

New Breed

MAGAZINE



THE WOMEN OF BATOUCHE

Reflecting over the North West Rebellion era, let us recognize the strength, resourcefulness and determination of the Women of the Day.

Standing together, here at Batocche, the place that affected them all, are:

On the left, Margurite Monet Riel, wife of Louis Riel; Theresa Gowanlock, one of the two white women taken captive after the Frog Lake "Massacre"; next (seated), daughter of Chief Whitecap of the Moose Woods reserve; nursing sisters from the Order of St. John, brought from Toronto, Ontario, to nurse General Middleton's soldiers; next, a woman from the family of Dakota Chief, Red Eagle; unidentified Melis women; Angeline Dumas, married to Louis Letendre; and Marguerite Parenteau, married to Xavier Letendre, known as "Batocche"

This mural is lovingly dedicated by the artist, Laureen Marchand to her mother and by the Murals Board to the Women of Canada.

This mural was made possible through the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers in the community.

New Breed

MAGAZINE

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Cover And Back Photos



Introduction and photos by Kathy
Hodgson-Smith

This issue of New Breed commemorates two communities, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Duck Lake, two communities hundreds of miles apart but tied together through their individual relationships to Louis Riel. Ile-a-la-Crosse was the birth place of Louis Riel Sr and the home of Marguerite Riel, Louis Riel's sister, the place where she was eventually laid to rest. Duck Lake and Batoche saw the first and final battles of Louis Riel and the Métis for a way of life and the struggle to protect it. The many stories of the community are depicted in the murals as shown on the back cover photos. The cover photo is of the Women of Batoche Mural downtown Duck Lake, along with the sign that accompanies it. It is a reminder that we are all connected as one people, the Métis, however spread out across this great land. As one people and for infinity, we are forever tied together by the struggles that we face and by all our relations, past and future.

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photo by Clem Chartier

TRIPARTITE PROCESS

The Métis Act

STORY BY ART DUROCHER

On Tuesday May 29th, 2001, the *Métis Act* was introduced into the Saskatchewan Legislature and given First Reading. This marked the end of a long road for the MNS. The concept of a *Métis Act* is not new and has been around for a number of years. After ongoing discussions, consultations and direction from the membership, the MNS went ahead and began negotiations with the province on the *Métis Act*. These negotiations culminated in the spring of 2000 with a draft *Métis Act*. The draft *Métis Act* was presented at a Leaders Forum in September, 2000. It was given approval at that gathering and was subsequently endorsed by the PMC on September 15th, 2000. The Act was then presented to the AGM in Prince Albert on November 18th, 2000. On March 19th, 2001, the *Métis Act* was re-ratified and endorsed by the newly elected PMC. The ratification process by the MNS was now complete and passed on over to the province for their ratification and enactment. Once the *Métis Act* has been given Third Reading in the Saskatchewan Legislature, the province's ratification process will be complete and it will become law.

The *Métis Act* is significant to the Métis of Saskatchewan in a number of ways. There are three major components in the Act. The first is the recognition component. In this part, the Métis are recognized as a distinct and separate cultural entity. It pays homage to the historical and contemporary uniqueness of the Métis people by recognizing that the Métis have their own



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

MNS President Clem Chartier, Minister Pat Lorje, Minister Keith Goulet, and Minister Buckley Belanger

culture, language (Michif), traditions and values. For over hundreds of years, the Métis have contributed both culturally and economically to this province and western Canada. This fact is affirmed in the recognition part. The sacrifices and contributions made by our veterans on behalf of all Canadians are also acknowledged in this part of the Act.

The second major component of the *Métis Act* is the establishment of a corporate entity through which the MNS can administer and carry out its policies and programs. Because the MNS itself cannot enter into legally binding agreements, it has to do so through a legal corporate body. At present, the corporate body which performs this function for the MNS is the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Secretariat Incorporated. Because there was no other suitable option, this present corporation is incorporated under the *Non-profit Corporations Act* of

Saskatchewan. When the *Non-profit Corporations Act* was drafted, it was envisioned to accommodate charities, clubs and other like organizations. The Métis are much more than a charity or a cultural club and the *Non-profit corporations Act* restricts us to this type of characterization. The *Métis Act* will take us out of the *Non-profit Corporations Act* by incorporating a new body called the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Secretariat Inc. The authority for this new corporation is derived from the *Métis Act* and not from the *Non-profit Corporations Act*. This is significant in that it denotes a departure from being categorized as a mere charity or a cultural club and a movement towards being recognized as a unique, and distinct Métis entity.

The Act also incorporates the accountability provisions of the *Non-profit Corporations Act*. In addition to these protective measures, the *Métis Act* also provides access for any Métis person of

TRIPARTITE PROCESS

Saskatchewan to any bylaws, minutes of meetings and resolutions, a list of directors, all committees of the corporation, notices and the audited financial statements. Further, the *Act* provides for a special meeting of the corporation when at least 250 Métis individuals have signed a petition requesting the holding of a special meeting. Accountability is important to the Métis people, and as such, the MNS was adamant that the *Act* contain provisions ensuring the accountability of the corporation.

The third major component of the *Métis Act* is the establishment of a Bilateral Process between the MNS and the province. This process will be a forum in which the MNS and the province can begin meaningful discussions on those issues which are important to the Métis. The *Act* commits both the MNS and the province to begin discussions in 4 areas of interest to the Métis in a practical and non-rights based approach. These 4 areas are governance, capacity building, land and harvesting.

In respect to governance, "(t)he Parties agree to continue building a Métis capacity for governance of Métis communities and Métis institutions. This 'made in Saskatchewan' approach will respect federal and provincial jurisdiction and will build on existing and successful models and experiences, such as the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the Dumont Technical Institute, and the

Métis Addictions Council."¹

As to capacity building, "(t)he Parties agree to work toward the devolution of programs and services to Métis com-

the securing of necessary mandates and resources."²

In regards to land, "(t)he Parties agree to co-operate in identifying opportunities to improve Métis access to lands and developing economic opportunities with respect to land based activities including, but not limited to, Métis farms and farming, forestry and mining. The Parties further agree to identify and develop appropriate cultural initiatives related to the traditional Métis gathering places."³

Within the harvesting area, (t)he Parties agree to work to improve economic development opportunities, consistent with sustainable management practices, for Métis people in Saskatchewan's resource and other sectors. This may include improving opportunities in first level production activities as well as value added activities. The Parties further agree to work towards full and integral Métis involvement in resource management and economic development related deci-

sions."⁴

The *Métis Act* is very historic and an important piece of legislation for the Métis people. It goes a long way in enforcing and asserting our belief that we are a unique people who deserve to have their rightful place in historical and contemporary society recognized and respected.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

A number of people attended the second reading of the Metis Act, tabled at Legislature in Regina, June 1 2001.

munities and Métis institutions. The Parties agree to undertake the necessary preparatory and planning work with respect to the development of a framework for the devolution of programs and services. This may include the identification of priorities, the identification of appropriate Métis service institutions, the development of program and policy guidelines, and

NATIONAL COUNCIL

MÉTIS LEADERS RE-ELECT GERALD MORIN AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

STORY BY CHRISTI BELCOURT

June 12, 2001 (Vancouver) — Métis leaders met in Vancouver the past weekend for the Métis National Council's 17th Annual General Assembly and re-elected Gerald Morin as the national president of the Métis Nation.

In a vote that was split 31 to 24, Mr. Morin won against the only other candidate to be nominated, Mr. Yvon Dumont. In his conciliatory speech Mr. Dumont declared, "Let there be no question that the elected representatives of the people have spoken and the position is to be respected by the Métis Nation. This is our nation, and this is our leader for the next three years". Mr. Dumont then thanked the assembly for the fair election and urged the assembly to unanimously support Mr. Morin in the office of president.

In a strong show of unity and solidarity the assembly immediately passed a motion to unanimously support Mr. Morin as National President. Following the election, Mr. Morin stated, "I think the overall election outcome sends a very clear message to the federal government that Canada's Métis are determined to see through a strong rights based agenda. That's what our people want,

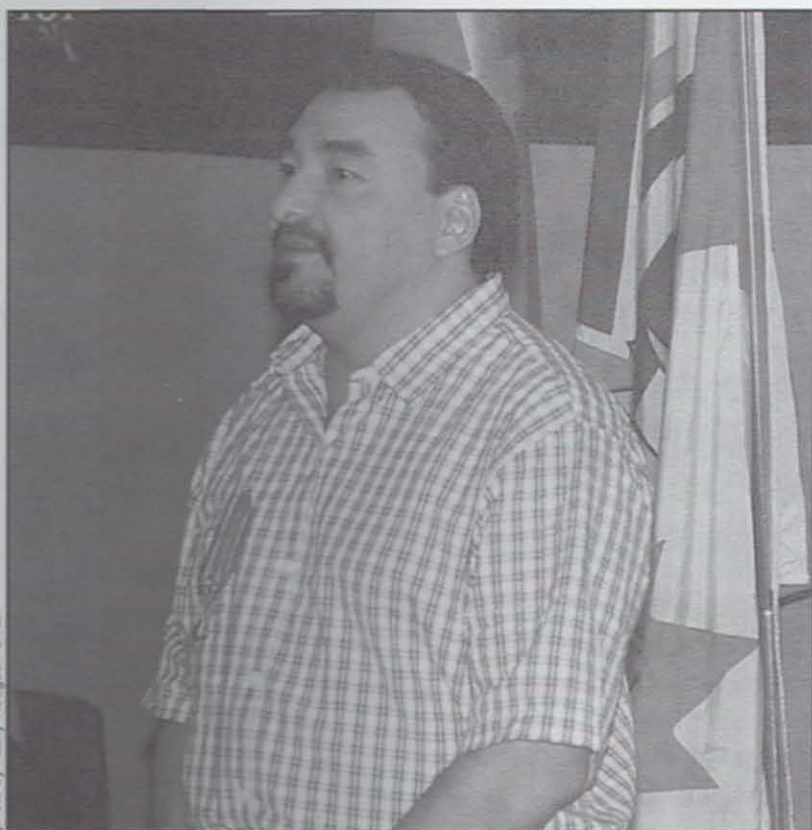


photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Above: Gerald Morin re-elected for his third term MNC General assembly. Below: Sask delegates await voting for President.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

NATIONAL COUNCIL

and that's what I intend to pursue".

In his election speech Mr. Morin also promised to reform the way Métis vote for the National President by moving towards a national ballot box election process where every Métis citizen would have the opportunity to vote for National President. In addition, he promised to establish a Métis Constitution Commission which would be tasked with reforming the Métis National Council to instill a Constitution for the Métis Nation in keeping with the pursuit of Métis rights, a nation-to-nation relationship with Canada, and the inherent right to self-government. This is Mr. Morin's fourth consecutive term as national president of the Métis National Council. He is currently the longest standing leader of any Aboriginal organization within Canada. The Métis National Council is the national representative body of the over 300,000 Métis citizens in Canada.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

(Clockwise from top): Metis Veteran and Senator Marian Larkman. Lisa McCallum, President of National Metis Women. MNS receptionist Brenda Smith, the official Recording Secretary at the MNC Assembly.



photo by Clem Chartier



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

ACHIEVEMENT

You Are Never Too Old To Learn

STORY BY LEAH DORION-PAQUIN

Louis Hillard Dorion was born November 23, 1942 in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. He was raised in an extended Métis family and received a more traditional form of education where emphasis was placed on learning by doing in a supportive family environment. Success was not based on marks but on learning skills and applying them.

"Finally, after ten years of dedication and hard work, Louis graduated at the May 2001 spring convocation with a three year Bachelor of Arts degree in Native Studies. In his opinion it was worth every minute."

During his youth he was only able to complete a grade eight education in the community. If someone wanted to further their education they had to leave Cumberland House. He remembers families holding dances and fundraisers to send people away to school in larger communities. He really credits his grandfather, John Gregory Dorion, for instilling in him the desire to pursue higher education. His grandpa was a WWI veteran who saw the world and knew the importance of obtaining further education and skills.

