

# New Breed

MAGAZINE

July / August, 2001



# New Breed

MAGAZINE

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Metis Nation - Saskatchewan*

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Welcome To This Month's New Breed

JULY / AUGUST 2001



PHOTO BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

*This issue is put together in celebration of the summer's cultural events and gatherings that took place within the Métis homeland in Saskatchewan. It is also a celebration of the many children and youth that participated in the festivities, bringing the spirit of the Métis Nation alive for all of us. Our nation is proud of its youth and the growing number of cultural activities for youth are an example of this. New Breed Magazine congratulates all of the youth that made the commitment to their various skill, a commitment to the community to brighten our days and to the many adult supervisors, families and teachers who have given of their time for the betterment of all. This is the year of the volunteer and we celebrate our people. As our nation grows, we look to our successes and the many individuals who bring joy through their work. Thank you to Lori Nixon for her volunteer work on the design of the cover.*

*- Kathy Hodgson-Smith,  
Managing Editor*



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PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

# COMMUNICATIONS

## Message From the MN-S

### Communications Chairperson

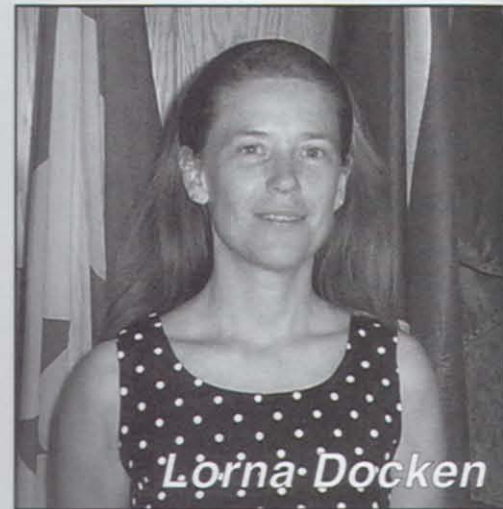
It brings me great pleasure to address New Breed readers as Metis Nation - Saskatchewan Communications Chairperson. The publication is near and dear to my heart due to several stints as editor and I know that communication is central to the success of any operation.

How do people know what we are thinking if we do not tell them? Without communication, misunderstandings arise. Human beings are prone to giant leaps of logic based on tiny pieces of information which may or may not be true. We all do this sometimes. In any successful operation, there is a good communications system so that this problem does not arise.

The MN-S is no exception. We must ensure that communications are central

to our nation. This includes information flow from the Provincial Metis Council to our locals, regions and affiliates, and vice-versa. New Breed is our tool for communications. The MN-S Executive and PMC uses New Breed to inform our readers as to what is going on around the province. You, the reader are encouraged to submit stories so that we know what is happening with your community.

Summer 2001 has been busy for the PMC. As you can see from this issue, many of our regions held cultural events or will do so in the very near future. Thank You to all of the organizers and volunteers. Those kind of events serve to rejuvenate all of us and remind of us why we bother to fight what often seem like tireless struggles. As a PMC, we have many chal-



lenges before us in the next little while. I am sure that we are up for it after such a great summer.

In closing, I wish all of the students returning to school a good year. The MN-S needs skilled Metis to handle the affairs of our nation and we do appreciate your effort.





**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS  
MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL**

**Description:**

The Métis National Council is seeking a skilled, energetic Director of Communications who is responsible in overseeing and implementing all work related to communications and media relations including:

- Advising on strategic communications approaches, needs, feasibility, methods and resource requirements;
- Provide communications support and planning through the provision of communications plans, strategies, proposal development, media lines and products;
- Gain exposure for the Métis Nation in Canadian political environment and media;
- Assess communications needs of initiatives and departments within the MNC and developing appropriate communications plans;
- Write, edit and produce a wide range of communications materials which might include news releases, news stories, promotional brochures, reports, proposals, briefing notes, newsletters, background documents and advertisements;
- Manage multiple projects and establishing priorities within tight time lines;
- Maintains network and works in collaboration with Governing Members of the MNC;
- Advises National President on current regional and national issues;

**Education:**

Applicants should possess a post-secondary degree in Journalism or Communications OR an acceptable combination of education, training and/or experience.

**Work Experience:**

Three years work experience in communications and knowledge of current Métis community, regional and national political issues is essential.

**Salary Range:**

Within salary guidelines, commensurate with qualifications and experience.

