees were getting wilder and we booked her downstairs after that. We made it in the last second downstairs and shut the door."

Dustyhorn and his family of seven took cover under their stairs.

Dustyhorn's neighbor, Mike Desjarlais, was sitting in his house next door at the time, having coffee and watched in horror as the 300-kilometer winds from the confirmed F3 tornado ripped down the house.

"Just a matter of ten seconds, fifteen seconds we seen this house lift about three feet in the air. Like it was tossed by somebody," said Desjarlais.

The tornado struck just after 5 p.m. in the Kawacatoose and Raymore area about an hour north of Regina. Trees are torn from their roots and cars are crushed as debris is left scattered across the prairies. More than 80 people were left homeless

as 15 houses were damaged or destroyed in the southern subdivision just a kilometer from the Kawacatoose band office.

The current estimate of damages for the reserve is in the millions. The Canadian Red Cross, provincial disaster relief and other organizations are providing help for the families. Many of them are staying at Regina and local town hotels.

Alana Asapass has been moving from hotel to hotel daily.

"First night we were in Saskatoon. Two nights we were in Dafoe, now tonight I don't know where they're going to put us up now," said Asapass.

Eighty-six-year-old elder, Maria Tobacco was also living in a tent with her family but is now living in a house with other relatives.

Chief Darin Poorman of Kawacatoose says everyone is very fortunate to be alive.

"First of all we were very lucky as a community. We didn't lose any lives. A few broken bones, scars, bruises, but there are no lives lost," he said.

Chief Poorman says many of the houses are insured and can be rebuilt, but he also says many families will have to rebuild their lives.

"Personal belongings are something that cannot be insured. It is not a common practice to collect insurance on reserve."

Beverly Machiskinic was going to bring her granddaughter and visit one of



More than a dozen homes were destroyed or damaged and 80 people are homeless.

the houses that was destroyed. All she could think about in the tornado's wake was her family members who live in many of the houses that were damaged.

"Never thought it would ever happen to us. I seen it on TV but I never thought it would ever happen to us."

The clean-up now begins but the tornado has left many homeless. For them, the road is uncertain but disaster relief is on the way. The population of Kawaca-

toose First Nation is just over 1,400 and the reserve is now having trouble with overcrowding as there are situations where two or three families are living in one house.

Chief and council are requesting food, clothing, and money from all levels of government to rebuild.

An account has been set up with Scotiabank to accept donations for Kawacatoose First Nation.



Allan Dustyhorn's family lost all their belongings when the tornado hit.



Are you eating candy for breakfast?

Eating a well-balanced breakfast to fuel your body is a great way to start the day. However, your present breakfast cereal may not be the healthiest option. Some sugary cereals have just as many or more calories than candy bars.

The array of cereals sold in the grocery store is overwhelming, making it tricky to know which cereal to choose and which to leave on the shelf. Don't be fooled, read the nutrition information to make sure you are choosing cereal and not candy for breakfast.

Start by reviewing the ingredient list. Select a cereal that has whole grains listed as the first ingredient. Next, check the nutrition facts table. A healthier choice meets the criteria of at least 2 grams (g) of fibre, less than 8 g of sugar and no more than 2 g of fat per 30 g serving.

Unable to give up your favourite sugary, high fat or low fibre cereal? Try one of the following ideas:

- **Focus on fibre!** Choose a whole grain cereal that has more than 2 g of fibre per serving, even if the sugar is higher than 8 g per serving.
- **Mix it up!** Combine your favorite cereal with a high fibre, low sugar cereal to ensure you get the added benefits of whole grains and fibre.
- **Naturally sweet!** Choose a cereal with less than 8 g of sugar and add some fruit such as blueberries, strawberries or banana to add fibre and sweeten it up.



You can also try other breakfast foods such as whole grain toast with peanut butter or hot cereals with sliced fruit. Avoid sweetened instant oatmeal, as this tends to be high in sugar.

Some sugary cereals have just as many or more calories than candy bars.

Other breakfast ideas include eggs scrambled with a variety of fresh vegetables, egg burritos with a little cheese and salsa to spice them up or whole grain pancakes topped with fresh fruit and vanilla flavoured yogurt. Be creative with your breakfast!

The bottom line: Don't kick off the day with candy cereal. Although cereal can be a healthy choice for breakfast, read the label and aim for one that is whole grain, has at least 2 g of fibre, less than 8 g of sugar and no more than 2 g of fat per 30 g serving.

– Contributed by the Public Health Nutritionists of Saskatchewan

CUMFI, CHEP promoting healthy living

For generations, Aboriginal people lived off the bounty of this land.

They lived actively, in nature, freely enjoying the goodness the Earth provided. But those age-old connections are being lost in our modern and urban setting.

But it doesn't have to be so. CUMFI and CHEP are working together to support healthy living. They know that what people eat and what we do are important to the quality and well-being of our time on this Earth.

In this, the Year of the Métis, CUMFI and CHEP have collaborated on a series of colourful posters encouraging a healthy lifestyle of physical activity and nutritious eating. These posters emphasize:

• Healthy eating builds a healthy body. Eating well doesn't mean giving up the foods you love; it means choosing wisely and being adventurous in trying new things.

• Sports teach us to work hard and have fun at the same time. Sports provide a positive learning experience and develop self confidence, self-esteem and teamwork skills. Children and youth feel good about themselves.

Children and youth can be our models for healthy living. They serve to remind us that our community thrives when everyone is active and eating well. CUMFI and CHEP are community organizations that work for the people.

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It's a strange world in The Year of the Métis

So this is the Year of the Métis? This according to the Government of the Saskatchewan, anyway. In context it appears to relate to commemorative activities related to the well-known events of 1885: the last 19th century armed battle between Canadian indigenous folks and British-Canadian forces.

Those events are an indelible part of history around here. They are also full of contradictions, revisionism, nationalism, and emotionalism. Seems like just the thing to stir summer thoughts, especially in July when the 'Back to Batoche' events are always held.

The events of 1885 mark a great watershed in our history. According to Joseph K. Howard, the American who wrote the most readable account of 1885 in his book, *The Strange Empire of Louis Riel*, 1885 marked the last possibility to establish a 'native state' in Western Canada. In fact there was never the necessary political will amongst the indigenous nations to unite against the common enemy.

In the United States to the south, the victory of Sitting Bull at Little Big Horn and his taking refuge in Saskatchewan territory with his people had long passed, even though the American army never finished its dirty work against Indians until it massacred the unarmed men women and children at Wounded Knee in 1890.

The year 1885 marked the last days of freedom for the plains indigenous peoples who were henceforth to be

condemned to life in misery at the margins of a new society that has made a fortune on our lost homelands. We have to watch what we join in celebrating.

Pierre Berton has made famous the story of The Last Spike that symbolizes the completion of the CPR across Canada in 1885, and Canadians view that event as an historic turn in the building of their nation, linking Canada from sea to sea. For indigenous folks, 1885 marks the last spike in the coffin of aspirations for political freedom and economic self-sufficiency.

One thing for sure about 1885, you are not likely to get agreement on much about its events. The contemporary accounts are very good at reflecting the ethnic and political animosity and racism of the times but can not be relied upon for a fair interpretation. Today on the other hand, we are occasionally served up with giddy revisionist accounts from a variety of quarters, which shows us only that 1885 is indeed indelible in our history.

Views amongst the descendants of those engaged in the events of 1885 are not less subject to different interpretations or insistent views. For some the brilliant tactics of warrior chief Fine Day make him the most successful

military commander of 1885 who routed the best the militia could throw at him at Cutknife Hill.

For others, there was absolutely no Cree involvement in hostilities at all, they remaining loyal to the Queen even

as she sent an army after them.

I have an old memory about Gabriel Dumont in the admiring words of my father, who took a trip to Batoche in his new car when he finally retired at age 75.

"You can still see the bullet holes in the church," he said, and told the story about Gabriel's defiant message to Middleton as he left for Montana.

"Tell Middleton I am still in the woods. Tell him I still have 90 cartridges to use on his men"

There is Métis pride I tell you.

Some, including many of our own people today, prefer to whitewash the whole thing: let us go to Ottawa and ask the descendants of those who hanged Riel to please pardon him. Sycophantic simpering!