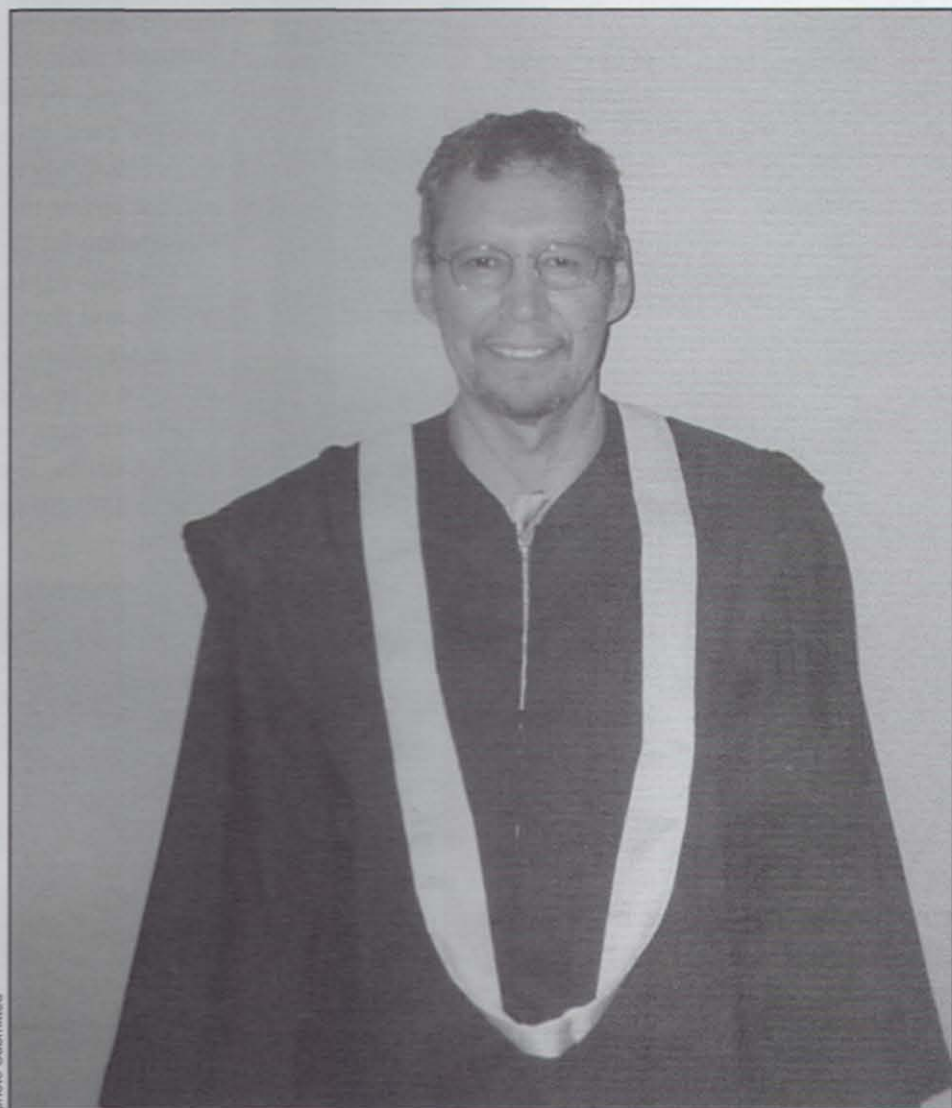


photo Submitted

Louis Dorion convocated with a three-year Bachelor of Arts Degree in Native Studies.

In 1960, Louis was happy to be selected as a carpentry student at the Canadian Vocational Training School in Saskatoon which is now referred to as Kelsey/SIAST. This was part of a provincial government special initiative to train northern Indian and Métis people in the trades. The program brought twenty young men and women to Saskatoon from northern communities such as Pinehouse, LaRonge, Onion Lake, Cumberland House,

Buffalo Narrows and Ile a la Crosse. In 1966, he completed the required 8000 hours and passed the examinations for his Journeyman Carpenter's designation.

He spent many years working within the construction industry all over the province, particularly the north. While working fulltime, he made the time to study and pass his grade nine and ten Grade Equivalency Diploma (GED). In

ACHIEVEMENT

1973, he took a full year off work to complete his grade eleven through an evening adult education program at Carlton High School in Prince Albert. He envisioned doing more than just working in construction all his life and planned to continue to develop his mind and critical thinking. Preparing for that goal was not easy as accessing education was a challenge, especially while raising a family and working in the physically demanding world of construction.

Then, in 1977, he was required to have an open heart surgery to repair damage to a heart valve caused by childhood rheumatic fever. This caused him to seriously reconsider continuing his work in the field of construction. Unfortunately, the procedure had to be repeated in 1990. At this time he became determined to pursue a higher education. To this end, he completed his GED 12 just five months after his surgery and was able to enter the University of Saskatchewan in the fall of 1991 as an unclassified student.

Louis was able to complete many University of Saskatchewan courses through night classes offered at the Woodland Campus in Prince Albert and the Gabriel Dumont College. He fondly remembers his first Native Studies class through televised courses and how much harder he had to work than the younger and more experienced students.. Finally, after ten years of dedication and hard work, Louis graduated at the May 2001 spring convocation with a three year Bachelor of Arts degree in Native Studies. In his opinion it was worth every minute.

All the time that Louis was taking night

classes, he was employed fulltime by the Prince Albert Grand Council. He was the director of maintenance and engineering for the band-controlled residential school. He was also involved in many committees and groups and worked as the as president for the Prince Albert Métis Fall Festival from 1995-2001.

Louis continues to live in Prince Albert

with his wife Roberta (Bobbie) and he hopes to apply his degree training to work in the field of language and culture. He is committed to lifelong learning and encourages people not to take their education for granted. He also believes that if you want to learn and grow you are never too old, especially if you have the support of family which he credits as the key to his success.



photo Submitted

Louis Dorian proudly displays his degree.

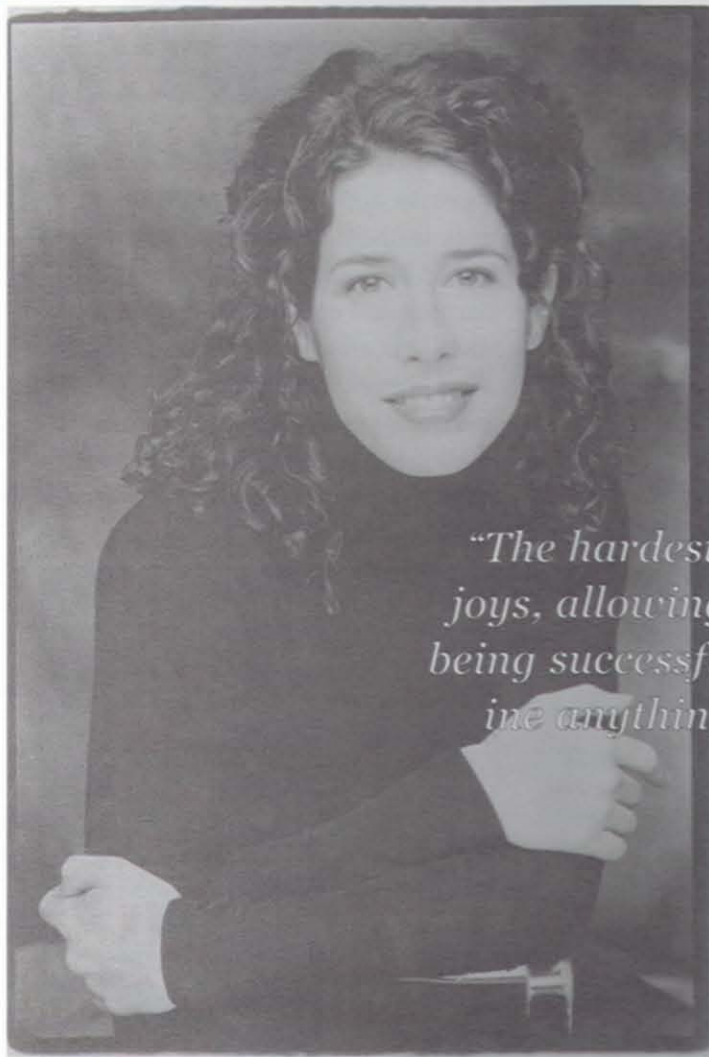


photo submitted

We Are Led By Our Joys:

An Interview with

Andrea Menard

"The hardest part is giving yourself over to your joys, allowing yourself the joy of being happy and being successful, but once you do, it is hard to imagine anything else. It just feels right and good."

sacred gift that she was born to and she follows her dream to be an actor, singing her way into her own creative imagination. She wrote her first play, the Velvet Devil, which premiered in Regina at the Globe Theatre last October and is putting together a compilation of the music from that performance onto a CD which she hopes can be produced this winter. Her play has caught the attention of CBC radio in Regina where they wish to undertake a one-hour special from the Velvet Devil. The Velvet Devil is also being considered for a television special. Andrea Menard hopes for a national tour of her first drama, a story of a Métis woman from Batoche who leaves home to find fame and fortune and upon doing so is brought back to her humble family and community because of the death of her mother. The play is set in 1941 and explores the spiritual and real journey of a Métis woman living life in a full circle, finding the balance between her past and her future, her identity and her dreams.

She said that the hardest part is giving yourself over to your joys, allowing yourself the joy of being happy and being successful, but once you do, it is hard to imagine anything else. It just feels right and good, she added. She loves her Métis ancestry and the richness of all that entails and yet she recognizes that her journey is also very personal. We are led by our joys, she said, and we just have to learn that once we learn to follow them, life is truly the greatest of all gifts. And if you ever get the chance to see the Velvet Devil, take up the opportunity of seeing the dream of a Métis woman coming true.

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

When we met for a brief interview for New Breed Magazine, Andrea Menard was still full of excitement from her trip to Ottawa where she joined Maria Campbell and John Arcand in celebrating National Aboriginal Day along with our Ontario neighbors. Andrea Menard is a Métis woman, born in Manitoba and raised in Saskatchewan, graduating from Carlton Comprehensive High School in Prince Albert in 1989. She has taken the SUNTEP program to the last stages and then took the leap into the career she had always dreamed of - acting. She did her first professional debut as an actor in 1994 and has been busy in the industry ever since. She dreams of being a well-known Canadian actor one day and is working hard to make her dreams come true.

But the world probably knows Andrea Menard for her magnificent singing voice, a gift from her father, who has played guitar and sang since she was a baby, her mother harmonizing at his side. She says her singing is like a

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

Métis Students Gain Summer Employment at GDI



LEAH DORION-PAQUIN

STORY BY LEAH DORION-PAQUIN

Three Métis students are working with the Publishing Department this summer under the Centennial Summer Student Employment Program (CSSEI) which is designed help young people gain experience and skills that will be valuable in securing future full-time careers when they graduate.. This program is administered through the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation and the office of Minister Joanne Crofford. On June 11, 2001 the Honourable Glenn Hagel, Minister of Post-Secondary Education and Skills Training visited the Institute to meet with the staff and students who are participating in this pilot program. "The Gabriel Dumont Institute is thrilled to have the opportunity to support and benefit from the Centennial Summer Student Program said Calvin Racette, Executive Director of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. "The students will be experiencing many different avenues of learning and this project provides another means for our young people to play a leadership role in community based projects."

Indeed our three summer student research assistants Cheryl Troupe, Herb Lafferty, and Lilah Morin, are already busy working on community based projects. The summer students are busy organizing our extensive oral histories and photograph collections, helping staff with historical, genealogical and general information requests from the community, and learning about our desktop publishing operations. They will also be conducting interviews with Métis Elders and veterans. The students are responsible for promoting the Institute's Publishing Department through community displays at events such as Back to Batoche, Willow Bunch- St. Victor Métis Days, and John Arcand's Fiddle Festival. The summer students are working on specific projects which compliment their expertise these include working on our Métis Oral History book, developing a new Study Prints Series, organizing the Michif Video Shoot/Interviews at

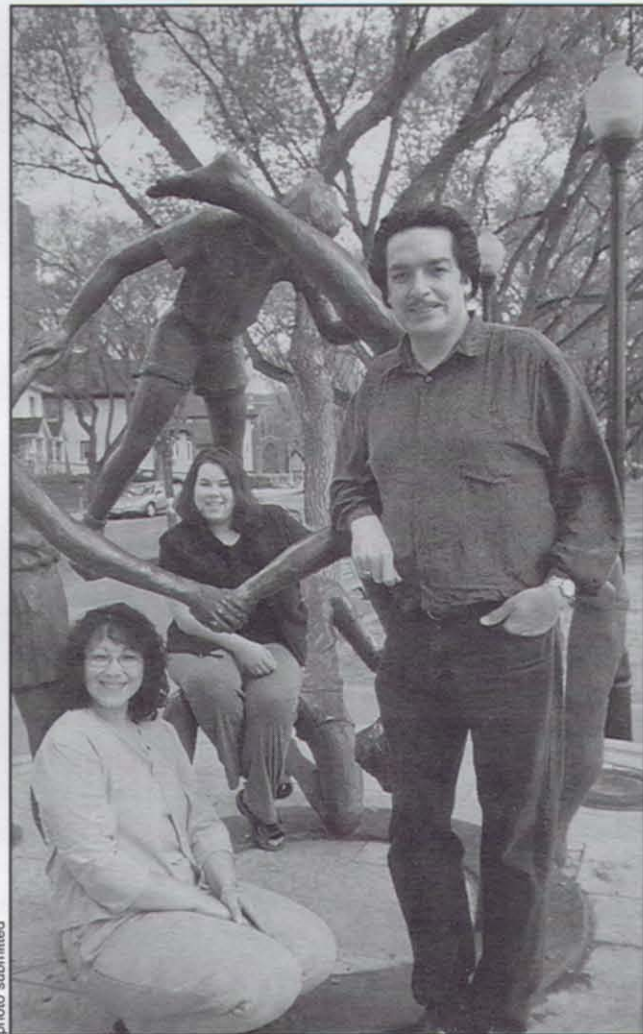


photo submitted

Meet the new summer student staff for GDI (clockwise from bottom): Lilah Morin, Cheryl Troupe, and Herb Lafferty.

Lebret and Ile a la Crosse, and creating a Métis Fiddle Book and CD Project.

The Publishing Department is extremely pleased to have such a fine group of students working in our publishing program. We hope programs like the CSSEI will continue to allow us to give Métis students the opportunity to develop their professional skills in the publishing field.