**Location:**

Candidates must be willing to travel and re-locate to Ottawa.

**Closing Date:**

**September 21, 2001, 5:00pm EDT**

Individuals who feel they are qualified are invited to submit a covering letter (quoting the above reference number) along with a current resume to:

Executive Director, Métis National Council  
350 Sparks St., Suite 201, Ottawa, Ontario, K1R 7S8  
Fax: 613-232-4262

Only those applicants selected for an interview will be contacted.

# SaskNative Economic Development Corporation

SNEDCO, is a Saskatchewan Métis-owned lending institution created to finance the start-up, purchase and/or expansion of viable Métis-controlled small businesses based in Saskatchewan.

From the fall of 1987 to February 29, 2001, SNEDCO has disbursed 911 loans totalling \$19.2 million for over 503 Métis-owned businesses in Saskatchewan. These businesses created or maintained employment for approximately 1480 Métis people within Saskatchewan

In order to be eligible for consideration for SNEDCO services, an applicant must be an individual of Métis ancestry or a corporation or other approved entity, controlled or owned by Métis. Depending on the type of service requested, other criteria may also apply.

SNEDCO provides the following programs for the Métis Business Community!

- \* Business Loans
- \* Business Plans and Advice

Please Contact:

*SaskNative Economic Development Corporation*  
 #108 – 219 Robin Crescent  
 Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8  
 Telephone: (306) 477-4350  
 Fax: (306) 373-2512

*Q. How do I apply for a loan from SNEDCO?*

A. Phone us at (306) 477-4350 and ask for a business consultant. We will ask you a few questions and will then send you our loan application form and brochure.

*Q. How much equity (downpayment) do I need to qualify for a loan?*

A. SNEDCO's **minimum** requirement is 10% of the project costs, however a greater downpayment may be required for some projects. Clients are expected to contribute all that they can to the business. Existing vehicles, equipment and other real property can be considered in lieu of a cash downpayment.

*Q. Does SNEDCO have any grants for business?*

A. No. SNEDCO has never had any grants or forgivable loans; however, we often assist Metis entrepreneurs with applications to Aboriginal Business Canada or the Clarence

Campeau Development Fund which have equity contributions for Metis business.

*Q. I have never owned a business nor done a business plan – can SNEDCO help me?*

A. SNEDCO's Business Advisory Service can assist you with business information and business planning, however, you will be expected to take an active part in the business planning process and **must** provide the requested information outlined by the business consultant.

*Q. Does SNEDCO charge a fee for a business plan or financial projections?*

A. Yes. SNEDCO will charge a fee for business plans and financial projections; however, all initial discussions are free of charge. The amount charged for a business plan depends on the time it takes to complete the plan, and the amount of information the Metis Entrepreneur is able to provide on their own. All efforts are made to arrange for contributions to pay for most of the business planning costs.

*Q. What has SNEDCO found to be common mistakes for new businesses?*

A. One of the most common mistakes is not keeping proper bookkeeping records and financial statements – many Metis businesses fail for this reason. If a business owner does not have the skills to keep proper financial records, they should hire a qualified bookkeeper or accountant – this is money well spent. Other mistakes include excessive owner withdrawals from a business, not planning for seasonal changes in business, and not setting aside a cash reserve for income tax and major equipment repairs.

# LOUIS RIEL TRAIL

## Renaming of Highway 11 as the Louis Riel Trail



STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

On Wednesday, June 20th, 2001, at the Duck Lake Interpretative center, the Government of Saskatchewan, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, the Mid Lakes Communities Coalition Association and the citizens of the province came together to celebrate the renaming of Highway #11 as the Louis Riel Trail. Highways and Transportation Minister, Pat Atkinson, made the announcement stating that we were making history in doing so. As well, she went on to say, we are recognizing and honouring our collective history, moving from the past into the future for the betterment of economic development, tourism and business development in Saskatchewan. Her department along with Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management will be supporting the ongoing development of the Louis Riel Trail through contributions from Saskatchewan's \$120 million centenary fund, designed to promote Saskatchewan's future as we move toward the hundredth anniversary of the province in 2005. Minister Atkinson acknowledged the controversy that accompanied such decision, stating that as an educator and as a member in the legislature, she recognizes the differing perspectives on the role of Louis Riel in history but that differences can instill debate which leads to the creation of knowledge. She