The many private members' bills to exonerate Riel all have one thing in common: they seek absolution from the politicians that they see as holding the moral standard for Canadian history, and they propose nothing about the cause for which Riel died: the Métis cause.

Riel without the Métis cause is a Quebec hero, and indeed he has been used as bait for secessionists by Quebec federalists and their ilk. Forgive and forget! Forgive Riel and forget the Métis.

It is a strange world, indeed. It is from Quebec also that we hear about newly sprouted organizations of lost souls who are having meetings to decide whether they are Métis or Indians. Perhaps it is something in the water over there. For the Métis out here who have deep roots in history and who share the common remembering of a people, all this postmodernist wrangling can be puzzling. As one book says, "If you are a people, where are your stories?"

Let us honour our ancestors and commemorate their actions. Let us remember the fall of Batoche. But let us remember too some of the stories of victory: such as kicking the English out of Red River in 1816, the memorable occasion being captured in the Métis national anthem composed on the evening of the victory by Pierriche Falcon.

That was the Battle of Seven Oaks a few miles north of the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. You can get a copy of the song on CD and a story about it from Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Let us resurrect Canada's oldest national anthem on its 194th anniversary. And let the festivities be led by our artists and our young people. Don't stop fiddling around.



Comment
Paul Chartrand



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PLEASANT HILL POWWOW

The Year of the Métis was celebrated at the Pleasant Hill Powwow in June. Here three awesome Métis ladies, basketball legend Jacquie Lavalée, actress Maureen Bellanger and actress and singer Andrea Menard take time from the festivities for a photo. Even though the event was moved a few days because of the darn rain, the turnout this year was as strong as ever.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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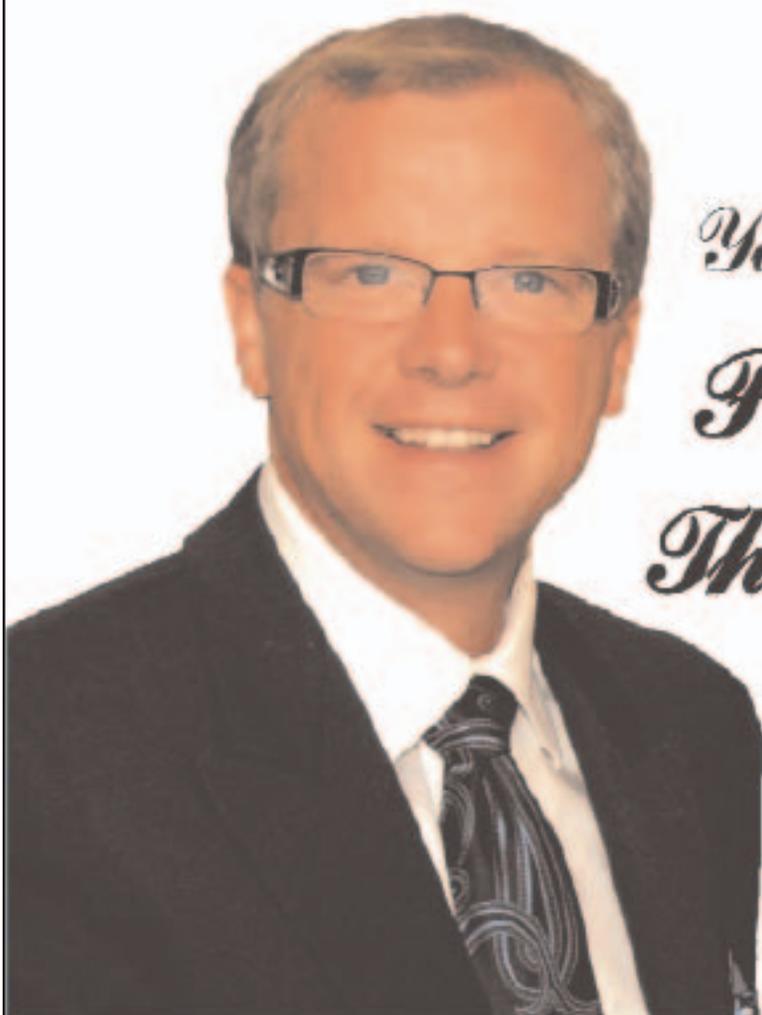
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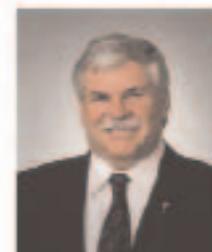
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Back to Batoche will be best ever

• Continued from Page 1

So what can be expected at Back To Batoche?

"Family oriented fun where people can participate and learn about the rich vibrant cultures of the Métis – not just of Saskatchewan but of North America – it's a once in a lifetime chance for people to say they were at Batoche in 2010."

Doucette extends thanks to the organizing committee, all the volunteers, and organizer Claire Belanger-Parker of CNT Management Group who have been "working really hard to bring the best Batoche we've seen in over a decade and maybe in our lifetime."

He also thanks Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall for his belief and openness to declaring the provincial Year of the Métis – "Creating that environment where we all feel like we are citizens of this province and this country."

And he gives kudos to the Gabriel Dumont Institute and Eagle Feather News for "doing an amazing job providing info that people really didn't think about – opening up the eyes of people to the culture of the Métis and their contributions, and generally a lot of respect and honour for Métis citizens. We owe a debt of gratitude to Eagle Feather and GDI, they've done a great job."

Site improvements include another modern kitchen and gazebo – rain or shine, people can visit in comfort – and five pavilions for the other governing members of Canada's Métis Nations to showcase what they're doing in their regions. Additional RV plug-ins and site upgrades will leave people "proud and amazed at capital improvements, which is going to lead to other economic spinoffs and tourism opportunities," said Doucette, providing revenues so that MN-S can become self-sustaining, a legacy to leave to the youth.

"The first Sunday we'll have mass in the morning, and then unveil the veteran's monuments – a commemoration/reconciliation at Batoche to pay tribute to all the fallen, both sides," said Doucette, adding it speaks volumes of the Métis to build a united rather than divided community, a testimony to the long-standing ability for the culture's recognizing both sides and perspectives because of their rich blend of history and traditions.

"I'm proud to be part of that ... and I think that's the strength of the Métis people."

Event planner Claire Belanger-Parker notes the extension to eight days of entertainment, from 10 a.m. to midnight every day, is a much larger event than has ever been held.



"We have entertainers from all over North America – the U.S., Ontario, Manitoba, B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan," she noted.

On Friday, July 23, at 6 p.m., there will be an attempt to break a world record of 888 people playing the spoons, something she says will be easy. The next day, Saturday, features Michelle Wright, now based in Nashville but a card-carrying Métis from Ontario.

"There are lots of cultural activities – workshops from genealogy to birch-bark-biting to historical cultural and linguistic



Claire Belanger-Parker

workshops. GDI will be doing multiple activities – there will be films – all the competitions that are always held. The belt buckles that are prizes for the rodeo are the most beautiful I've ever seen. There is a phenomenal youth and children program created and led by Métis youth. It's Back To Batoche multiplied by eight."

Belanger-Parker began organizing in September of last year, when the MN-S looked at the scope of the event and the

type of requests they were getting and realized an established events company could coordinate and plan it best. She's been in the event managements and tourism industry for 11 years, but "Batoche is the largest event and by far the most challenging and exciting."

Raised in Quebec, she noted almost everyone in her home community is Métis, with 400 years of cohabitation – she is 11th generation – so she understands Michif, and shares background and culture such as medicine,



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Batoche an opportunity to forgive

plants, recipes, traditions, and upbringing.

“We’re working on the assumption of 30,000 people – but every day people tell me my numbers are too low,” she says, adding the 180 electrical campsites will be in high demand as reservations were already being made for them last year, but 1,000 RV’s are predicted.

Thus far, very few have pre-registered, but she’s had calls from all over Canada and the U.S. from descendants from all sides who are preparing to come out by the busload, including family reunions – as well as First Nations who want to be with their Métis brothers and sisters for the event.

“There’s lots of room for tenting and we’ll be working with One Arrow for any overflow.”

Water, waste management, and bathroom facilities are her main logistical concern – she has a backup plan in place in case numbers exceed predictions.

“And there’s also the cost – two and a half days cost \$30 – eight days is \$50 – people are concerned but to have it any lower is suicidal and we’re managing very carefully because we know the cost of security, waste, and water – every drop of water has to be hauled in.”