Herb Lafferty: He was born at Liidli Koe (Fort Simpson), Northwest Territories. In May 1999, Herb graduated from the Indian Teacher

Education Program, University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Education degree (Art Major - English Minor). He plans to complete the remaining twelve credits of a three year Bachelor of Arts (Studio Art) degree for this fall. His main responsibility this summer is working on our Métis Fiddle CD/Book project. This project is special to him because he used to play back up for his father Ed "Fast Eddy" Lafferty, who was a

well-known Métis fiddler from Liidli Koe.

Lilah Morin: She was born and raised in the Métis settlement of Ile a la Crosse. Education is very important to her and with determination and commitment she went back to school in 1995 to obtain her grade twelve through the Adult Basic Education program at SIAST Kelsey Institute. Now she is commencing her 4th year of studies towards her Bachelor of Education degree in the fall with SUNTEP Saskatoon. Her main responsibility this summer will be working at our community display program and conducting Michif oral history

interviews.

Cheryl Troupe: She was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and grew up in and around Prince Albert. In May 2000, she graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Arts Degree with high honours in Native Studies. Cheryl is awaiting acceptance into the College of Education for this fall. Her main responsibility this summer will be working on our new study prints which includes doing research, writing and editing. She is also busy with the community display program by travelling to different communities promoting our Institute's resources.

Dumont Technical Institute

STORY BY GEORDY McAFFREY

In 1992, Dumont Technical Institute Inc. (DTI) was established to better serve the Metis of Saskatchewan in the areas of basic education and technical training fields. DTI is now offering a two year Business Administration Diploma Program, which will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. To better help students develop skills that will contribute to their success in the Business Administration Program, DTI is offering a six week Prep Program. The Prep Program begins in July 2001 and is designed to offer individual enhancement in communication and mathematical skills. Prerequisites for the Business Administration Program include a grade 12 or a GED plus demonstrated competency through acceptable scores on basic skills

test. Level 30 Math would be a definite asset.

The Business Administration Diploma Program begins September 2001 and consists of two training components. The first, being the attainment of a Business Administration Certificate after the first year of classes which has a 10 month (40 week) duration. During this first year, students will have developed a business background with general abilities and skills in this field. Students will then be given the opportunity to have summer employment to gain experience and offer employers the opportunity to observe their performance. After the first year, students are given the choice of either entering the workforce, or moving on to the second training component of obtaining a Diploma.

In choosing to continue for a

Diploma, students are eligible to specialize in one of the following areas - Accountancy or Financial Services.

Accountancy Specialization offers employment opportunities in commercial, industrial and non-profit organizations as well as with accounting firms and government departments. The Financial Services Specialization offers job opportunities in the areas of chartered banks, investment firms, Credit Unions, trust companies as well as insurance companies. Students taking Financial Services Specialization will be fully prepared to write the Canadian Securities Exam.

The Business Administration Diploma Program is made possible by partnerships between DTI, SIAST, and the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF). For further information on the program or to obtain an application form, contact DTI at (306) 242-6070, ext. 5.

SUNTEP Saskatoon Graduates



photo by GDI



photo by GDI

Above (left to right): Penny Condon, David Racette, Patricia Davis, Jesse Desjarlais, Myra Oberhofer, Evan Howe, Heather Merastey, Brian Agren, Michelle King-Greyeyes, Nicole DeCorby, Lydia Karras. Below: SUNTEP Saskatoon students Rose Campbell and Renee Hammersmith with students at Taos Pueblo School, New Mexico.

Practical Nursing Program

STORY BY GEORDY M'AFFREY

Dumont Technical Institute Inc. (DTI) is preparing for the intake of their third Practical Nursing Program. The first Practical Nursing Program, which was completed in 2000, proved to be very successful with students finding employment in various Health Districts across Saskatchewan. The second running of the program is currently coming to completion, and again various employment prospects are available to the graduates.

Once completing the Practical Nursing Program, students are qualified to write the national licensure examination. After suc-

cessful completion of the examination, students are eligible to be registered as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) in Saskatchewan. After the completion of the program, students can look forward to possible employment in home care agencies, hospitals, healthcare centers and rehabilitation centers or hospitals. Graduates of the Practical Nursing Program follow the standards and guidelines of the Saskatchewan Association of Licensed Practical Nurses (SALPN).

The anticipated start date for the Practical Nursing Program is February 2002 with a length of 57 weeks. The entrance requirements for the program include a Grade 12

with an average of 65% in the subjects English A and B 30, Math 30 and one of Biology 30, Chemistry 30, or Physics 30. One can also enroll as a mature student with a GED 12 plus Math 30 and Biology 30 with an average of 65% in both subjects.

The Practical Nursing Program is accredited by DTI and SIAST by way of a Federation Agreement. Many students who are or have participated in the program, were sponsored by Metis Employment and Training of Saskatchewan Inc. (METSII). For further information on the program or to obtain an application form, contact Tavia Inkster at Dumont Technical Institute at (306) 242-6070.

SUNTEP Regina Graduation

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
ERMA ML TAYLOR

On Friday, May 25th the MultiPurpose Room at the U of R was transformed from stale and sterile to flashy and festive as the Eighteenth Annual SUNTEP Regina Graduation got under way.

The crowd of about 200 family and friends was hushed as the Drums played an Honor Song, following the grads' walk to the podium. "It was the most moving part of the graduation for me" said Tricia Racette. As well as the SIFC Drum, David Sayer (fiddler) and Cecil Keepness (guitar) provided entertainment before and after the official program. This year, SUNTEP's

Bachelor of Education graduates are:

L to R Back row: Riva Jo Farrell Racette (Distinction); Clayton Parisien; Wendy McPherson; Murray Bird; Jeannine Pelletier; Marlo Graham—L to R Front row: Tanya Georges (Distinction); Heather Sinclair; Tricia Racette. Missing is Tammy Riel.

MC, Alumnus Shannon Fayant did a marvellous job of acknowledging guests and announcing awards which included:

David Amyotte Memorial Scholarship – Derek Racette and Jeannine Pelletier. *SaskEnergy Sharing the Warmth* – Marlo Graham. *Myrtle A. McGee Prize* – Riva Jo Farrell Racette nominated for excellence in internship.

Marguerite Fuller Prize – Samira Boucher nominated for outstanding pre-internship

Sashes in the SUNTEP colours were presented to each of the graduates. Clara Bear and Eric Honetschlager, long time friends of SUNTEP, have been making the sashes each year since the first SUNTEP Regina graduation in 1984. The staff carried on their tradition of designing and hand-making beautiful leather briefcases which were also presented to each graduate.

All in all, the Eighteenth annual SUNTEP Regina graduation was a resounding success!



Left to right back row: Riva Jo Farrell Racette (Distinction), Clayton Parisien, Wendy McPherson, Murray Bird, Jennine Pelletier, Mario Graham. Front row: Tanya Georges (Distinction), Heather Sinclair, Tricia Racette. Missing is Tammy Riel.

SUNTEP Theatre

STORY BY BENTE HUNTLEY

SUNTEP Theatre is a troupe of Metis and First Nations Students of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, in Prince Albert. For many years now, we have created plays that provide a positive and celebratory voice not only for SUNTEP, but for Aboriginal people in general.

The Great Canadian Golf Crisis (1990) dealt with land rights; Wheel of Justice (1992, 2000) responded to the Christopher Columbus quincentennial celebrations; Kinyinew (1993) was about gambling and self-determination; Family Feudalism (1994) satirized gender roles; Silent Voices (1994) tackled the issue of family violence; The Voices Given to Us (1998) honoured our ancestors; The Smile on Your Face (1999) celebrated children; Welcome to Our Shoe (2000) affirmed the importance of love and family in children's lives.

A Thousand Supperless Babes: The Story of the Metis was first created and performed in 1996. It was revived as a class project involving students from all four years of the SUNTEP program. This was a multi-media production that celebrates the history and culture of the Metis people. To create this play, the students

researched Metis history through literature, archival material and, more importantly, through stories and photographs from the families and communities of SUNTEP students, past and present.

SUNTEP Theatre is a storytelling venue where we share our stories and ideas within the safety of the circle. We engage in a collective



A troupe from SUNTEP theatre

process that we, as teachers, will use in our schools and communities.

A Thousand Supperless Babes was performed for SUNTEP and DTI students on April 3rd and for a standing-room only audience on April 6th. The final performance of the play was on May 11th, at the Saskatchewan School Library Association held in Prince Albert.

A big thank-you to Lon Borgerson and the cast and crew of the play:

Petrina Ahenakew-Turner, Laren Ball, Celena Bear, Florence Bear, Jodi Boyer, Jamie Burns, Gerod Campeau, Lori Choumont, Teri Dempster, Judy Eninew, Mandy

Fisher, Jason Gibb, Lindsay Graham, Michael Havet, Kevin Henry, Nicole Hicks, LeeAnn Johnson, Linda Mills, Corinne Pelletier, Trina Roenkerr, Christie Snow. Our thanks to Todd Bear for dancing with us, Rebecca Beverage for accompanying us, Elaine Sukava for singing with us, Donald Smith and the Glenbow Museum for the photographs (of Honore and Aimee), Bill Smillie and the P.A Historical Museum, James Keelaghan for "Honore", Connie Kaldor for "Maria's Place/Batoche", Don Freed for "Daughters of the Country" ...AND the original cast of Supperless Babes (most of whom are now SUNTEP teachers).

SUNTEP Theatre also participated in Earth Day celebrations on April 22 and at the annual Prince Albert Children's Festival on May 22 and 23rd. The troupe brought to life a menagerie of Wild Things (with their giant puppets) from some of our storybook favorites. Children laughed, acted and interacted in this really BIG hit. There were three performances on Tuesday afternoon and five on Wednesday. Thanks to the following staff and students who made SUNTEP proud: Lon Borgerson, Liza Brown, Murdine McCreath, Sandy Sherwin-Shields, Petrina Ahenakew-Turner, Kim Baird, Gerod Campeau, Lori Choumont, Nicole Hicks, Trina Rosenkerr, Dianne Turner.

SUNTEP Prince Albert Alumni

STORY BY BENTE HUNTLEY

A group of about 25 SUNTEP alumni gathered for a dessert social on May 4, 2001 at the SUNTEP PA center. Most of the alumni were from the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division and the Prince Albert Separate School Division. A mother of one of the current SUNTEP students prepared the dessert. A huge thank you to Mrs. Turner. The grads decided to form an alumni association and volunteers came forward to spearhead a meeting on June 5, 2001. It was decided that a 20-year SUNTEP Prince Albert gathering should take place in the fall of 2001. The gathering will be held at PAR Place; the group will notify grads via mail and word of mouth. We hope to have a big turnout for

our 20th reunion. The alumni association hopes to elect representatives and keep the association active. They also hope to

establish a scholarship fund as well. The evening was fun and many people had stories to share.



Alumni from SUNTEP in Prince Albert gathered for a dessert social on May 4.



SUNTEP Prince Albert Graduation

STORY BY BENTE HUNTLEY

On the evening of May 25, we celebrated the graduation of 14 SUNTEP teachers from the Prince Albert program. The theme of the evening was "I Believe..." and Rebecca Beverage provided fiddle music as over 200 guests filled the ballroom at the Sheraton Marlboro. Mr. Bighead gave the blessing and numerous special guests brought greetings and congratulations to the grads: representing the Gabriel Dumont Institute was Dale MacAuley; from the Metis Nation was Lorna Docken; on behalf of the Prince Albert Grand Council was Donna Kingfisher; Lynne Bayne brought greetings from the University of Saskatchewan; Arnie Lindberg congratulated the students on behalf of the City of Prince Albert; Keith Goulet spoke on behalf of the

government of Saskatchewan; Reg Nicolas represented the Saskatchewan Rivers School Division and Petrina Ahenakew-Turner congratulated the grads on behalf of the SUNTEP Student body. As usual, SUNTEP Unhinged performed two stimulating and amusing pieces for the audience's entertainment. The students chose Lon Borgerson to give the keynote address. He presented a thoughtful, moving and challenging keynote. And again this year, all of the graduates shared in the farewell address. As the pre-taped voices of the grads rang clear, slides of the graduates appeared on screen. Their sincere heartfelt thanks to their families, friends, peers and faculty was the highlight of the evening: Their moment. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation to Ronda Johnson of the Fourth

Annual SaskEnergy "Sharing the Warmth" Award. It was well deserved. During the evening the third year students honored the graduates with red roses, Metis sashes and personally handcrafted dreamcatchers. Of the 14 graduates, two received the Bates Award, two graduated with great distinction, and three graduated with distinction. The striving for excellence continues. Congratulations and best wishes to all of our graduates; we will miss you and know you are well on your journey, down a new path.

Stacey Bighead, Leanne Bray, Jamie Burns, Marie Anne Corrigan, Janice DePeel, Trish Dyer, Lindsay Graham, Ronda Johnson, Laurie Paul, Verna Sanderson, Christine Soles, Paige Sinoski, Corey Teeter and Dwayne Tournier.

GDI Library Report

STORY SUBMITTED BY GDI

The Gabriel Dumont Institute Library has hired three students, one full-time and one part-time in the Regina Branch and a half time in the Prince Albert location.

These students are funded through the Centennial Summer Student Employment Program, which is a five-year program designed to encourage students to continue their studies, through meaningful summer employment opportunities. The duties of the students include research and development, education program development,

our library inventories, processing of library materials and clerical duties.