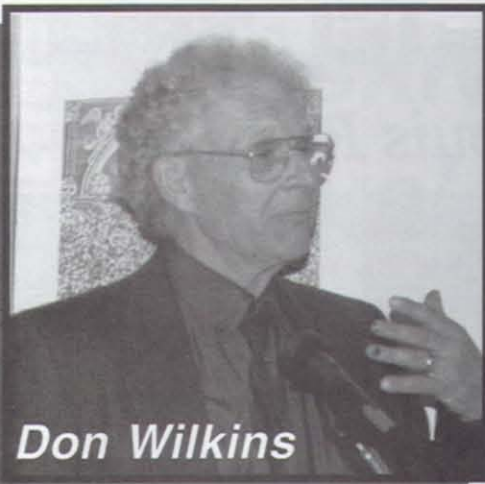
*Left: Clem Chartier, Pat Atkinson, Rose Fleury, Keith Goulet, and Don Wilkins unveil sign Middle: Youth attend conference Right: Members of the Riel Reelers dance group from Regina*

extended an invitation for all of the people of the province to share in this creation.

Clem Chartier, President of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, thanked the Mid Lakes Communities Coalition and the Government of Saskatchewan for the initiative and for recognizing the historic Métis Nation of which Louis Riel was leader. He acknowledged that the initiative may not have been the most popular thing to do but that it was the right thing to do. Louis Riel, he went on to say, as well as the many others who gave their lives in 1885, was a significant individual but is now the personification of the struggle that Métis people face in trying to assert our rights when it is not popular to do so. He believes that this is a step toward the rightful place of Métis in the history of the development of Saskatchewan, and will support the work of Senator Thelma Chalifoux who seeks a similar recognition in Canadian Parliament.

Don Wilkins and the original members of the Mid Lakes Communities Coalition, representatives from the communities along the Louis Riel Trail, coined the idea of renaming the high-





*Don Wilkins*



*Clem Chartier*



*Pat Atkinson*



*Lorna Docken*

way to promote Saskatchewan history, and advance tourism in a strategic way. He approached the Government of Saskatchewan and with the support of many others, including the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, saw the plan through to fruition. He said that the future demands a full utilization of our heritage and history in Saskatchewan, respecting with sensitivity Saskatchewan's cultural make up. Louis Riel signifies not just the story of the Métis, of Batoche, of his trial and subsequent death, but also the early settlement of this province, the early fur trade economies, the coming of the railway and the eventual First Nations entitlements. He said of the renaming that it was a matter of the heart that led the initiative and that "It is a great day and we will savour it for a long long time."

Métis Elder Rose Fleury recounts Riel as a man of high values, of religious commitments, of compassion for all and as a man who fought and died for the rights of the Métis. She says that 115 years later, we need to work together to find resolution to the matter of Métis land claims and rights and to put our youth on the right track for the future. We must not use his name in vain but ensure that our efforts bring good things for the youth, for our grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. She spoke for the value of people working together, finding a harmonious life together, no matter the colour of our skin. The Métis have a long history and we will have a great future if we can work together, as we have to come to this important day in

our history.

Minister of Northern Affairs Keith Goulet also brought very powerful words to the announcement, remembering that his great grandfather worked with Louis Riel on the provisional government, Elziar Goulet, dying for the same. His mother's family, the Carriere's also came to Batoche. The renaming of the highway was a "very personal passionate aspect of his own life," he stated.

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***Minister Atkinson  
extended an invitation  
for all of the people of  
the province to share  
in this creation.***

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As a cabinet member of the Saskatchewan legislature, he said that it was important to him that Louis Riel was recognized as a great Canadian and founder of a province and for the contribution of Métis people as a whole. The Red River Cart was appropriate for the signage, he thought, because it signifies the long trails we have all traveled, sometimes positive, sometimes negative and as in the Métis world, sometimes controversial. It was a great day when we could come together and celebrate our common history, he closed.

The event was well attended by local community members, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Senators, the Gabriel Dumont Institute, political leaders and students from the nearby school. The Riel Reelers of Regina livened up the event with square dancing and the accompanying fiddle music and swaying sashes. Walking outside into the sunshine after the ceremonies, a Department of Highways truck was pulling off to the side of the highway, and adding the bright blue and yellow signs marking the Louis Riel Trail. And it was done.