There are many workshops and activities being planned, as well as sports and culture, and an artisans village with commercial and small-scale vendors.

Martin Caron, from the original Caron family homestead, will have a beautiful display of pictures in the Elder’s lodge.

“He moved away when he was 13 years old – he’s really excited about this. Sunday the 18th is the day that I’m looking forward to the most – it’s the down-to-earth quiet time together – mass in the morning followed by hundreds of people in the grand entry.

“All are descendants on all sides of the Battle, and they are invited to come together to commemorate the fallen.

“They’re invited to come in period costumes, and be at the Batoche Historic site by 2 p.m. Each name will be read out loud and descendants will be asked to rise and wave so that we may acknowledge their presence. A very special program has been in the works for weeks, youth and Elders will play an important role in this ceremony – and there’s the blessing of the Veteran’s garden in the afternoon. The trees we planted two weeks ago look like they’ve been there forever, there are benches, it’s a beautiful area where the National Veterans Métis Monument will go in a year or two,”



MN-S President Robert Doucette says organizers have worked hard to plan a fantastic Back to Batoche.

Belanger-Parker said.

“Batoche is the most beautiful outdoor festival site in the province by far. It has the buildings, the infrastructure, the services, and the land mass – and the fact it is an alcohol and drug-free event makes it that much more inviting to Métis families.”

One other thing she noticed was calls coming in from descendants and Elders who have had enough of pain and want to forgive and be changed by this experience, and embrace reconciliation.

“We’ve been doing the same thing for 125 years and we’re still hurting – it’s time to move on.”

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 (INCLURE LA BATAILLE)
 LE 17 JUILLET: BATOCH 100th BIRTHDAY, BATTLE BATTLE
 LE 22 JUILLET: CÉLÉBRATION DE BATOCH 100th BIRTHDAY
 LE 24-25 JUILLET: CÉLÉBRATION DE BATOCH 100th BIRTHDAY
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2010 - The Year

Year of the Métis celebrated in a BIG Way

On May 31, 2010 over 40 people gathered at Batoche National Historic Site to participate in a photo shoot destined to become this year's National Aboriginal Day and Year of the Métis poster.

A collaboration between the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), Batoche National Historic Site, and Friends of Batoche brought forth the idea to have people assemble for a photo in which they hold a 20 x 40 foot Métis flag in front of the Saint Antoine-de-Padoue Church at Batoche. The church is a well-known image familiar to many as representing the site.

A long run of cold and rainy days preceded the shoot which kept the grass and trees from showing their usual greenery at this time of year. It even seemed likely that the shoot would be

called off because May 31 was cold and wet. Despite the conditions, over 40 people assembled for what seemed to be the only few minutes of sun available that day.

Photographs were taken both from a crane and from a helicopter. Ultimately, a photo taken by Tracey Verishine of Parks Canada was selected for the poster. Video footage taken from the helicopter by David Morin will be incorporated into other projects later in the year.

A great deal of coordination was required beforehand.

Besides promoting the event and arranging for the helicopter, crane, photographers, and videographers, the shoot had to be held between the time school groups left and the sun went down. Batoche is a busy place in the spring and groups of students are

Métis Did you know?

Did you know? During the Battle of Batoche women were melting lead from tea chests for bullets.

Did you know? Gabriel Dumont performed in Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in 1886 and in 1887.

Did you know? Gabriel Dumont had no biological children of record.

Did you know? Many Métis from Willow Bunch became successful ranchers and cowboys due to their useful skills from buffalo hunting.



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research



Year of the Métis



frequently on the move from one area of the site to another. Some candid shots with school groups holding the flag will be archived on the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture, known at GDI as the VM.

As many people who wanted to be in the picture couldn't leave work to do so, the shoot was scheduled between 4 and 6 p.m. to give people travel time yet ensure sufficient daylight remained.

Some day this will be an historic photo and people will wonder who was in it. The photo releases for each participant included taking their picture with their name clearly evident so the participants can be identified in the future. Sadly, there are many archival photos in which the subjects are not known.

This photo is different. GDI will be posting a "who's who" version of the photo, with all participants face forward, in the near future on the VM.

The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan provided its anniversary logo "Remember with Pride" to add a special touch.

- Article by Karon Shmon, Photograph by Tracey Verishine

Chronology of the 1885 Resistance

1885 (March 21)

Louis Riel demanded the surrender of nearby Fort Carlton.

1885 (March 26)

The first battle of the 1885 Resistance occurred at Duck Lake. The Métis, under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont, defeated a party of North-West Mounted Police officers and settler volunteers

1885 (Late March)

The first battle of the 1885 Resistance occurred at Duck Lake. The Métis, under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont, defeated a party of North-West Mounted Police officers and settler volunteers.

To be continued next month ...

Prepared by the Gabriel Dumont Institute with material developed by Darren Prefontaine, Leah Dorion, Ron Laliberté, and Father Guy Lavallée.



GDI to host cultural conference in its 30th anniversary year

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) is celebrating 30 years of success in 2010 – along with the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Resistance and trial of Louis Riel, the 105th anniversary of Saskatchewan's entrance into Confederation, the 40th anniversary of the Back To Batoche festival, and the 25th anniversary of the GDI Curriculum/Publishing Department.

To celebrate and commemorate all these anniversaries during what has now been federally proclaimed as "Year of the Métis", GDI is hosting a cultural conference and general assembly on Nov. 18 to 20, 2010. The dates chosen include the anniversary of Louis Riel's death, which is always a recognized date and stat holiday with GDI.

The theme will be, "Rooted in Culture, Seeding the Future", and will celebrate the many milestones of 2010 while continuing to build on the success and perseverance of GDI and the Métis people, and celebrate the many programs and partnerships that have flourished over the past decades.

"We wanted to, as a non-profit institution owned and operated by Saskatchewan's Métis, give back to the Métis community for their direction, support, and leadership," noted GDI's Publishing co-ordinator Karon Shmon, as she described the events.

"There are a number of milestones we're going to celebrate with that cultural conference."

The conference will blend cultural, academic, and Michif language workshop sessions – workshops on genealogy, beading, and studies will be just some of the offerings on culture, education, history, research, and resources – while giving the community an opportunity to celebrate the success of the institute.

"A highlight of the celebration will be the awarding of 'The Order of Gabriel Dumont'," said Shmon, something which hasn't been done since the 25th anniversary, and used to be done more regularly in the past.

"It's awarded to people who have made a significant contribution to the Métis, regardless of their heritage or background – and student achievement will also be recognized – with bronze awards."

The gala celebration will include entertainment by several Métis performers including Andrea Menard, Donny Parenteau, and John Arcand. Another highlight will be the launch of the Métis National Anthem. Originally written by Clint Buehler and Dennis Charney – Dennis has since passed on – it was a traditional and very beautiful tune but using all the verses at every occasion was a bit lengthy.

"GDI is making and launching a new CD with both versions – and sung by male and female voices, as well as an instrumental, of the long and short versions. It was time it came out again and the appropriate way to do it was to make sure Clint was involved," said Shmon.

"It's the same tune and chorus, but the single verse is a more comprehensive one about Métis pride and survival."

Shmon, along with Clint Buehler, Andrea Menard, and Donny Parenteau, all sat at Batoche on National Aboriginal Day 2009 to write the verse, something Shmon called simply "the right place with the right people at the right time."

The newest version of the National Anthem, which has the same strong message but in a more condensed form, will be used at the first time during Back to Batoche, in July. GDI also plans to have a strong presence at Back To Batoche, both in volunteering and in providing services.

"We know people will want our resources," Shmon said.

As well, the "Remember With Pride" logo is part of creating a strong visual identity – and Shmon is also very pleased with the posters that have been made from a photo shoot via helicopter, which featured youth holding a huge Métis flag in front of the Batoche church.

Supporting the Back to Batoche festival has been a priority, noted Lisa Wilson, Programs Officer for GDI.

"We've been a member of the 125th Anniversary Back to Batoche planning committee, sponsored the logo contest by creating the contest ad for the 125th Anniversary logo, contributed financially, partnered with Eagle Feather News for a monthly feature during the Year of the Métis, and contributed 25 staff days for GDI's staff to volunteer during the festival," said Wilson.