Marilyn Belhumeur has been appointed to the Minister's Advisory Committee on Library Services to Aboriginal People. The committee has been established to examine ways of improving access to services provincewide. The committee will identify ways to foster aboriginal participation, and to commitments to, the development and maintenance of public library services designed to meet the library and information needs of all Aboriginal peo-

ple in Saskatchewan. It will seek input from the library community, aboriginal peoples and the public in locations throughout the summer. The committee's recommendations are slated for this fall.

Bette Desjarlais has accepted a position at the Saskatchewan Legislative Library. We would like to thank her for many years of service and dedication to the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Effective July 1, 2001 Sharon Wood a SUNTEP-PA graduate who has worked as a Library Technician will assume the role of librarian at the Prince Albert Branch.

*A Family Event for
All Generations*



Back to Batoche 2001

Schedule of Events

July 27 -29

Friday, July 27th

- 6:00 p.m. Opening Ceremonies including introduction of Mr. & Mrs. Batoche
- 7:30 p.m. Open Stage
- 7:30 p.m. The Batoche Musical
- 9:00 p.m. Old Time Dance & Fiddle Night
with John Arcand, Calvin Vollrath, Gary Lapine and Hap Boyer

Saturday, July 28th

- All Day Children's Festival
Cultural Workshops- Red River Cart Construction, Fiddle and Stories, Art Exhibition Introduction to Michif, Métis Writers, Crafts and Displays
Voyageur Games
- 1:00 p.m. Competitions in Fiddling, Jigging, Square Dancing,
Bannock Baking & Talent Contest
- 7:30 p.m. The Batoche Musical
- 9:00 p.m. Talent Contest Finals
- 9:30 p.m. Dance with Live Band
- 11:00 p.m. Fireworks
- 11:30 p.m. Live Music Continues

Sunday, July 29th

- All Day Children's Festival
Cultural Workshops- Red River Cart Construction, Fiddle and Stories, Art Exhibition Introduction to Michif, Métis Writers, Crafts and Displays
Church Service
- 10:00 a.m. Procession to Mass Grave
- 11:00 a.m. Competition Finals in Fiddling and Jigging
Voyageur Games Finals
- 1:00 p.m. Competition Finals in Square Dancing
- 2:00 p.m. Closing Ceremonies
- 3:00 p.m. Final Performance of Batoche Musical
- 5:00 p.m.
- 7:30 p.m.

Back to Batoche Rodeo & Wagon Races
Fri. Jul 27th, Sat. Jul 28th & Sun. July 29th

Back to Batoche Slow Pitch Tournament
Saturday, July 28th & Sunday July 29th

Competitions

Competitions in Fiddling, Jigging, Square Dancing, Bannock Baking and the Talent Show begins on Saturday July 28th. Talent Show final will be Saturday Night. All other finals are on Sunday July 29th.

Please fax us your entries to (306) 244-5336 or e-mail to jack.w@sk.sympatico.ca

Fiddling

- Open
 - First place: \$300.00
 - Second place: \$200.00
 - Third place: \$100.00
- Jr.
 - First place: \$150.00
 - Second place: \$100.00
 - Third place: \$75.00
- Novice
 - First place: \$75.00
 - Second place: \$50.00
 - Third place: \$25.00

Jigging

- Mens
 - First place: \$300.00
 - Second place: \$200.00
 - Third place: \$100.00
- Womens
 - First place: \$300.00
 - Second place: \$200.00
 - Third place: \$100.00
- Jr.
 - First place: \$150.00
 - Second place: \$100.00
 - Third place: \$75.00

Talent Show

- 6-12
 - First place: \$25.00
 - Second place: \$20.00
 - Third place: \$15.00
- 13-19
 - First place: \$75.00
 - Second place: \$50.00
 - Third place: \$25.00
- 20+
 - First place: \$100.00
 - Second place: \$75.00
 - Third place: \$50.00

Square Dancing

- Open
 - First place: \$2000.00
 - Second place: \$1500.00
 - Third place: \$1000.00

Bannock Baking

- Open
 - First place: \$75.00
 - Second place: \$50.00
 - Third place: \$25.00

Mr. and Mrs. Batoche

- Open \$300.00

For Further information call (306) 668-8514 or by email to jack.w@sk.sympatico.ca

LEBRET METIS CULTURAL DAYS CELEBRATION - 2001



August 10th, 11th, and 12th
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- Slow-pitch ball games
- Longest drive (golf)
- closest to pin (golf)
- Tug of war
- Metis strongman competition
- Jigging & Fiddling contests
- Talent contest
- Youth talent
- Youth jigging
- Youth fiddling
- Youth games & entertainment
- Educational displays
- Food Concessions
- Beer gardens
- Live entertainment
- Nightly dances

ADMISSION

Adult - 3 day pass \$20.00 includes all dances
Senior/under 16 - 3 day pass \$10.00 include all dances
12 & under Free - not permitted at dances

Daily pass \$5.00 does not include dance
Senior/under 16 - \$3.00 does not include dance
12 and Under Free - not permitted at dance
Separate events will be held for children during nightly
dances



Lebret Farmland Foundation is not
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*Metis Rights Defence
Fund
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Buffalo Narrows, SK
S0M-0J0*

An Interview with Clem Chartier

By **KATHY HODGSON-SMITH**

KHS: What are your links to Ile-a-la-Crosse?

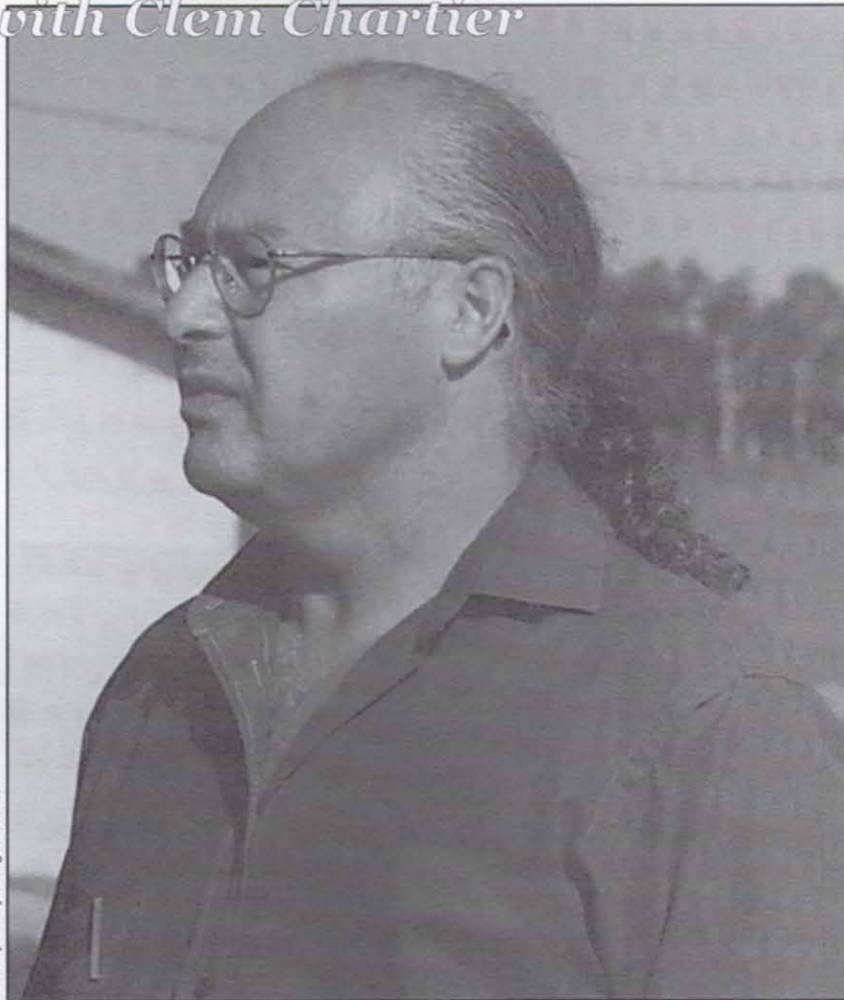
CC: I was born in Ile-a-la-Crosse and that is where my mother was from. She was the daughter of Jeremy and Anna Caisse. I also attended the Mission Boarding School for the first ten years of my life, completing my Grade nine there. I was Number 46.

KHS: How has growing up in Ile-a-la-Crosse directed your life?

CC: Ile-a-la-Crosse is an old historic Métis community, so one certainly has a sense of identity and connectedness to the history and the people. When you grow up in Ile-a-la-Crosse you also have the benefit of knowing Métis family and Métis leadership. Life is part of the learning process and so besides having the benefit of learning from the Métis community of Buffalo Narrows, I also had the benefits of learning and living in Ile-a-la-Crosse in my formative years.

KHS: What memories do you hold of growing up in Ile-a-la-Crosse?

CC: When we were kids, we would hear the old stories. I remember particularly a story told by the late Vital Morin, about being captured and tortured by Germans in the war. We have our Métis heroes and for me Vital



Clem Chartier, President of Metis Nation - Saskatchewan.

Morin is surely one. There are many. Living in Ile-a-la-Crosse you meet many other young people and as you grow into adult life, you can learn from their examples, such as getting involved in Métis issues and politics. I think of people like Jonas Favel, Jim Favel, Jim Durocher and Allan Morin. It helps to know people and to learn the issues. It is important to get involved. There is a confidence in knowing you fight for the right thing when you are fighting for the rights of your people and your community.

Ile-a-la-Crosse has the roots of

land, history and culture for the Métis in northwest Saskatchewan. It was a focal point for Métis political consciousness and activism in the 60's and 70's and continues to be so today. It is like an anchor for the Métis on the northwest side – communities like Jans Bay, Cole Bay, Buffalo Narrows, Pinehouse and Beauval – just as Red River was the cultural political center for the Métis Nation. On a smaller scale, so, too was Ile-a-la-Crosse the center for the Métis from those regions.

KHS: Thank you.

Ile-a-la-Crosse commemorates 1776 - 2001

Buckley Belanger

Celebrating Leadership

(REPRINTED)

Buckley Belanger was born and raised in northern Saskatchewan. He began his career as a journalist in Regina with the Aboriginal Magazine, new Breed. He later returned to his home town of Ile-a-la-Crosse to become editor of the local paper.

He subsequently joined Missinipi Broadcasting Corporation in LaRonge where he worked as a programmer, producer and administrator. During this time, he promoted the importance of radio and television for northern residents, and in 1986 assisted 12 communities to establish their own radio and television stations. In 1987, he established his own consulting company to continue this community communication work.

Buckley Belanger entered politics in 1988 and was elected mayor of Ile-a-la-Crosse.

He served three terms as mayor, being re-elected in 1991 and 1994. With a strong focus on economic development, community rehabilitation and local infrastructure, Ile-a-la-Crosse became one of the showcase communities of northern Saskatchewan.

In 1995, he entered provincial politics and was elected to the Saskatchewan legislature, representing the riding of Athabasca. He was re-elected in the general election in 1999.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Buckley Belanger, Minister of Environment and Resource Management.

He was appointed to Cabinet by Premier Roy Romanow on September 30, 1999 as Minister of Environment and Resource Management. Mr. Belanger was reappointed Minister of Environment and Resource Management on

He was appointed to Cabinet by Premier Roy Romanow on September 30, 1999 as Minister of Environment and Resource Management and as Associate Minister of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

of Environment and Resource Management and as Associate Minister of intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

February 8, 2001 by Premier Lorne Calvert. Minister Belanger and his wife Becky have three daughters Michelle, Kelly and Taylor.

Allan Morin

A Leader for the People

(REPRINTED)

Mr. Allan Morin, Provincial Treasurer for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan was born and raised in the northern Métis village of Ile-a-la-Crosse, Saskatchewan. He completed his high school at St. Mary's High School in Prince Albert and furthered his education with social work courses, para-legal and life skills certification courses. At the University level, he excelled in Public Administration, Accounting, Native Studies and Sociology.

Mr. Morin has held employment in all levels of government: federal, provincial, municipal and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. He has held a wide range of positions in his 30 years of employment, including Housing Manager with Meadow Lake Native Urban

Mr. Morin has held employment in all levels of government: federal, provincial, municipal and the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan.