## Exploring Governance Options for Northern Saskatchewan

STORY BY RAQUEL DIGNESS AND DARRYL MORIN

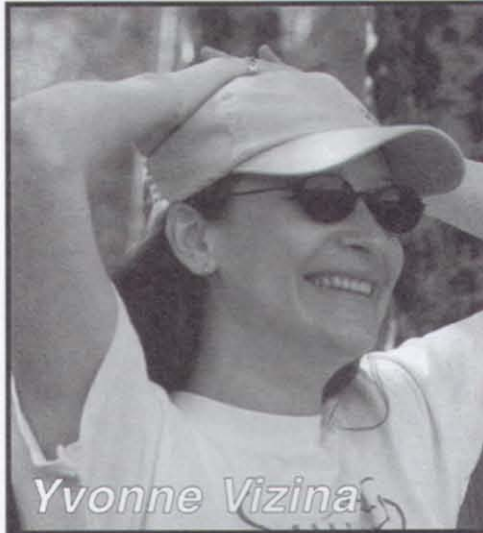
My name is Raquel Digness, and I am originally from Porcupine Plain, Saskatchewan. I currently live in Saskatoon and I have been hired as the Governance Development Technician for the Northern Project. I am a fourth year Political Studies major at the University of Saskatchewan. My area of interest within this department is Canadian Politics and Administration.

As the Governance Development Technician, I am expected to be familiar with the Northern Project, research regional governance options for North West Saskatchewan, and assist the Northern Project Coordinator with the development of a regional governance plan specifically for North West Saskatchewan. In addition, I am required to accompany the Northern Project Coordinator to meetings with community leaders.

Currently, I have written two papers on the subject of governance options for North West Saskatchewan. The first paper focused on regional governance models that currently exist in Canada. The provinces that I included were Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and British Columbia.

The second paper examined self-government initiatives in Canada. I studied the *Indian Act*, the Nisga'a and Sechelt First Nations, and the Alberta Métis Settlements. I also considered the consequence of self-government for the Métis in Saskatchewan. The information that I have obtained through my research will be applied to the development of a governance plan.

My name is Darryl Morin, and I have recently accepted the position of



Northern Project

Summer Student for Culture Development. I would like to share with you some information about myself, and the Northern Project. It is my hope that after reading this article that you will know more about who I am, and what the Northern Project is working toward for the people of North West Saskatchewan.

I am a graduate of the Rossignol School in Ile-a-la-Crosse where I completed Grade 12 in the Year 2000. This fall I have been accepted to the Northlands College for University Regional Programming in Buffalo Narrows from September 2001 to April 2002. These classes lead to a Bachelors of Arts, Social Work, Education or Aboriginal Justice Program etc. I have started working with the job the last couple of weeks. I enjoy working for the Northern Project and Metis Nation - Saskatchewan. This is a great opportunity for the Northern Residents.

The purpose for the Northern Project is to implement the inherent rights of self-government, securing a land and resource base, along with harvesting rights like

hunting, trapping, fishing, and gathering and the devolution of programs and services to our communities. My job is to know what kinds of cultural activities are going on in the communities and around the North West region, and what kinds of things people would like to see developed for the future. In addition, I will be looking for sources of funding for Metis cultural activities that community groups could apply for.

The communities that are involved with the Northern Project are Green Lake, Dore Lake, Sled Lake, Beauval, Pinehouse, Jans Bay, Cole Bay, Patuanak, Canoe River, Sapawgamik, Ile-a-la-Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, Michele Village, St. George's Hill, La Loche, Bear Creek, Garson Lake, Ducharme Lake, Black Point and Turnor Lake.

The Northern Project exists to develop governance in North West Saskatchewan. These are some major targets areas:

- Governance
- Economic Development
- Education, Training and Employment
- Cultural Development

As youth worker for the Northern Project, it is my hope that the people of North West Saskatchewan will continue to come together in an effort to ensure that any new regional governance or devolution process adequately represents their interests as Metis people. The Northern Project seeks to work with North West residents, and to honor the work of individuals and communities.

In closing, have yourself a great summer holiday.

# WOMEN

## *The Metis Women of Saskatchewan*

STORY BY MARYANN GAGNON

On April 7, 2001, the Metis Women of Saskatchewan (MWS) had the opportunity to conduct a short, one-item-agenda meeting at the National Metis Women's Secretariat General Meeting in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. It was at this time that the full sub-committee of the Metis Women of Saskatchewan made a motion to hire a contractor to carry out one of the deliverables set out in the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) Tripartite Work plan for the first quarter. More specifically, The MWS were to begin exploration of sectorial activities by doing a research paper.