Elders Rose Fleury, Edwin St. Pierre and Harriet Oaks visit at Batoche during National Aboriginal Day celebrations coordinated by GDI at Batoche National Historic Site. Rose is the community Elder and her focus is genealogy, Edwin was there as a veteran and Harriett was there as a Michif specialist. (Photo GDI)

But beyond Back To Batoche, GDI has been bringing other events, launches, programming, and support to the community and will continue to do so – Wilson is busy working on the November Cultural Conference, among other projects.

"What's really been interesting and pleasing to me is the interest from the non-Métis community – media and non-Métis publications that want to include something about the year of the Métis," noted Shmon.

There have been many mainstream media features, pieces, and inserts, along with support

at events like National Aboriginal Day.

"One of the things we did right off the hop was to prepare a piece on why we prefer the term "resistance" to "rebellion" – it's out of respect."

Shmon adds that to challenge long-held historical terms created by the victors of the event, who were also, by default, the recorders of it, is to challenge people to rethink events from both sides, and use critical thinking – not a process of censoring or political correctness but rather a deepening of understanding.



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Derek Theoret and Derek Gareau are both from Bellevue and are excited be sharing their history and the history of the area with visitors in this special year during their jobs as Junior Interpreters at the Batoche National Historic Site. "Not only do I get to share my history, but I am learning some as well," said Gareau. "Our family has long ties here as my great great grandfather built the last farmhouse in the Park." (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Parks Canada ready for Batoche

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

Batoche National Historic Site is already bustling.

"Visitation is up even though weather hasn't been great," said Ray Fiddler, site manager for the Parks Canada facility, referring to the daily rains that have been 'flooding the plains' lately.

"But in the morning there is usually beautiful sunshine."

Almost every weekend this summer (July 3, 10, 17, 31, and August 7 and 14) involve special events from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. – finger-weaving, beading, rope-making, woodworking, quilting, and bannock-baking are just some of the activities focused on "rediscovering the East Village" – cultural events working with partners.

Stuart Prosper of One Arrow will be leading a Parks Day nature medicine walk on July 10 and 17. Family fun weekend is July 31 with a petting zoo, voyageur games for kids, and more.

July 17 to July 25 will also be busy with several partnered events with Back To Batoche just down the road. Parks Canada will assist with Reconciliation Ceremonies on Sunday, July 18. Monday, July 19 will see a nature trail walk, while Thursday and Friday will see guided wagon rides between the two sites. On July 25, closing ceremonies and procession to the mass grave will mark the final day of the 125th anniversary commemorations.

"During Back To Batoche we're working with several artisans doing skits and performances on the grounds," Fiddler said. Gregory Scofield and Maria Campbell are two performers who will bring poetry, readings, and story-telling

to life. In addition, 3 of the 8 days will see free admission for those with wristbands, and reduced admission on all other days. "Entrance fee is free on the 18th, 19th, and 25th, and set at \$3.90, the reduced student fee, for the other days."

Regular admission is \$7.90/person, but Fiddler notes the two sites have traditionally tried to support each other. Parks Canada will also be setting up different exhibits throughout the site using what has been removed from the Visitor Centre which is under renovations.

Lisa Leuty, one of the project managers for the renovation, explained that while there have been many questions about the timing of the renovations, which will include a revamped multimedia show and display, and upgraded roofing, heating, and cooling systems, it was not a local decision.

"In order to do the badly needed repairs and upgrades, funds were only temporarily available from the Canadian Economic Action Plan - in order to complete the renos it had to be accessed while it was there.

"We would have much preferred a different time frame but you have to go with when the funding is available," Leuty said, adding upgrades will be complete by next year.

While the current visitor centre is closed, there are temporary facilities by the church and rectory, including parking, washrooms, and a couple of trailers with a temporary version of the media show, as well as a patio area and gift shop.

"We're hoping to have more temporary displays – the biggest road-blocks have been the weather, we've been hoping for tents but so far it's been too wet."



2010 YEAR OF THE MÉTIS: Show Your Pride

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Whether you visit Back to Batoche to share in Métis pride, history and resilience; journey through the historic Trails of 1885; or, take in the events happening in your own community, we hope you find time to celebrate and experience the rich history, culture and contributions of the Métis during this special year.

Congratulations to the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and to our Métis friends on this momentous occasion.



Honourable Ken Cheveldayoff
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations
Minister Responsible for Northern Affairs



Saskatchewan
Ministry of
First Nations and
Métis Relations

No nepotism in first column, trust me

Hello readers! I'm very excited to take over the Arts & Entertainment column because I love Eagle Feather News and I love the Arts. I'm a total word nerd, movie geek and art freak – to the max!

I'm from Canoe Lake, but I live in Prince Albert – where I work at Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) as a creative writer.

I'm not going to deny... it'll be hard to fill Mike Gosselin's shoes, because he was a great columnist, but I wish him well with all the dreams he is pursuing. Good luck, Mike!

When I looked around in search of my first topic, I knew immediately that I should interview the most talented and successful bass player I know. He's also my fiancé - but before you judge me and cry "nepotism!" allow me to convince you of his musical genius.

When someone can create an acoustic jingle that rises and falls in complete harmonic rhapsody, taking you along with it, minus any lyrics – you know you're listening to sheer talent. Kevin Joseph sent me a song ages ago, when we were just friends, and I listened to it over and over again, completely aware of every chord progression and change. I knew I had met someone with a gift.

If a musician can utilize the silences between phrases, much like an artist incorporates negative space, you feel balance in a song. There's no hurry, there's only the song.

It's you and that moment and you can focus on either the sound, or the feeling it evokes.

That's what Kevin does when he picks up a guitar. He literally 'thinks' in music.

Kevin formerly played with C-Weed and now plays bass for Black Rain and Just the Boys.

He teaches guitar lessons during the week at Mosaic Music in Prince Albert, and plays with the aforementioned bands on the weekends.

He also freelances with various artists and will lay down bass tracks for any recording artist that wants to hire him.

He's ridiculously busy, but loves every moment of it all, which is why he was an obvious choice for me to interview.

JJ: Do you consider yourself a successful musician?

KJ: Yes, I do. The reason for that is because I can make a living at it. I took every gig and found a way to like the stuff I was playing, where at first I didn't.

JJ: How did you find a way to like the stuff you were playing?

KJ: I just started having fun with it. I got rid of all my own

negativity. Once you start removing any negativity, then it's all fun. I can find something fun with every kind of music.

JJ: Do you ever get nervous on stage?

KJ: Oh, every time. It could be 5,000 people, it could be five people. If you're not getting nervous, you probably think you're pretty good.

As soon as you think you're good, then you've stopped learning.

JJ: So you don't think you're good?

KJ: I think I'm ... capable. We're all different.

Miles Davis was once asked in an interview, "Miles, are black musicians better than white musicians?" and Miles just laughed. He worked with both black, white, Latino – you name it. He worked with everybody. He said, "Not better. Just different." We're all different. Once you put academics to it, then it becomes a competition, and then it becomes sterile. I mean, you're not going to out-Mozart Mozart.

Mozart did it already. There is no better ... it's all different.

JJ: So then how do you know if you're improving?

KJ: Well, there's the technique ... you do have to learn scales. But with guitar, there's probably a dozen ways to play the same musical phrase. That's where creativity comes from.

JJ: Do you consider yourself a musician or an 'Aboriginal musician'?

KJ: I'm a musician that happens to be Aboriginal. That's how my good friend Marty Ballantyne (from Breach of Trust) explained it and it made a lot of sense to me. I'm the same thing.

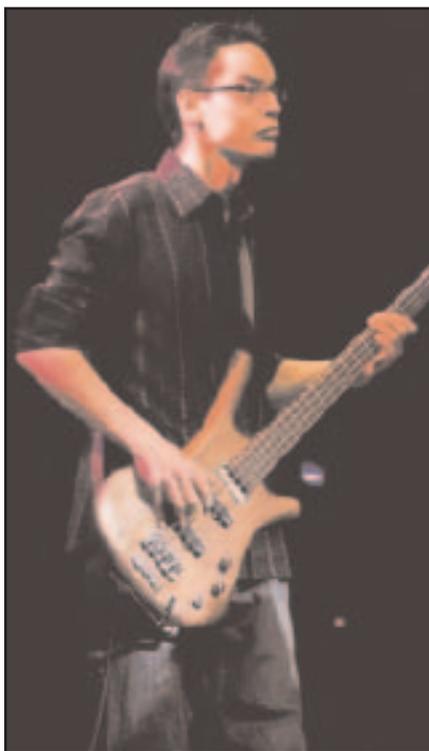
JJ: Any final words? Thoughts?