Housing and elected Provincial Secretary for three years with the Association of Métis, Non-Status

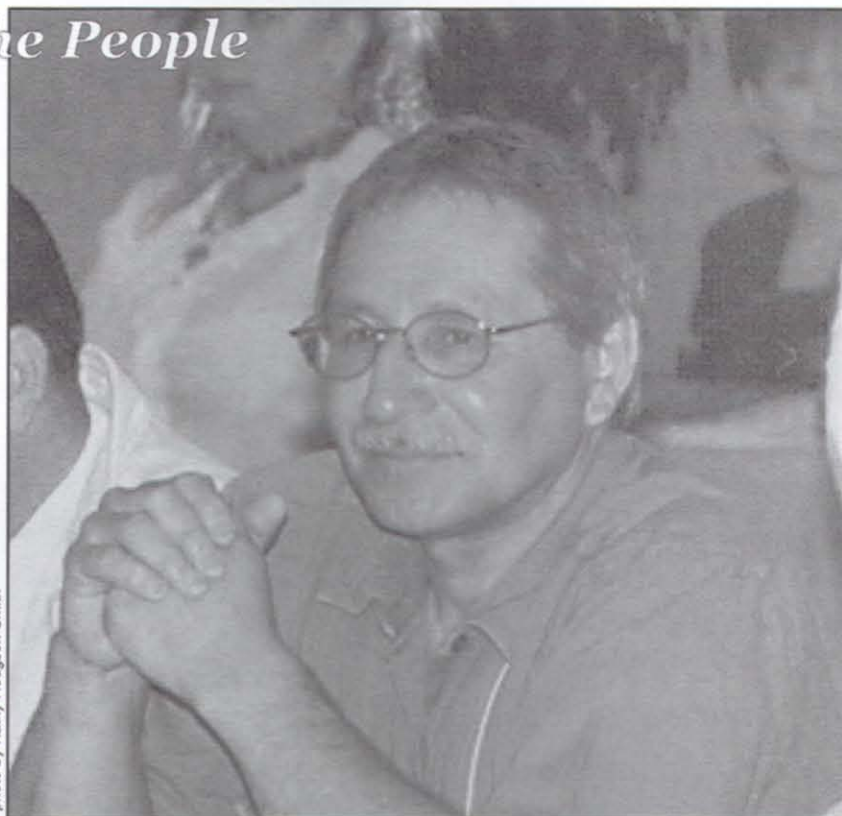


photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Allan Morin, Treasurer for the MNS.

Indians of Saskatchewan. He has also served as a Community Program Consultant, Executive Director for Norsask Native Outreach, Liaison Worker, Housing Manager with the Development of Northern Saskatchewan, Manager of Co-op Industries and Research Officer with Northern Municipal Council. Over the past two years, a strong focus of Mr. Morin's has been in economic development. He established the Clarence Campeau Development Fund for small business so that Métis could leverage more funding for joint ventures and partnerships. Under his direction, the Tripartite program is moving efficiently with the Northern Project, Justice and Agriculture development with the

Métis farms and Urban Governance. Mr. Morin also served as Chairperson for the hugely successful Back-to-Batoche Days 2000 celebrations, which included international participants and intense media coverage.

Allan Morin remains strongly committed to providing better opportunities for Métis people in the province of Saskatchewan. He is dedicated to the cause of Métis people and has developed strong negotiations, organization and administrative skills. Mr. Morin is capable of working with federal, provincial, municipal and First Nation governments and provide leadership with vision for the future of the Métis.

Ile-a-la-Crosse commemorates 1776 - 2001

Max Morin: *Living for the People*

(REPRINTED)

Since 1995, Max Morin has been mayor of the northern village of Ile-a-la-Crosse, where he was born and raised. Currently Chairperson of both the NorthWest Saskatchewan Municipalities Association and Keewatin Yathé Health District, Mr. Morin is actively involved in addressing community concerns. Max Morin completed grade

Max Morin is a fluent speaker of Michif and believes in the importance of preserving the language by educating youth.

twelve at Rossignol High School in Ile-a-la-Crosse. He further pursued his education in the fields of economic development and geology. Long affiliated with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Mr. Morin has served as the co-coordinator for several health, housing and economic development related projects. He has also been chairperson of the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) review committee, and of the Gabriel Dumont Institute Board of Directors. Max Morin has a deep and abiding interest in the health and well being of northern communities, and for decades has played an



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Max Morin speaking to a crowd.

important role in developing and implementing health care programs in the northwest.

An active member of the community of the northwest, Mr. Morin has been a board member on numerous local organizations, such as the Westside Consultation Committee on Health Care, the N14 Trapper's Association, Ile-a-la-Crosse Fisherman's Coop, and the Local #21 Métis Society. He has also earned community respect by participating in conferences and workshops outside his

areas of duty, but within his wide range of personal interests, such as the annual Ile-a-la-Crosse youth conference. He sits on the committee for the 225th Anniversary Celebrations for the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, as well.

Max Morin is a fluent speaker of Michif and believes in the importance of preserving the language by educating youth. He has a keen interest in the history of the Northwest and in Métis traditional land use of the area.

Don Favel: *A Leader By Example*

(REPRINTED)

As past regional director for Northern Region III, a position held since 1994, Don Favel held the portfolio of Health and Addictions with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan. As part of these responsibilities, he held the position of Chairperson for the Métis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan Inc. He also served as Co-Chairperson of the Provincial Métis HoldCo and the Northern Project for the MNS.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Don Favel, a man with many accomplishments.

Working with youth in promoting a healthy drug-free lifestyle through community involvement and a strong sense of cultural belonging is what Don Favel holds closest.

Mr. Favel was born and raised in Ile-a-la-Crosse where he attended mission school. He spent most of his working life in his home community, mainly as a carpenter. The Favel family's involvement with the Métis Nation goes back many years. Don Favel's brothers, Jonas and Jim, both served as Regional Directors before him. Prior to his involvement with politics, Don Favel worked for the Métis

Nation – Saskatchewan as an addictions counselor and field educator for twelve years.

Actively involved in his community, Mr. Favel has been the Vice Chair of Ile-a-la-Crosse Friendship Center for the past six years. As the Vice Chair he holds the portfolio of the Aboriginal healing foundation, which is currently enjoying a third successful year of programming. Furthermore, Mr. Favel is involved with the evaluation and programming of the Friendship Center's Preschool program.

Working with youth in promoting a healthy drug-free lifestyle through community involvement and a strong sense of cultural belonging is what Don Favel holds closest. His sincere belief in the youth is evidenced by his position as conference Chairperson for the Ile-a-la-

Crosse Youth Conference, which facilitates a gathering of Métis youth to participate in recreational, educational and cultural activities. Favel has been the chair for seven consecutive conferences, attracting over 1000 youth in the summer of 2000. An avid hockey fan, Don describes himself as "a true blue Maple Leafs fan" and suggests this is how he learned to be so patient. In addition, he has been involved in coaching for many years, both at minor and senior levels.

Don Favel's contributions to the Métis community have been numerous. Mr. Favel takes pride in being a people person, and someone who believes that the youth are the keepers of the future for Métis communities. Don Favel still lives in Ile-a-la-Crosse, where he is busy raising his family with his wife Doreen.

Happy 225th Birthday Ile-a-la-Crosse!

STORY BY LILAH MORIN

This year my home community will celebrate 225 years. I was born and raised in the Métis community of Ile-a-la-Crosse, leaving a few years ago with my husband and family because of a difficult pregnancy. At the time of our move my husband was accepted in a Métis Housing Administrative Course here in Saskatoon. Upon his graduation he was employed by SaskNative Rentals and so we have remained in the city. I remained at home raising my children, when my youngest was able to go to day-care I began to pursue a career in Education. I am now in my fourth year and will convocate in the spring with a Bachelor of Education Degree. We have lived here for nine years but Ile-a-la-Crosse will always be our home. My husband Wayne and I believe it is important for our children to know where their roots are. My youngest child Nolan was born and has lived in the city all of his life but if you ask him where he is from he will tell you Ile-a-la-Crosse. We visit Ile-a-la-Crosse as often as we can because going home is always a great thing. It is

very hard sometimes being a long way from home and we are reminded of how good it feels to be home when my daughter Karianne says, "We're there!" when she sees the Métis flag flying on the outskirts of Ile-a-la-Crosse. We are all looking forward to spending the whole

week there this year and are very proud of our community as it celebrates its 225th year. We are very proud of the fact that we were born and raised in Ile-a-la-Crosse and we will always acknowledge it as our home. Once again I would like to say Happy 225th Birthday!



Above: the Church at Ile-a-la-Crosse. Right: Veterans monument. Below: the Doctor's House.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Upisasik Theatre Kayas

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
LON BORGERSON

As Ile-a-la-Crosse marks its 225th year, it is a birthday for Upisasik Theatre as well. Upisasik was "conceived" 25 years ago, as part of the community's bicentenary celebrations. The school board at that time was chaired by Vital Morin, and the school principal was Bob Lawton. They drafted a proposal to create a play that would tell the story of Ile-a-la-Crosse. Lon Borgerson was asked to write up credit dramacourses

for the high school and to be teacher-director of what has since become known as "Upisasik Theatre".

Sakitawak Kayas: Ile-a-la-Crosse a long time ago. Stories of contact between the Cree and the first white explorers. Stories of rivalry between fur companies and an honest-to-goodness duel the year they merged, 1821. Stories of Sarah Riel, Louis Riel's sister, a nun whose life was saved by a miracle a year after she came to work in the Ile-a-la-Crosse mission. Stories of the granting of land

scrip and the hasty appropriation of this land title by speculators from the south. Stories of the 1902 flood, when families paddled right up to the church step for Mass. Stories of the last voyageurs, of boarding school life, and of the flu epidemics of 1919 and 1937 when a red light in the sky gave people warning.

These were the stories of Sakitawak Kayas. Some were researched by Val Drummond from archival material; some came from the students who created this first play and performed



Left: Buckley Belanger as commisioner McKenna in Sakitawak Kayas, 1978. Above: cast of Gabrielle, 1985. Below: Cast of Another Home, 1984.



Ile-a-la-Crosse commemorates 1776 - 2001

in it: Buckley Belanger, Lily Caisse, Nora Corrigan, Bobby Desjarlais, Muriel Gardiner, Noella Gardiner, Valvaley Georges, Ida Johnson, Joyce Johnson, Maureen Kyplain, Felix Merasty, Donna Morin. The play was performed locally, then toured to other communities where town halls and school gyms were transformed into little ("upisasik") theatres: Pine House, Beauval, Patuanak, Green Lake, Meadow Lake. These performances were in English and Michif and were, according to Vye Bouvier, "the beginning of Native theatre in

Saskatchewan" (New Breed, 1983).

For many years, Upisasik Theatre created and performed original plays, usually about issues or topics that were important to the students and their community. Napew (1979) was about a young Metis man from across the lake who moves with his family into the community and comes into conflict with southern institutions. The Pin (1980) was a "Celebrate Saskatchewan" project that highlighted the unique history of the north and of Ile-a-la-Crosse. Scrip

Van Winkle (1981) was about a young man who accepts scrip in 1906, falls into a deep sleep, and wakes up 75 years later with land title to valuable property: "Kitsiwanis Park" and the "Burroughbess" Hotel in downtown Saskatoon. Come Tomorrow Come (1983) told the story of three young women who graduate from high school and are confronted by racism and sexism as they try to make careers for themselves. It's My Life (1984) and Oops (1984) were both about the impact of uranium mining on the north. And Gabrielle gave the events of 1885



Above: Duane Favel, Delores Johnson, and Bertha Georges in Scrip Van Winkle, 1981. Right Bottom: Duane Favel and Roberta Hodgson in Napew 1979.



as they might happen in 1985, in Ile-a-la-Crosse instead of Batoche, with a woman leader who has visions of Riel - just as Riel had visions of God. Gabrielle was published in *The Land Called Morning*.

But Upisasik's soap opera was probably the most successful of all. Another Home was a television soap series that chronicled the misadventures of the "Whitefish" family and friends. The series was videotaped in and around Ile-a-la-Crosse and then broadcast by CILX-TV every Friday night, just before the weekly bingo. Much of it was in Michif, so it validated and affirmed the language and stories and humor of the community of Ile-a-la-Crosse.

If there were ever an Upisasik Theatre reunion, it would be a big one. Many students performed with Upisasik over the years and, as adults and community members, quite a few have continued the work and play of theatre. The soap opera was revived in 1991: *The Return of Another Home*. A year later, an AIDS play, *Sarah*, was created and toured to other communities, with a mix of old and new actors and Beckie Belanger as director. Duane Favel became a teacher-director of many plays at Joe Duquette High School in Saskatoon, as well as performing himself. Actors such as Maureen Belanger, Elaine and Ida Johnson, Muriel Gardiner con-

tinue to perform to this day - at conferences, festivals and celebrations of all kinds. (And Buckley Belanger has a starring role in a big theatre in Regina.)

There has been an amazing "ripple effect" from that little upisasik high school group that started up during the Ile-a-la-Crosse centenary. Last summer, audiences lined up for "The Batoche Musical", and there were standing ovations every night. If you missed it, be sure to see it this summer. The characters of Alphonse and Ernestine Whitefish will show you what Upisasik Theatre is all about. The ripples continue.



Cast of Scrip Van Winkle, 1981.

Family and Local History of Ile-a-la-Crosse Saskatchewan Since 1776

STORY BY BRENDA MACDOUGALL

It seems fitting that, as Ile a la Crosse prepares for its 225th celebrations commemorating the history of the community's founding, we also acknowledge the role of family life in creating a distinct social and cultural Metis homeland in northwestern Saskatchewan. The Metis of Ile a la Crosse historically comprised a regional community interconnected through a web of extended family relationships. As a consequence, in order to understand the history of the community, it is necessary to know something about the family history of Ile a la Crosse.

Located in northwestern Saskatchewan, Ile a la Crosse was established in 1776 as a fur post by traders from the Montreal-based St. Lawrence trade network. The location of Ile a la Crosse was known as Sakitawak in Cree. Sakitawak translates literally as "big opening" but a more precise translation refers to the sensation of travelling into Lake Ile a la Crosse and, at a certain spot, being completely surrounded by water on all sides.

The area of northern Saskatchewan was an important region in the sub-arctic fur trade because of geographical features that served as a gateway to the Athabasca region. By the 1780s, traders from the North West Company (NWC) and Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) arrived at Lake Ile a la Crosse,



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Brenda MacDougall.

established posts and began forming relationships with local Cree and Dene women. Consequently, Ile a la Crosse quickly became home to Metis people who worked within the fur trade as servants, seasonal labourers, private entrepreneurs, fishermen and subsistence hunters/trappers.

The first post was constructed on an isthmus at the southwest end of Lake Ile a la Crosse by Louis Primeau and Thomas Frobisher. In 1784 Patrick Small became the first full-time NWC employee to operate a year round post on Lake Ile a la Crosse. Small married a local

Indian woman and the first Metis child born in Ile a la Crosse was their daughter, Charlotte Small who eventually married fur trader David Thompson. Between 1784 and 1821 there were a series of competing posts built at Ile a la Crosse by the NWC and HBC. The rivalry between the fur companies ended in 1821 when the NWC and HBC merged forming one company, It was at this time that Ile a la Crosse became the HBC headquarters for the English River District.

Each fur trading company that built a post on Lake Ile a la Crosse

housed their contracted, year-round employees and their Metis families. Within a few decades, a permanent and stable pool of Metis labourers developed and these men and their families began to spread out around the post and lake.

With the arrival of the Catholic church in the region in by the mid-nineteenth century, a permanent mission site was also a part of the community make-up housing a contingent of

Oblate priests and Grey Nuns. Due to the long history of trade in the Ile a la Crosse region, the roots of Metis social and cultural history are deep.

A valuable source of information about the historical community of Ile a la Crosse are the Hudson's Bay Company records located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. According to the post records for Ile a la Crosse recorded by the HBC, the post environment of Ile a la Crosse contained, almost from the beginnings, a healthy family life for the

male workers. Post journals and employment registers of the HBC reveal the importance and relevance of family life to male traders. Up until the mid-1860s, the births and deaths of the post's children were dutifully recorded in the post journals of Ile a la Crosse.

The other two valuable archival sources of Ile a la Crosse's family information come from the Roman Catholic church records kept by the Oblate priests who began living in Ile a la Crosse in 1846, and the



Top left: an old cold storage at Ile-a-la Crosse. Right: Addictions center. Below: Village office.



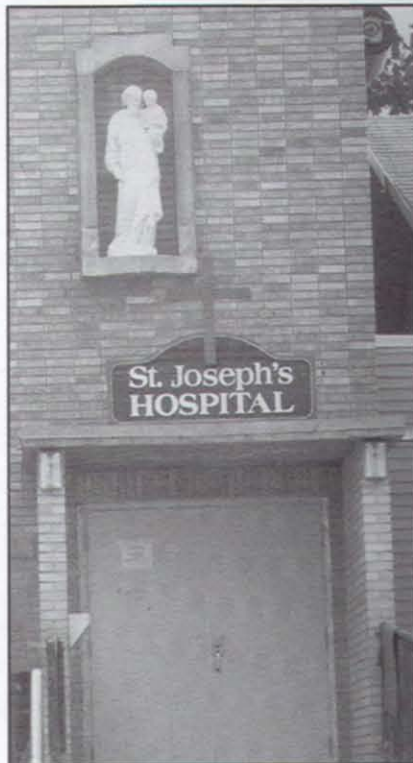
photos by Clem Chartier

scrip applications from 1906 and 1907. Oblate priests kept records of all of the births, baptisms, marriages and deaths of the Metis people in Ile a la Crosse however those records are often difficult to trace as they are not housed in the community any longer. Over time, with changes in diocese location, the records of Ile a la Crosse became scattered between Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, The Pas, Manitoba and St. Bonafice in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The best source for comprehensive information from a hundred or more years ago are the scrip records because they contain three generations of family information.

Included in the scrip applications are the name, age, birth place and residence of the applicant; the names of parents, spouses, children (living and dead); and whether the applicant and his/her parents were Indians, "Half-breeds" or white (more in reference to parents rather than the applicant). The scrip records are stored at the National Archives of Canada (NAC) and can be accessed through the NAC website.

It is clear from looking at these records that the families of Ile a la Crosse are rooted in the history of the community. The people of Ile a

la Crosse trace their ancestry to the French, English and Scottish traders who came to the region in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as well as the Cree and Dene people from the region. There are today surnames such as Bouvier, Aubichon, Morin, Maurice, Laliberte, Malbouf and Boucher (to name only a few) that date back to the early 1800s in Ile a la Crosse. Through tracing the genealogies of the families at Ile a la Crosse, it becomes clear that the people of Northwestern Saskatchewan were (and are) bound up in a complex family system that tied together the community together.



Above: entrance to St. Joseph's Hospital. Top right Grave of M. Riel. Bottom right: an older building in Ile-a-la-Crosse.



photos by Clem Chartier



Rita Bouvier:
Poet and Educator



STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

Rita Bouvier has published her first book of poetry entitled, *Blueberry Clouds*, a poignant exploration of the wellsprings of memory, language, and family that have shaped the contemporary experience of Aboriginal people in Canada. The violence and sustaining traditions of the past are brought into a single vision that revels in the power of the Cree and Mechif languages, eliciting a hope and beauty that is rooted in the rich history of Saskatchewan. Conversations with relatives, introspection, a love of the land, and a respect for values passed on through an extended family define this clear, humane voice. This first book is invested with a spiritual belief and political awareness that make Rita Bouvier an original and provocative writer (Reprinted from back cover)

Included in this issue of *New Breed Magazine* are two poems from *Blueberry*

Sailing the Deep

by Rita
Bouvier

I will take
with me
miyomaskiki,
sacred
medicine

nimosohom-
pun, my late
grandfather
a way of being
with you in
silence

namama, my
mother
a presence at
the end of the
line

nogosis, my son
a tale of
spiders in rub-
ber suction

boots

nisimis, my
younger
sibling
a belief there
is always room
for one more

niwichiwa-
ganak, the
ones with
whom I make
a path
a reading of
the great
mystery

nokumpun,
my late
grandmother
a prayer when
there is no
where else to
turn

The-a-la-Crosse commemorates 1776 - 2001

Clouds - Remembering Will Have To Do and Light Breaks. Dark Like Me and Sailing the Deep have been submitted for inclusion in a working manuscript entitled Gabriel Dumont Overture: In Three Movements.

Rita Bouvier is Métis, born and raised by her late grandparents in Ile-a-la-Crosse, and currently lives in Saskatoon. Her cur-

rent responsibilities she defines by her relationships, which include mom, partner, daughter, sister, niece, auntie, grandmother, friend and colleague. She holds a Bachelor of Education and a Masters of Education from the University of Saskatchewan and is currently employed as a senior administrator with the Saskatchewan Teachers Federation.



Dark Like Me

by Rita Bouvier

A red light clears my thinking

*in one moment to the next
a man is standing beside me
tall and handsome.*

*In an accented voice
he claims he is lost.
He is seeking last night's
aroma of coffees and teas
from around the world.*

*I direct him to Broadway
Avenue.*

*We make small talk
from Afghanistan
via Bulgaria to Canada.*

*He is here to study
crop science genetics
and would like to stay.*

*The conversation shifts.
You are dark like me
he claims, wanting to know
me.*

*I am Métis, I declare. I
offer*

*additional explanation.
He declines, he says
he has been to Batoche
and he knows my story,
as if Batoche held
the only story.*

But when we part

*his words are a song,
you are dark like me
you are dark like me
I say over and over again
in time to the rhythm
of my breathing
arms and legs in motion
as I run the bridges tonight.*

*Later that evening
in search of my friends
on the deck at Earls
the hostess inquires,
"is one of them blond?"
I reply without hesitation,
"No, they are dark like me.*

Yes, they are dark like me.

REMEMBERING WILL HAVE TO DO

(in memory of my dad, Louis Opikokow)

by Rita Bouvier

a community activity

namings as we were related

kayas mana *
we looked after ourselves
*Cree for "a long time ago"
gardens, canning, storing
in the muskeg for winter
we helped with the chores
everyone had a job to do
we played for learning
we cooked for doing
moosehide tanning

there was respect
for one another
children were not hit
we listened to the old peo-
ple
we did not talk back
you listened to children
so they would listen to you
we spoke to each other

the children were always
with us
learning along the way
ceremonies and games
taught us a way to be
love was the foundation
passing on our language
teaching the good life
remembering will have to do

LIGHT BREAKS

By Rita Bouvier

Light breaks blue dawn
on snow-covered fields
CBC is calling
for warmer weather
welcomed news
on this wintry day
on the garden show
the folk tale
of peonies and ants

is shattered
the relationship
between the rusty nail
and coniferous tree
is questions
thank goodness
the wisdom holds
wild berries are sweet-
er
than domestic berries
light breaks orange haze
tales of Oprah telling
beef stories on the air

there is news
of the Pope's visit
Havana waiting
repressed longing
at the junction of St.
Louis
and Prince Albert
the news is
that Reform is con-
cerned
about recent decisions
taken

on Aboriginal issues
which fail all Canadians
an apology for residen-
tial schools
is welcomed
but not so
for land claims
after all, the past is
past
common sense
to folk like you and me
doing the thinking for us

we should be thankful
light breaks white
blessed by snow
the news breaking a
story
of a man falsely accused
and someone should pay
for the wrong done
harm not retractable
for some, I think

ACHIEVEMENT

John Arcand's Fiddlefest - The "Reel" Deal

STORY BY JOHN LECLAIR

Nestled in the scrub poplar a few miles south of Saskatoon is an eighty acre parcel of land; no more than a collection of buildings and various farm animals. Not much different than the neighbours, really. Sure, there's a playground for kids, and public washrooms, and even a pet cemetery. Well, ok, maybe it is a little different. This is Windy Acres Vacation Farm, the home of John and Vicki Arcand and also the home of the annual John Arcand Fiddlefest and Canadian Red River Jigging Competition. Every August John and Vicki's home comes alive with music and dancing, Métis style. The big tent goes up, and the campers and motorhomes fill the pasture when the three-day festival gets underway. Actually this is no ordinary fiddle festival either. True, the John Arcand Fiddlefest is an open competition sanctioned by the Saskatchewan Fiddlers Association, but more importantly, it is really a celebration of Métis style fiddling and dance.

Métis fiddling is a style all its own, a style developed in Western Canada, with influences borrowed from the music brought by French and Scottish fur traders, but also mixed with Native rhythms and melodies.

John Arcand is the undisputed Master of the Métis Fiddle. He learned to play fiddle at an early age from his father

Victor and his grandfather Jean-Baptiste Arcand, both master fiddlers themselves, in the Red River style. Jean-Baptiste Arcand settled near Batoche, Saskatchewan, migrating from Red River in the latter part of the 19th century. As a result of this rich inheritance of music, John has developed and refined a style of playing that

many original compositions the Métis influence can be heard throughout, and his love for the style shows in his playing. "I have never heard anyone play with so much soul", says Calvin Vollrath, twice North American Grand Champion fiddler.

Métis dance is also a passion of John's.

The Red River Jig is the most popular of the Métis dances and in the old days it was a very structured and disciplined competition dance between two contestants. There was virtually no movement of the body above the knees; it was all in the feet, and they hardly left the floor! At the weekend house parties, (yes, there was life before TV) in Métis communities, the furniture was put aside and the living room cleared out for an evening of fiddling and dance. Some of the dances were the Duck Dance, The Reel of Four, Drops of Brandy, and of course, the Red River Jig. In the Red River Jig there are two parts. The first part was the standard step, and the second part was the "changes". The changes were the traditional fancy



steps borrowed partially from the French stepdancers, but also with a Native influence. Today few of the tra-

steps borrowed partially from the French stepdancers, but also with a Native influence. Today few of the tra-

ACHIEVEMENT

ditional steps or changes remain. Many of the older dancers have passed on, and many of the younger dancers who love the style of dancing have had to develop their own changes. There are perhaps 4 or 5 left from the original 50-60 original changes. The basic style of dancing and traditional changes has been nearly forgotten, but many people today believe they are still dancing the Red River Jig. Unfortunately, what they are doing is the farthest thing from it. We've all seen dancers high stepping with feet flying in an almost acrobatic manner and if they have a Métis sash or a pair of moccasins, we tend to assume that they're dancing the Red River Jig when the tune of the same name is being played.

John's not really sure of what it is that they're doing but he knows for sure that it's not the traditional Red River Jig. And it is for this reason that he has started the Canadian Red River Jigging Championships at his annual Fiddlefest in August. "We're pretty close to losing the Red River Jig forever," says John. He's promoting a return to the traditional style, and has been collecting the traditional steps and changes from Métis Elders for some time now. He'd also like to see the Red River Jig return as a competition dance between two challengers. John believes that by re-introducing the original style of dancing in a competition setting, and establishing guidelines on traditions of the past, that it will go a long way to educate younger dancers in the true Métis

dancing style and also preserve Métis culture.

So if you're planning a vacation this summer and want to see and hear Métis music and dance at its finest, be sure to check out John Arcand's Fourth Annual Fiddlefest and Canadian Red River Jigging Championships held August 10 - 12, 2001. You can find more information on the festival by calling John and Vicki Arcand at (306) 382-0111 or you can visit John's Website at <http://sites.netscape.net/johnarcand-fiddle/homepage>

John Leclair is a freelance Métis writer currently living in Debden, Saskatchewan. You can contact him at jleclair@sk.sympatico.ca

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This spring, summer and fall, construction and maintenance crews will be busy fixing highways right across our province.