KJ: It's a very exciting time for me right now – as a musician, as an artist, as an Aboriginal person in Northern Saskatchewan, because I am acutely aware of the creativity, the depth and talent that we have in Northern Saskatchewan with Voices of the North, and now we have Northern Spirits, which is the 'Children of the North' – the youth. Northern Spirits is building momentum. We need to support programs that help us make sure that our youth can chase their dreams – follow their dreams.

JJ: Awesome! Thanks for your time. Now let's go wash those dishes.

That was great fun! See you next month.

Please email me if you have any leads on arts and entertainment stories in your community at: snazzyjess@hotmail.com.



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Riel's poetry provided inspiration for Scofield's CD, book

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) hosted a June launch and re-release of Gregory Scofield's *I Knew Two Métis Women* – a two-CD and book inspired by his aunt and mother.

He says it began as “a grieving project” to capture the memories of the women he'd grown up with – fans of old country music and their stories while sewing and beading.

“It's a real absolute dream come true to take music and stories and wonderful memories, and bring in all these wonderful voices.”

The CDs include not only Scofield but vocal or musical contributions from performers like Tantoo Cardinal, Maria Campbell, John Arcand, and Andrea Menard.

“It's like poetry reading meets Métis kitchen party meets radio drama.”

Scofield also read more recent material including *Louis the Heretic* poems.

“So much has been interpreted and written on Riel ... people quote Riel all the time.”

He said he never felt it was his place to take up the leader, but in a used bookstore in Vancouver the owner found him a first edition copy of Riel's religious and political poetry, published by his

family in 1886.

“I slept with it on my nightstand and boom that's what I've been writing about.”



Gregory Scofield and Sherry Farrell-Racette at the launch.

I don't want to be so presumptuous as to say it's him talking, but there an interesting connection with him – not very many think of him as a poet.”

Sherry Farrell-Racette was also on hand to speak about her artwork and many

of the inspiring moments it includes, including the four beautiful panels she created which depict some of the vivid history of the

Métis people in Canada.

GDI has beautiful reproductions and the CD/book set for sale to individuals and classrooms.


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SIGA opens new hotel at White Bear resort

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Officials with the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming authority have been busy travelling the province doing leather cutting ceremonies at two of their casinos. The Bear Claw Casino just recently opened up the new Bear Claw Hotel.

"The Bear Claw Casino has created jobs and economic independence for First Nations people," said White Bear First Nations Chief Brian Standingready.

"With the opening of the Bear Claw Hotel today, we are celebrating years of planning, and the culmination of a vision."

Participating in the ceremony were First Nations Elders, Veterans, FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild, White Bear First Nation Chief Brian Standingready, MLA Dan D'Autremont, South East Treaty # 4 Tribal Representative Bernard Shepherd, Carlyle Mayor Don Shirley and SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen.

"We are very excited about this project," says SIGA President and CEO Zane Hansen. "The Bear Claw Casino and Hotel will be our first fully integrated casino resort. The opening of the new Bear Claw Hotel will modernize the facility in order to serve our customers better."

"As a proud First Nations entertainment business operator, this project demonstrates the evolution of our business model."

The newly renovated 36 room hotel and restaurant was designed by Thalden Bold Architects, and was constructed by Graham Construction & Engineering. The Hotel features indoor access to the Bear Claw Casino gaming floor, free parking, convenient bus and RV parking, free wireless internet and a newly renovated restaurant including a new menu.

A week later, they went up the road a bit to cut the leather strap at the Painted Hand Casino in Yorkton to celebrate the unveiling of the new "Counting Coup" sculpture.

The "Counting Coup" statue is an enlargement by Shidoni Foundry Inc. of a work created by accomplished Saskatchewan First Nations artist Lionel Peyachew. One of the largest bronze commissions in Saskatchewan, the statue will be prominently displayed in front of the main entrance at the Painted Hand Casino.



"The concept for the sculpture is based on the Painted Hand Casino's name," explains artist Lionel Peyachew.

"In historical times, Native warriors would often mark an imprint of their hand on their horses to signify success in counting coup on the enemy. Counting coup became a tradition for most plains tribes where a warrior would attempt to touch another warrior with a bare hand or by using a coup stick. Counting coup was an alterna-

tive resolution to deal with a warring tribe rather than taking the life from a living being.

"Counting coup on the enemy was the highest honour a warrior could achieve, and being couped by the enemy would be devastating and humiliating to a warrior. This sculpture represents a traditional First Nations game of chance, strategy and horsemanship that fits well with the casino design and environment."



Zane Hansen, SIGA President and CEO; Saskatchewan MLA Dan D'Autremont; Carlyle Mayor Don Shirley, White Bear First Nation Chief Brian Standingready, Bear Claw Casino GM, Edward Littlechief, South East Treaty 4 Tribal Council Representative, Bernard Shepherd and FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild were on hand as Elders Victor Sammy, Angus Littlechief and Elsie McArthur perform the cutting of the leather strap.

Participating in the ceremony were First Nations Elders, Veterans, Kahkewistahaw Chief Sheldon Taypotat, FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild, Yorkton Tribal Council Representative Pat Tompson, PHC Holdings Ltd Partnership Board Chair Amanda Louison, city of

Yorkton representative Bob Maloney and SIGA Board Member Isabel O'Soup.

"We are pleased to unveil Counting Coup today at the Painted Hand Casino, Yorkton's number one entertainment destination," says SIGA board member Isabel O'Soup.

"This unveiling ceremony is an incredible showcase of First Nations artistic talent, and reaffirms the positive

partnerships between the FSIN, SIGA, Yorkton Tribal Council, its member First Nations, the City of Yorkton, and the Province of Saskatchewan. We are proud to support this local artist and showcase this work of art at our casino."



SIIT reaching lofty heights in aerospace training

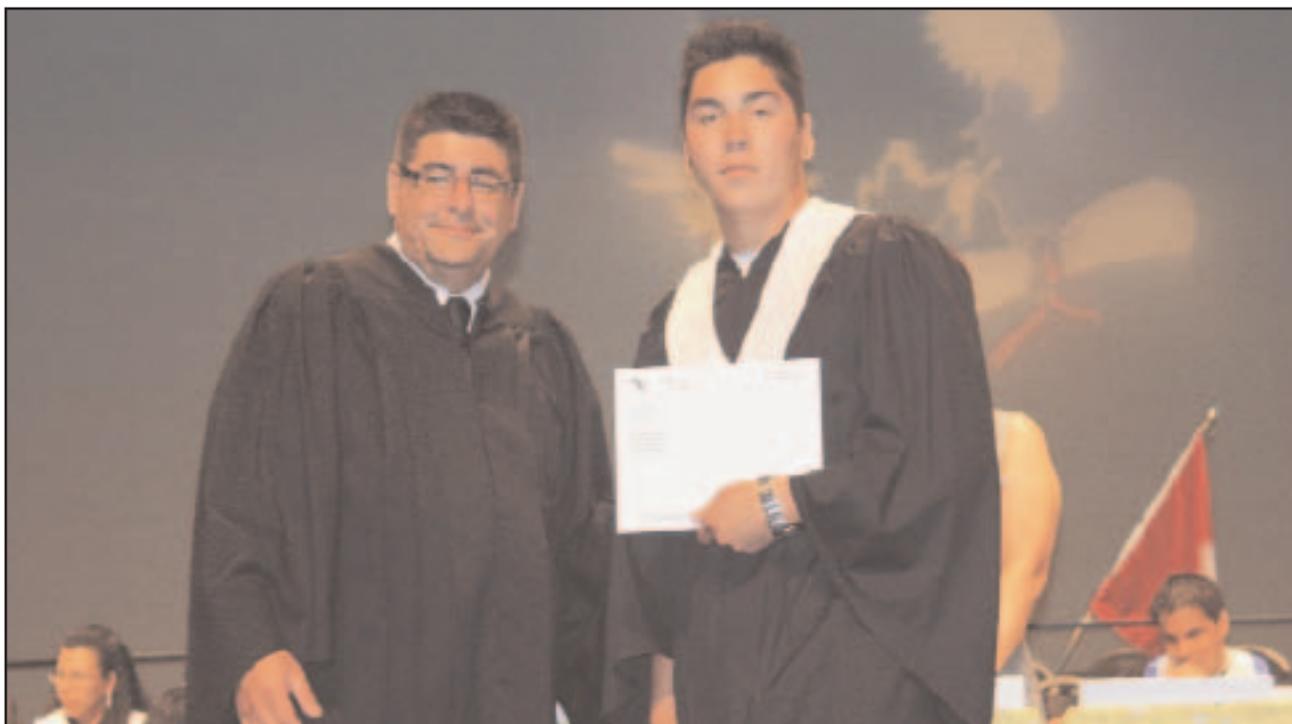
Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology (SIIT) continues to reach airy heights. Just recently, aerospace giant Lockheed Martin announced a \$3.5 million donation of a package of training materials to the Saskatchewan Indian Institute's Aviation Maintenance and Engineering faculty.