Highways are the workplace for Saskatchewan Road Builders and Heavy Construction Association contractors and Saskatchewan Highways and Transportation maintenance and engineering crews.

When driving in Saskatchewan, slow to 60 km in the Orange Zones, where highway construction and maintenance is occurring. Please use extra care.

We're improving safety on Saskatchewan highways. Please keep them safe for our workers too.

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Saskatchewan
Highways and
Transportation

Remember...

when driving in Saskatchewan, slow to 60 km in the Orange Zone.

Call the Highway Hotline year-round

Regina and area: 787-7623 Saskatoon and area: 933-8333
Saskatchewan: 1-888-335-7623 www.highways.gov.sk.ca



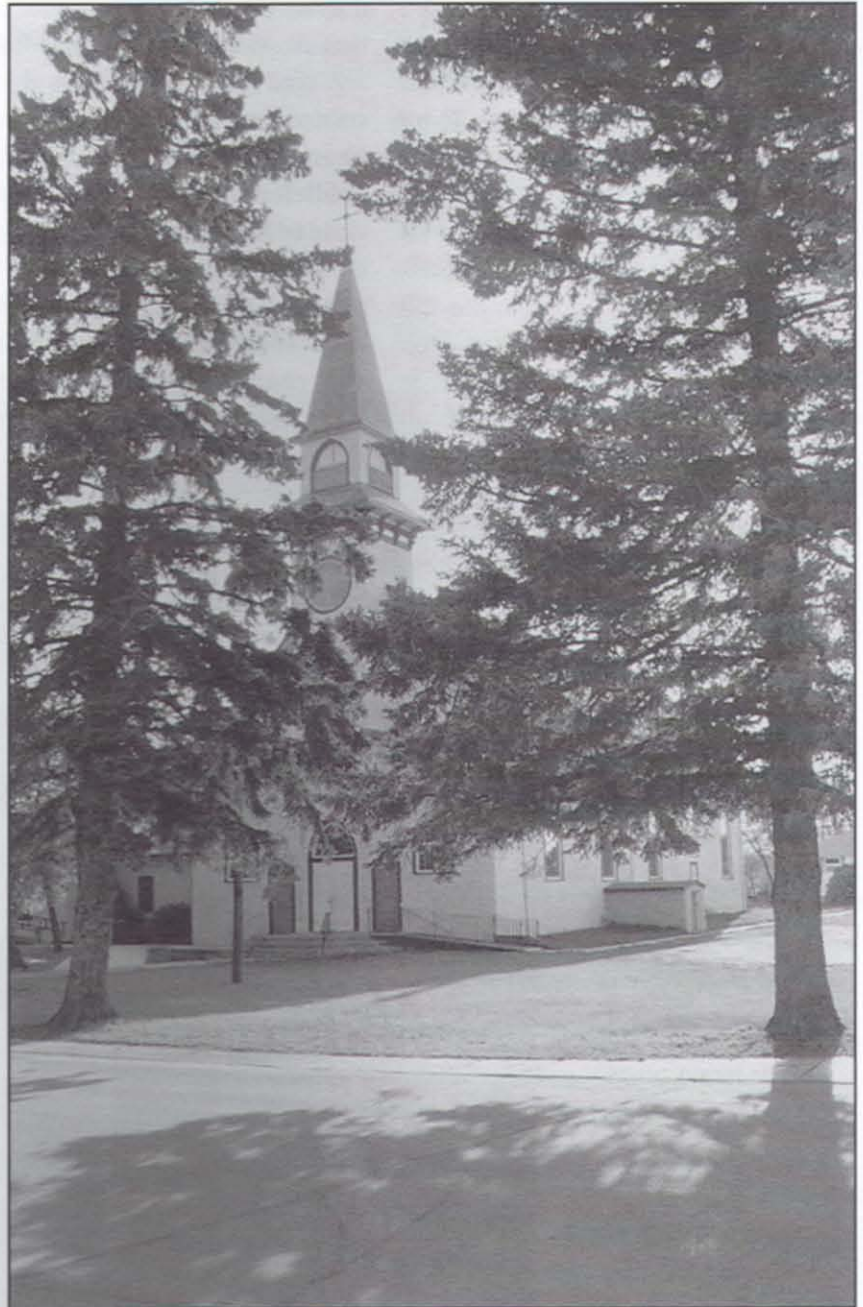
Duck Lake:

A Small Town with A Huge Story

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

The town of Duck Lake is located on the Louis Riel Trail (old Highway #11), situated between the communities of MacDowall and Rosthern from north to south and St. Louis and Carlton from east to west. It is nestled between the banks of two rivers: the North Saskatchewan and the South Saskatchewan, protected on the north by the Nesbit Forest. Duck Lake is a mere 45 minute drive from either of the two closest cities: Prince Albert and Saskatoon, and is an area great in historical importance. Within a few minutes drive from the town, a person can visit the site of the Battle of Batoche, the site of the Battle of Duck Lake, Fish Creek, Fort Carlton, Batoche National Historic Site, site of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Back-to-Batoche Days, a buffalo jump, the St. Laurent Shrine and the Seager Wheeler Farm. Because this area is rich in history, the town of Duck Lake has an aggressive tourism marketing effort that celebrates the Indian, Métis and pioneer cultures.

The Regional Interpretive Center, the site of the recent announcement of the renaming of Highway #11 (a story to be featured in the next issue), has been in operation since 1992 and has approximately 8,000 visitors a year. It features many artifacts such as Gabriel Dumont's Gold Watch and a dis-



Duck Lake Church.

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

play of Almighty Voice. Located in the town of Duck Lake is the Old Jail where Almighty Voice was held prisoner, to be found adjacent to the mural of Almighty Voice. A cairn is located just west of Duck

Lake, on the Beardy's and Okemasis Reserve, the site of the first shots fired in the Battle of Duck Lake. Fort Carlton was the most important trading post in the northwest and is only a twenty-six

kilometer drive from Duck Lake. From there you can take the Wyngard Ferry across the North Saskatchewan River and make your way to Shellbrook and the many historic Métis communities north of the river. There are many activities at the Fort as well as trails to walk on, a campground and a variety of historic artifacts to study. Each year, as part of the Treaty Days celebrations, the signing of Treaty Six is commemorated with ceremonies and activities at Fort Carlton. Just to the left of the site of the old Mission School, the Willow Cree hold their annual pow-wows. On both sides of the river, the traditional land use patterns of the Métis can still be found, with river lots lined by rows of trees on each side demarking one property from another.

The St. Laurent Shrine is the destination of many twice each year during the spiritual Pilgrimage.

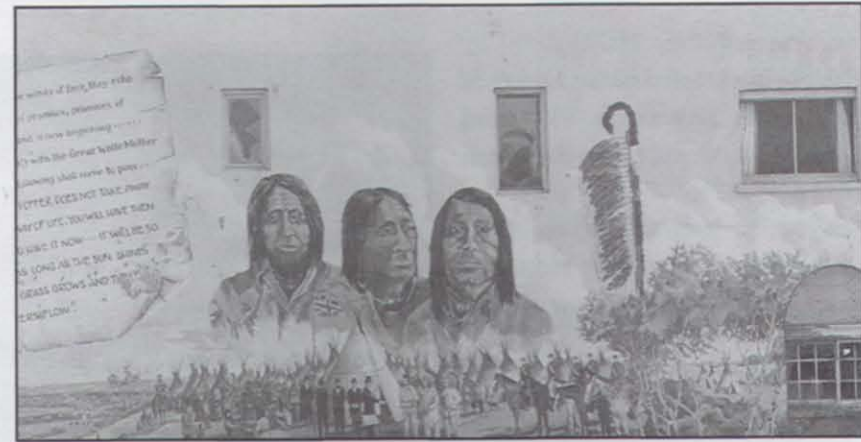


photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Above: Two of the many beautiful murals around Duck Lake. Below: Duck Lake store.



The Shrine started as an Order of the Oblate Mission in 1874 and was devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes. The Shrine site is designed for families and children, with a picnic area and a grotto for those people who wish to visit this historic site. The site of the St. Laurent shrine was also the focal point for a once-thriving community of St. Laurent, a community held only in the memory of the people who were born and raised there in the early years. A bit farther down the road from the Shrine, you will come to the St. Laurent ferry crossing where the eagles soar over the high banks of the South Saskatchewan River.

Turning east at Rosthern, you can take the scenic route and cross the river twice, crossing to the other side of the river by bridge at Gabriel's Crossing, the site of the original ferry manned by Gabriel Dumont in the late 1800s and tak-



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith



ing the ferry at St. Laurent back to other side. Once across Gabriel's Crossing, you can travel south to the site of the historic Fish Creek community, with the old church and railway station still standing. Thirty-two kilometers southeast on Highway #312 you will find the Fish Creek Battle Site, the first battle site between Gabriel Dumont and the Métis and General Middleton's forces.

And, of course we can't forget the filming of *Alien Thunder*, a motion picture starring Gordon Tootoosis, Chief Dan George and Donald Sutherland, telling the story of Almighty Voice.

Within the village boundaries, there are eleven murals, some of which are featured throughout

this issue, and one metal sculpture that are located on various buildings throughout the town which tell the stories of the major past events that contributed to the uniqueness and richness of the region. These murals draw a

lot of tourists and perform an important function of informing people of the events that have shaped the culture of Duck Lake and region. Anyone who travels in this area will have an experience that they will never forget.



*Above: Plaque on Métis Local office.
Below: Métis Local Building*



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Duck Lake is a small town with a huge story to tell. Enjoy an old Métis tradition – Take a moment to rest, stop for a tea and a good story. The story is for many a reminder of the commitment and vision of our Métis families and leaders who lost their lives or the lives of their loved ones in a fight for their rights as a people, as Métis. It is also a story of great tragedy and sadness, a reminder of how the spirit of a nation was oppressed. Today, it is a source of enlightenment and inspiration for this generation of Métis who seek to regain what was lost and celebrate what has survived. A great story indeed.

New Breed Magazine would like to thank the Town Office and the Regional Interpretive Center for supplying the information needed for this article.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith



An Interview with Rose Fleury: *Living the Teachings*

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

I spent an afternoon with Rose and Eugene Fleury and witnessed a twentieth-century version of the history, the culture and the teachings of our Métis Elders. Rose Fleury is a genealogist, inspired by her quest to know her husband's family, The Fleury's, tracing sixteen (16) generations all the way back to France. On her own family, the Garipey's, Parenteau's, Lafontaine's and Trotchie's to name a few, she has gone back thirteen (13) generations. She searches the church records, birth and death certificate records from Vital Statistics and general Social Security Information that might be available. She now offers this service to her community members from Métis Local #10, an organization to which she has committed many hours over the last thirty years or more.



photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

Rose and Eugene Fleury at their home.

In our interview she reminisced about memories over her lifetime, remembering the hard life of women in the early years, the cows, the gardens, walking miles for water, washing clothes in a tub on a washboard while the men were away hunting for food to feed the family. She spoke of the many other Métis families from the Duck Lake area; the Adams, Pochas and Sinclairs, to name a few. Rose's grandfather was a mink rancher and trapper who

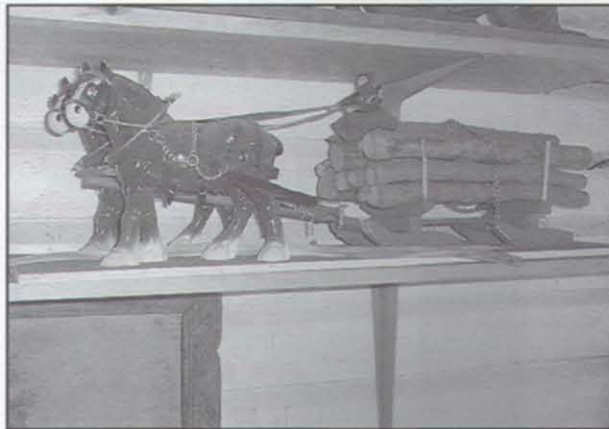
journeyed from Adamson Lake to Birch and Burnt Lakes. He also hauled logs and wood for money to supplement the food of the land and, to send the wood down south on the train. She remembers her grandmother grinding the meat in a grinder, tanning hides and bead-

ing the bright flowers of her Métis ancestry. She was raised by her grandparents and remembers her life fondly, remembering the courage and determination that they showed throughout their lifetime. Her grandmother taught herself to write by copying the

words and text from packaging and from cans. Rose Fleury learned Cree syllabics from Sister Ann, along with some French language, as part of her education at Stobart School. She was the eldest child of nineteen children, with ten sisters and eight brothers, being born in 1926. Ernest and Rose will celebrate their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary this October.

Today she offers genealogy workshops to interested Métis Locals to teach people how to find their roots. She spends many hours in her office and on her computer preparing and carrying out these tasks, a skill that she learned from her daughter and son-in-law over the last few years. She also sits with other Métis women from across Canada, holding a seat as a

National Elder. As part of this work, she participated in a national conference on racism, discussing the issues of women in prison. She also has taken time to educate herself on HIV/AIDS.



Craftsmanship of Eugene Fleury

She believes in the importance of education and learning and being involved in the issues facing the new generations. She is also an Elder for Métis Local #10, along with other community members

– Joe Marchant, Joe Parenteau, Eileen Sauve and Silvy Parenteau – participating in the activities of her community as the opportunity arises. Rose and Ernest Fleury have six children, three boys and three girls, of whom they are very proud – Roy, Stuart, Robert, Marilyn, Shirley and Karen.

Our Elders are not just part of the past, not just holders of knowledge and experience, but indeed they are also the future. They bring alive for the youth and adults who care to learn the teachings of the past into the

twenty-first century. She uses technology to capture the heritage. Rose Fleury makes us all proud of our families and our history. She is truly a remarkable woman.



Rose Fleury at her home.

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

An Interview with Peter Rudyck

Life with the Duck Lake Rodeo:

STORY SUBMITTED

uck Lake Sports went for 102 years annually until participation saw the end of the event. The Métis Local approached the village about ten or eleven years after this and the Métis Local requested to take it over. The Local went to the village to gain the lease on the grounds. The first year we sought a three year lease. Once we started building development, the Métis Local sought a long term lease to the rodeo grounds. The village was very supportive of the work of the Métis Local and the town and surrounding community benefit greatly from the business that is generated from visitors and family.

The Métis Local got money from the Métis Nation –



Saskatchewan's Clarence Campeau Development Fund to develop the main building / cultural center. We went to Dumont Technical Institute to fund a carpentry training program under which the grandstand was built. The first year of the rodeo about

7000 - 8000 people attended the amateur level rodeo, kids and cultural events. The rodeo attracted 50 to 60 riders in all events and 55 chariot carts and 43 wagons. The first year was in 1998. Since that time, the number has continuously grown with increased atten-



Above: Peter Rudyck. Below: Duck Lake Rodeo.

dance by the public as well as increased numbers in the events themselves. The days open with a parade which is also growing into a colorful and entertaining event. A cabaret will be held during the evenings, with entertainment by Against the Grain, a country rock band from Vancouver.

The main building is about 4500 square feet. It is a community facility for use by the Métis Local free of charge for the promotion and betterment of the community. It requires further development and once it is completed, it will be considered for lease to other organizations and individuals.

This year, the organizers are going to host a Canadian Professional

Rodeo with wagon races, more cultural events, more kids events. There are cash prizes for each event at \$3000 a day in prize money. The Duck Lake rodeo is now officially in the circuit for the professional riders.

The rodeo will take place in September 1, 2, 3rd, 2001 in Duck Lake at the grounds. The rodeo will be on Saturday and Sunday, with wagons running for all three days. Opening ceremonies are planned for Saturday noon. Admission will be \$8.00 for adults per day or \$20.00 for the weekend. Seniors / Under 12 is \$6.00 per day or \$15.00 for the weekend. Preschoolers are free. The cabarets cost \$10.00 per evening or \$15.00 for both

nights.

The Métis Local has taken on this responsibility to demonstrate to the community and the general public that Métis people have something to offer that is of benefit and enjoyment to all. The rodeo was historically a Métis event, featuring many of our talented horsemen and women who took part in these events. It was a time when community members came together, regardless of race and celebrated our families and shared in the work of the celebration. Métis Local # 10 and myself wish to welcome everyone to our Duck Lake Rodeo Days in the hope of building good relations between neighbours and developing new friendships.



The track at the Duck Lake Rodeo.

photo by Kathy Hodgson-Smith

PEOPLE

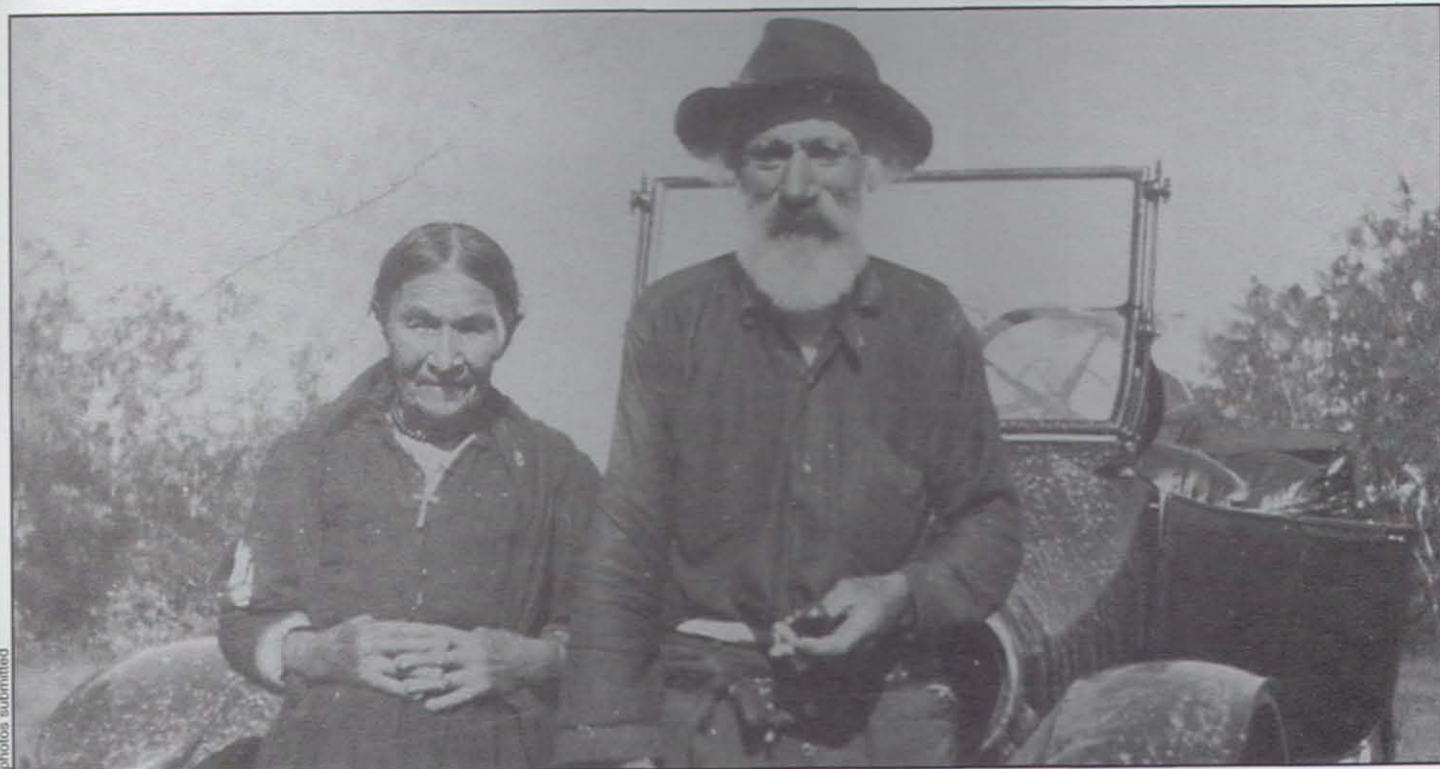
Métis Activist: Leonard Pambrun

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

Leonard Pambrun was born and raised in the historic Métis community of St. Laurent, Saskatchewan, where his mother, Rosalee Pambrun (nee Laviolette), was raised by her parents, Charlie Laviolette and Mary Arcand. His father's family hails from Eagle Hills, south of North Battleford, Alfred and Caroline (nee Scott) Pambrun. The Laviolette family history traces back to St. Louis and for Leonard Pambrun forward to the community of Duck Lake, where he lives today on a farm a few miles north. Leonard remembers his growing up years living close to the land, snaring rabbits, prairie chickens, deer and weasels, and fishing for carp, buffalo fish and goldeye in the South Saskatchewan River, trapping and hunting as the need arose. Nothing was wasted or taken for granted in those days, where you carried water



*Above: Leonard Pambrun at his home near Duck Lake
Below: Joseph Arcand and Josephette (nee McKay),
Maternal great-grandparents to Leonard Pambrun*



photos submitted

PEOPLE

from the river to water the gardens three times a day to ensure a harvest of potatoes and vegetables. Most of the Métis community men would cut a load of wood or logs to sell in the community or to the mission school for seventy five cents to a dollar twenty-five a load, a harvest made possible from the nearby Nesbit Forest. He remembers the early years, the thirties and forties, where rations were the state of the day for all and community boards were set up to make sure that those who needed relief were attended to.

The village of St. Laurent, by the laws of the Métis of the day, was divided into a river lot system, each seventeen chains wide and two miles long. The river lot design allowed the people to access the vitals of life, river water and fish, Leonard Pambrun states. Wells only provided ground water in those days and the taste was awful bad, he recalls. In later years, the story is told of families who left their river lots to head north to gather berries and fish for the winter returning home to find their lots inhabited by newcomers.

"Our people feared the government and the punishment that would follow if they had fought to regain their land", Pambrun recalls, "so they walked away from their land and the confrontation." These are the remnants of the Batoche struggle, just across the water and around the bend, a time fully etched in the oral history and collective memory of the Métis people. Both his maternal grandparents took scrip, with his mother retaining their land at St. Laurent until much later, selling it to a big farmer for \$3000. The oral history also holds the story of many Métis fam-



photos submitted

Photo Right to Left: Lillian Smith (Mrs. Nichola's daughter with child), Mrs. Nichola (daughter to Patrice Fleury) Patrice Fleury Jr; Patrice Fleury (brother-in-law to Gabriel Dumont); Charlie Laviolette (grandfather to Leonard Pambrun).

ilies who lost their land to the municipalities because of back taxes. He recounts that people were not all familiar with having to pay taxes on the lands that they grew up on for many years before the boundaries of the province of Saskatchewan were drawn.

These growing up years developed Leonard Pambrun into a Métis Activist and longstanding member of the Métis Society that continues to this day. In the early years, as a member of the Duck Lake Métis Local #10, Pambrun took a position on the Relief Board to try to help the Métis people find

relief from the poverty and to ensure the protection of rights for Métis in this regard. Later, as President for Local 10, with the help of the provincial Métis Society and the NDP govern-

ment, he built the Taw-Wow Center, which still exists today in the village of Duck Lake as the main hall of the Métis Local membership.

Leonard Pambrun speaks so gently of the stories of the Métis from St. Laurent and Duck Lake, respectful of the good men and women who brought

up their families and worked together for the betterment of all. He speaks too of the plight of the Métis in his lifetime and with confidence that Métis people ought to be able to live in the traditions

of the past, honouring the land and its resources and the community of members that are still in need. In January of 1990, Leonard Pambrun was awarded a Companion of the Order of

Gabriel Dumont in recognition of his excellent service to the Native Peoples of Canada.



Above: Leonard Pambrun's Mother. Below, another picture of the Pambrun family.



photos submitted

KEEWATIN CARREER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

HEADWATERS PROJECT:
SASKATCHEWAN'S SMART COMMUNITIES DEMONSTRATION PROJECT:


A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDUSTRY CANADA,
NORTHERN SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES AND THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN SASKATCHEWAN:

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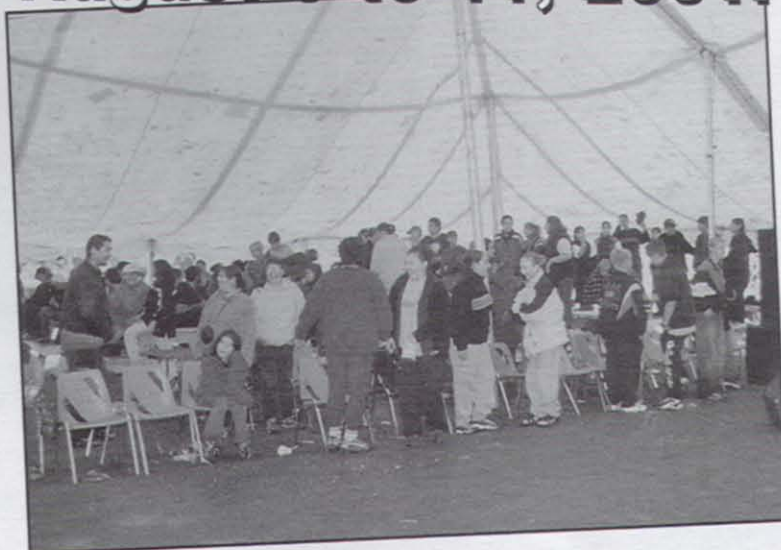


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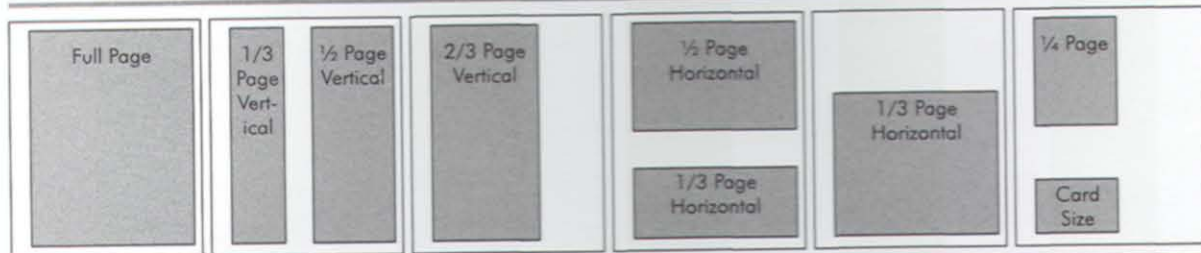
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