The announcement, which builds on its relationship with SIIT, was made at the school's Saskatoon campus in late June.

Last month Lockheed Martin donated \$100,000 to support the AME program and announced at that time the continued collaboration with faculty administration to develop and implement courseware and instructor's materials for training in more than three-dozen engineering disciplines including systems engineering, quality assurance, logistics and interface engineering management. The advanced modules are similar to those used internally by the corporation and are based on decades of lessons learned in aerospace and systems engineering on major, complex programs.

"We believe this program will enable post-secondary students to enhance their knowledge and skills in the advanced technology area of aircraft engineering and sustainment," said Tom Digan, president of Lockheed Martin Canada.

"Leveraging lessons-learned from decades of work on complex engineering programs, the courseware will build upon the student's existing curriculum and help ensure that the Canadian aviation industry has the skill



Randell Morris, President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology presented Dalyn Bear of the White Cap Dakota First Nation with his diploma at the recent SIIT graduation. (Photo SIIT)

force for the future.

"We are honored to have a partnership with Lockheed Martin Canada," said Randell Morris, President and CEO of the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

"The responsiveness on the part of this world class defence contractor to the needs of a growing institution such as SIIT is remarkable. We will implement this training package within our Aviation Learning Center, a new training facility site located at the Saskatoon Airport.

"The center is an expression of a successful public-private partnership with Industrial and Regional Benefits related to military defence procurement at the core. The new facility and these types of training tools provided

through Lockheed Martin Canada are the conduit to working more closely with industry and our First Nation communities. I am very grateful to Lockheed Martin for this investment as it showcases how a First Nation post-secondary institution can partner with industry and work together to grow the western economy."

Lockheed Martin Mission Systems and Sensors is donating the courseware, valued at more than \$3.5 million, as part of the company's commitment to the Canadian government to satisfy industrial and regional benefits associated with its role as prime contractor for the mid-life modernization of the combat systems on board the Navy's Halifax Class frigate. The \$1.6 billion program was awarded in late 2008 to Lockheed Martin Canada.



MICHELLE WRIGHT

Country star Michelle Wright honoured to sing at Batoche

By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

Canada's country star Michelle Wright, in the midst of a cross-North-American tour, took time out to visit with Eagle Feather News for a few minutes before hopping into the bus for the next gig.

"It's an honour to play at Batoche on this occasion. The Métis people have always been supportive of me and my music ever since I first started out," said the gracious country and western singer, adding she has her own cultural connections through a grandparent of Aboriginal heritage.

"I look forward to putting on the best show I can."

Wright spoke fondly of Canada, although she is now based in Nashville, Tennessee because of her career. She says there is a tight-knit group of Canadians in Nashville, and she gets home frequently both for visiting and concert and tour dates.

Some of the highlights of her career include nearly two million albums sold in North America and an international career.

"I've loved travelling – but one of the highlights was visiting the troops in Afghanistan a few years back," she noted.

She entertained NATO and Canadian troops in 2006. Other highlights in a star-studded career include 25 Top Ten hits, and more than 30 major awards, including being the first Canadian-born artist in the modern era of country music to have a Top Ten song in the US, a Number One video on CMT-USA, and a major U.S. music industry award, the Academy of Country Music Top New Female Artist in 1993.

She grew up in a small Ontario farming community not far from Detroit, but both her parents were country performers – and it rubbed off, with her first Canadian album released in 1988.

Wright says with her, the fans are number one – and encourages them to follow her on Facebook, which she tries to keep updated regularly, or her tour blog – her website is www.michelle-wright.com.

Journalist collecting stories of 1885

Andréa Ledding, writer and freelance journalist, is creating a book-length manuscript collecting stories of the survivors of 1885 and their descendants. If you have family anecdotes or memories that have been passed down that you would like to see recorded, come by the table in the Networking & Learning Centre and share them so that present and future generations will also learn the story of our people, from the lives of our Elders and from descendants, in our own words.

The project is called: "125 years later: La Pièce de la Résistance: dans les poches des nos coeurs" Storykeeping: Honouring the stories of Survivors and Descendants of 1885.

Or Andréa can be reached at Batoche1885@gmail.com before and after the festivities.

This project is funded in part by the Saskatchewan Arts Board, with support from 125th Anniversary Back To Batoche, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Gabriel Dumont Institute, and Eagle Feather News.

Government of Canada invests in construction sector training, jobs

The Saskatchewan construction industry will get a boost in skilled labour as a result of a training and skills development project.

The Fort-à-la-Corne Employment Development Partnership project is based on an agreement between the Government of Canada, the construction industry, a post-secondary institution and Aboriginal organizations.

Randy Hoback, Member of Parliament for Prince Albert, announced that the Government of Canada is contributing \$7.5 million towards this project through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership program. The partners are contributing the balance of the funding, for a total of over \$15 million.

"In today's environment, it is more important than ever that people have the skills that will enable them to participate and succeed in the job market," said Mr. Hoback.

"Through the Fort-à-la-Corne Employment Development Partnership project, our government is working with industry and Aboriginal

organizations to help Canadians get good jobs in the construction industry. This is part of our overall strategy to create the best educated, most skilled and most flexible workforce in the world."

Through this project, participants will receive the skills training they need to take part in the construction of a hydroelectric facility. Once the construction project is finished, the participants will be able to use their transferable skills to obtain long-term employment.

"This project is a work of preparing the Aboriginal workforce for the jobs that will be created by the construction of a hydroelectric station that the James Smith Cree Nation is developing within its territory," said Dwayne Seib, executive director of the Fort-à-la-Corne Employment Development Partnership.

"The skills and work experience gained from this project set the stage for continuing employability for the participants beyond the hydro project, and this is good for the Saskatchewan economy."



The Fort-a-la Corne Economic Development Board is intent on bringing skills, training and economic development to the North West. The members include from left to right, Chief Calvin Sanderson – Chakastaypasin Band of the Cree Nation, Jacques Lacombe – Peter Kiewit and Sons, John Kim Bell – Brookfield Renewable Power (FCED Chair), Valerie Mushinski – CEO Cumberland College, Chief Wally Burns – James Smith Cree Nation and Chief Robert Head – Peter Chapman Band. (Photo supplied)

The Government of Canada's contribution to this training and skills development project is being delivered through the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) program.

The ASEP program promotes partnerships between the Government of Canada, other levels of government, local organizations and employers. It

provides on-the-job training that leads to long-term jobs in high demand professions such as mining, hydro development, fisheries, tourism, construction and infrastructure.

Canada's Economic Action Plan provided an additional \$100 million in funding for ASEP to provide more and better opportunities for Canada's Aboriginal people.



An aerial view of the Back to Batoche site in May 2010.

(Photo by GDI)

Campeau Fund big investor at Batoche

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Much of the development at the Back to Batoche site has been achieved through working with the Clarence Campeau Development Fund.

CCDF began investing money in the site in 1998 through the Community Development Fund. These investments have turned the site into a viable event location and have created an opportunity for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan to jump start economic development in the area.

Two of the main results have been the building of a main stage so visitors could have a place to sit and watch events and the elders building which allows the elders to be properly looked after while attending the celebration. The power was upgraded as well.

Several of the amenities have also been built with CCDF monies. New washrooms, showers, electrified campsites and cabins have all been added to accommodate bigger crowds and two permanent kitchens have been built to feed the hungry masses.

Now that the site has some assets, it also needs someone to safe guard them so CCDF helped with building the Batoche house that sits on the site and allows the committee to have someone looking after the buildings and site from vandalism and damage.

CCDF has invested through programs and sponsorship approximately \$1.3 million. The Métis community and the towns surrounding that area will certainly benefit culturally and financially into the future from these investments.

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Dr. Blauneen Pele
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JULY 30 - AUGUST 2, 2010 AT WHITECAP DAKOTA FIRST NATION, SASKATCHEWAN



Irish visitor proud of Stanley Mission connection

By Creeson Agecoutay
For Eagle Feather News

Community celebrates 150th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church

Twelve years ago Margaret Wynn found out she has a close connection to a small community half a world away. The school teacher from Ireland researched her history and in mid-June, her work paid off when she visited Stanley Mission.

Wynn and her family travelled from Europe to join in the 150th year celebration of the Holy Trinity Anglican Church on Stanley Mission Cree Nation. For Wynne, her work has paid off because through her research she has found that she is a direct descendent of the man who opened the first church in the Stanley Mission area – Rev. Robert Hunt.

This is a truly special time for Wynne.

“The fact that it’s the oldest building in Saskatchewan, the fact that what’s been built here is still treasured and I hope and pray that it is a symbol of the people. I feel very proud that my family had a hand in doing this,” Wynne says.

Wynne’s three times great grandfather Rev. Hunt founded Stanley Mission in 1850 with the permission of the Hudson’s Bay Company. The church was built between 1854 and 1860. Cree craftsmen used locally cut lumber and stained glass from England to complete the church.

Stanley Mission, or its Cree name, Amachewespimawin (which translates, ‘shooting up hill’), is located an hour’s drive north of La Ronge. The First Nation community is nestled in acres of forest and the church sits on an island off the Churchill River. The church is only accessible by boat and overlooks Stanley Mission which is a community within the Lac La Ronge Indian Band.

Aside from the church, Stanley Mission is very rich in history. The national historic site was once part of a community used by fur traders and settlers who used the Churchill River system to navigate. There are also historical pictographs dating back several hundred years. Pictographs are paintings and carvings and can be found in the cliffs and rocks overlooking the Churchill River. Today, many tourists still come out to see these attractions.

Métis and First Nation people make up a large portion of the area. The people have always had a strong connection to the land with hunting, trapping, and fishing. Many have a close connection to the church as well. The church is still used for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Adam Obadiah Charles grew up in

Stanley Mission and on this day of celebration he is making keepsake boat paddles for the visitors with the church painted on them. He says they are a hot commodity and they were selling as fast as he could make them.

“They’re still green, I still got to dry them, eh? Some people are saying, ‘are you done? I’ll buy that one, 100 bucks.’ No, no, it’s no good right now, it’s raw,” said Charles as he teaches his grandson how to make a paddle.

“I learned this as a kid, but you can teach this in shops with little kids. You got to find the poplar and you got to walk around the bush, it’s got to be straight, you got to peel off the bark and see it’s straight, then you can split it with an axe or wedge.”

As with any 150 year birthday, everyone wanted to be there. First Nation and provincial dignitaries, veterans and officials from all over the country gathered to celebrate the church’s anniversary. The all-day celebration included many events for all ages. Fish frying and boat tours of the area were just some of the attractions.

After lunch, officials and guests gathered for a special mass. Masses still take place at the church but not as often as in old days.

Chief Tammy Cook Searson believes

this is an important day for Canada.

“It’s really exciting and it’s a great honor to be able to be a part of this history and to be able to be here today,” she said.

“People come here to meditate, people come here to retreat and the church is our whole well-being of who we are.”

Joe Roberts sits on the Elder’s Council of Stanley Mission and has been maintaining the church since the 1960s. He was given the honor of conducting a tour for the Wynne family, a very special occasion for him because this may be one of his last tours. He feels it’s time to pass down the torch to the younger generation. Retirement dreams aside, his thoughts are only on the day’s festivities.

“It’s very significant. It’s something we’ve been looking forward to for the last seven years,” said Roberts.

“I’m now giving it to one of the younger generations. Another is taking over for me so he knows the history, he knows where people are and how to look after the church.”

The day is a truly a special one for Wynne and her family. Margaret Wynn returned to Ireland with a good feeling that a church her grandfather began six generations ago still stands, and God willing, will live on for several more generations.



Margaret Wynne (left) and her daughter visited Stanley Mission for the historic occasion and joined in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the church.



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The University of Saskatchewan inaugural Graduation Powwow took over Griffiths Stadium, home of the football Huskies. Hundreds of dancers took part in the event. (Photo Dana Jacobs)

U of S holds first graduation powwow

By Dana Jacobs
For Eagle Feather News

The goalposts at Griffith Stadium have shared in the triumph of many great wins but they have never seen a goal quite like the one scored by Saskatchewan's Aboriginal community last month.

Self-identifying Aboriginal high school and university grad-students were honoured for their academic achievements on Wednesday, June 16 at the First Annual Graduation Powwow hosted by the Aboriginal Students Centre of the University of Saskatchewan's Griffith Stadium.

Ian Worme, recent graduate of the Collage of Education and future elementary school teacher said the event was inspiring.

"It gives me a sense of pride knowing that we can celebrate who we are and our accomplishments in a social setting the way we (traditionally) do it."

The event had the earmarks of a traditional Western culture graduation ceremony with the added flare of comical commentary, swirling colours, pulsing drumbeats and the steady jingle of bells.

Between 150 and 200 dancers of all ages and a dozen drum groups registered to participate in the ceremony with about 1,000 spectators and 75 graduates in attendance throughout the day. The grand entry included Lt.-Gov. Gordon Barnhart; Grand Chief of the Federated Saskatchewan Indian Nations Guy Lonechild; Tribal Chief Felix Thomas; President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Robert Doucette, University of Saskatchewan President Peter McKinnon; and Elders Bill Whitebear, Kate

Poundmaker, and Walter and Maria Linklater.

Representative of the Royal Canadian Guard and event sponsors filled out the procession.

"Having a separate ceremony for aboriginal students is very significant," said Worme, adding that hosting the event on campus gives weight to the achievement while allowing aboriginal people to claim ownership of their accomplishments.

"It's not easy being a student," admits Worme. "Especially being an aboriginal student and only being used to our own type of humour and our whole social network is pretty different from western culture."

Worme credits his family, friends, community and fellow students with giving him the support needed to push through the riggers of his four-year degree. He plans to take a "break" and work for a few years before returning to the classroom to get his Master's in Education someday.

Joking that he hates the cliché of education as the new buffalo, Worme says he sees the truth in it.

"I did it not so much for myself, but for my daughter and to empower my people in the community."

Annie Battiste, graduating student and one of the event's organizers said the University has been hosting a welcoming powwow for 15 years and the idea to hold a graduation powwow came from the desire incorporate Aboriginal achievement into that tradition.

"It was a success in our minds, hopefully next year we'll have better weather."



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- Minimum university entrance average (currently 70%)
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Students who do not meet the criteria for regular admission may be considered for SPECIAL Targeted Admission. For Special Targeted Admission, students must be at least 19 years of age and have completed no more than 18 credit units of post secondary education. However, the ESB will only consider those students who have no more than 9 credit units of post secondary education that is transferable to the ABAC program. Admission to the ABAC Program under the Special Targeted Admission category will be determined by the ESB undergraduate office.

Special Targeted Admission applicants must meet the following criteria:

- First Nations, Métis or Inuit ancestry
- Complete Grade 12 standing with evidence of successful completion of Math 1B30

Special Targeted Admission applicants must include:

- A U of S application form - <http://explore.usask.ca/admission/apply.pdf>
- Proof of age
- An official high school transcript
- A written submission demonstrating capacity to undertake university-level studies and a commitment to educational goals
- Personal profile indicating the applicant's interest in business and applicable experience
- Students may be required to attend an interview at the request of ESB



For more information, please contact:

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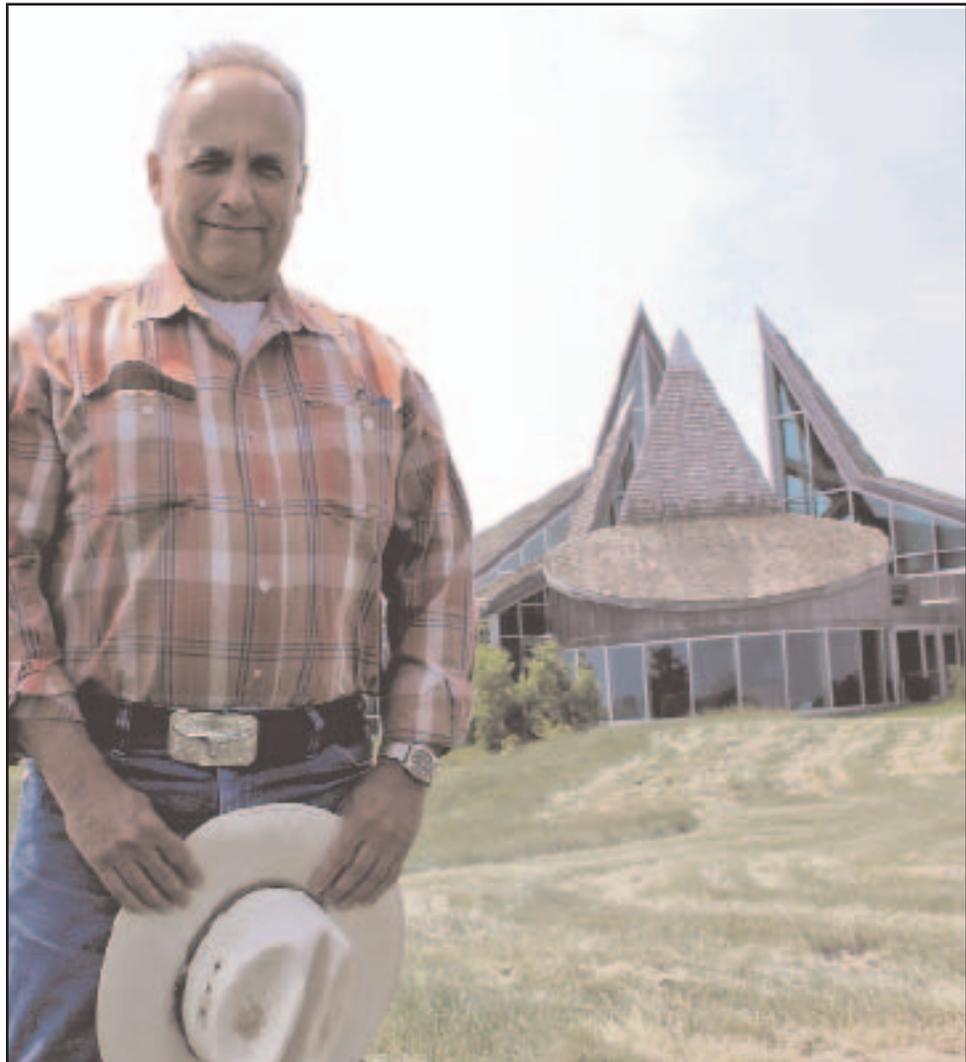
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Many dignitaries were out for the grand reopening of Wanuskewin Heritage Park, none more popular than Allen Sapp, the famous Cree painter. A display of his work, *Through the Eyes of the Cree and Beyond*, was on exhibit for all to see. The shy Sapp, who does not speak English, was autographing copies of his book for any and all comers. He also sang a song to open the ceremonies.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Dr. Ernie Walker stands on the precipice of the valley with the refreshed Wanuskewin building in the background. Dr Walker was instrumental in the development of the Park from the beginning when he was approached by the landowner who was pretty sure the land he was on was special. That was over 30 years ago. Walker is a professor of archaeology at the University of Saskatchewan and has an active dig site at the Park that his students work on over the summer.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



This bison skull was donated to Wanuskewin by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Parks, Culture and Tourism. This type of beast predates, by thousands of years, the more famous bison the plains people relied on that almost became extinct in the late 1800s. The massive prehistoric skull was dug up decades ago during the construction of a bridge in Saskatchewan and has been in the ministries offices ever since. "We couldn't think of a better place for it to be than here at Wanuskewin," said Susan Hetu, Executive Director of Culture and Heritage for the Ministry.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Several dignitaries including FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild, MN-S President Robert Doucette, SICC President Dorothy Myo, Wanuskewin Board Chair Lloyd Beazley, Saskatoon Councillor Pat Lorje, Mayor Don Atchison and Provincial Minister Dustin Duncan helped in a ceremonial role by holding the leather strap that was cut by Elders Edward Baldhead and Alma Kytwayhat. The cutting of the strap officially reopened the Park that had been under construction for almost two years.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Wanna win some Rider tickets?

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

What next for the Saskatchewan Roughriders? Walk on water? A team that used to struggle to

put 20,000 butts in their seats now has an overabundance of fans clamouring to get in, creating usual sell-outs and lifting of blackouts and talk of a domed stadium to house the rabid citizens of Rider Nation.

They used to be so poor they had to hold lotteries to save their bacon. Now, they market a license plate and it sells thousands. You can buy a

Riders mug, hat, garbage can, jersey, t-shirt, underwear, watermelons hat, clock or a crib board contributing to the over \$3 million the team rakes in annually from merchandise sales.

The Riders have a new clubhouse and millions in the bank. They have won a Grey Cup and hosted a home playoff game and lost a heartbreaker to Montreal in last year's Grey Cup all in the last three years.

Add in the miracle win on Canada Day over the hated Montreal Alouettes and one can agree that times sure are good in Riderville. In order to share that good time with our readers, Eagle Feather News is holding a little contest with the winners receiving FREE RIDER TICKETS!!!!

We want to meet Saskatchewan's best First Nation and Métis Rider fans ... send us a picture, send us a letter, heck even a poem about why you or a loved one are the world's biggest Rider fans and you have a chance to win a pair of tickets to a game in September or October. FREE TICKETS!

If you want to enter, send your photo, letter or poem about your love for the Riders to johnl@eaglefeathernews.com

Any and all photos may be published. Eagle Feather News is not responsible for getting you there or back or any lost belongings or the behaviour of Bomber fans.

Things are hopping at Dakota Dunes

The Canadian Golf Tour was recently in Saskatoon for its regular stop at the Dakota Dunes Golf Links, host of the \$250,000 Dakota Dunes Casino Open. There was an outstanding field of 156 golfers representing 16 different countries in tournament that has found a long-term home at the Links with the

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority stepping up to sponsor the event for several years. Due to publishing deadlines, final results are not available.

"We are thrilled that Saskatchewan

Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA) has extended their sponsorship through 2013 and with that our stay at Dakota Dunes Golf Links. Saskatoon is fast becoming a model event on Tour thanks to the outstanding support of

the local community," stated Canadian Tour Commissioner Richard Janes at a press conference to announce the extension.

Located on the historical Whitecap Dakota First Nation lands at the heights of the South Saskatchewan River Valley Basin, Dakota Dunes Golf Links opened its golf course to the public in 2004. This 18-hole, full service, natural masterpiece is Saskatchewan's only complete Graham Cooke, Cooke-Carleton designed golf property.

First contested in 1919, the Saskatchewan Open was a mainstay on the Canadian Tour until 1984. To honour the historical significance of the event, the winner of the Dakota Dunes Casino Open will be awarded with the Saskatchewan Open Championship trophy.

The event was expected to draw thousands of spectators during its run from July 5-11.

Shortly after the cleanup of the golf tournament is done, the White Cap Dakota First Nation will be hosting another major national event. The Canadian Native Fastball Championships touch base beginning July 30 and run through the long weekend until August 2. With over 60 teams expected from around Canada, the crowds will be big even before you add the fans.

To accommodate the tournament, the First Nation added three ball diamonds, some bleachers and upgraded the lighting. This tournament is expected to draw thousands of players, coaches, friends and family into Saskatoon and out to White Cap. \$10 bucks a day gets you into all the games, money well spent as you can expect some excellent fastball to be played.

How does this little First Nation get it done? Leadership ...and lots of volunteers.

Way to go volunteers.



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