The Metis Women's Perspectives met as a full sub committee on July 21, 2001 in North Battleford, Saskatchewan at the Tropical Inn. We had an excellent meeting and accomplished a lot of business. It was felt by the women that this was the first meeting that women issues were really focussed on in depth rather than discussing procedures at our meetings. The issues discussed arose out of the report on the community consultation review, discussions which then lead to further strategizing on how to reach other women at the community level. As well, at the meeting, the Tripartite Coordinator for the MWS, MaryAnn Gagnon, provided a verbal two-fold report of her activities within the Tripartite initiatives including her MNS Portfolio duties. MaryAnn's report included information on: the ongoing meetings with consultant hired to research sectoral opportunities - Lisa McCallum; meetings with the Minister of the Metis Urban Governance, Albert Delaire, requesting the name of the Metis Women representative for the purpose of participation in upcoming meetings; and as well, the long time efforts of the Metis



*Maryann Gagnon*

Women to obtain full voting status within the Tripartite initiative and assurance that the Urban Councils will work with the Metis Women. MaryAnn also provided

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***The two main areas of concern were repeated loud and clear: Justice and Social Services.***

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updates on meetings regarding justice and health - Metis Addictions Council of Saskatchewan (MACSI) and Metis Family Community Justice Services (MFCJS), as well as the Provincial Metis Council (PMC) meetings.

Lisa McCallum gave a presentation to the MWS Sub-committee on her research on sectorial activities. The sectorial activities to be studied were identified during the community consultations that took place as part of the work of 2000-2001. Consultations were held throughout the province with women at the community level. The two main areas of concern were repeated loud and clear: Justice and Social Services. One idea that came about was to look at developing new initiatives with the federal and provincial governments in partnership with Metis Communities, possibly setting up agreements to ensure effective participation by Metis people. The MWS Sub-committee were very excited about the research paper and are anxious to move forward on these sectorial activities.



PHOTO BY GDI

## GDI Summer Greetings!

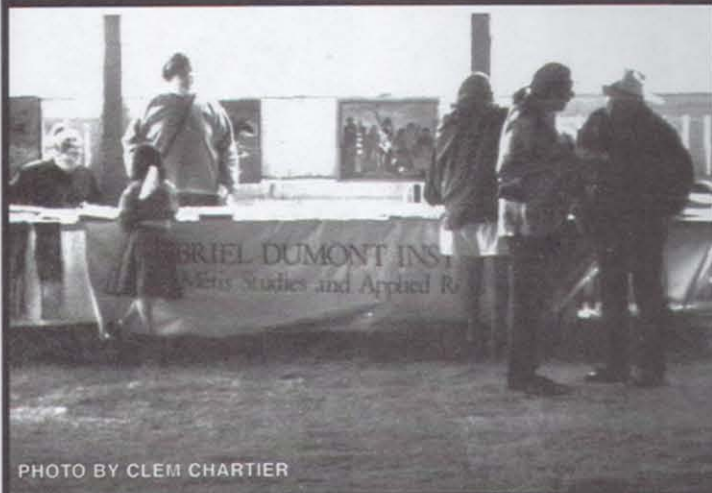


PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER



PHOTO BY GDI

*Top left: GDI display at Willow Bunch, June 2001  
Bottom left: GDI display at Batoche  
Right: Construction at Batoche, 2001*

### STORY BY LILAH MORIN

Tansi Readers, I hope your summer is going well. July was a very busy month for the Institute and myself. It all began with a trip to my home community, Ile-a-la Crosse; there I spent a week interviewing Elders for GDI's oral history project. I also worked our display. The Elders responded very well, which has encouraged me to return as not all the Elders were reached in this short time. My husband Wayne and I are returning to Ile-a-la Crosse to conduct further interviews on August 15. At this time, Sandy Point residents are having a reunion at South Bay. This will provide the Institute with a grand opportunity

to access the knowledge and wisdom of these Elders for the oral history project.

The next stop for our display was Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta. Wayne and I spent four days working GDI's display. However, the weather refused to cooperate and out of the four days we had only one where it did not rain. On this day the response from the camping community was very good. I received some excellent responses from people who came to the pilgrimage from all over Canada. This was our very first trip out of province with our display. Thank you to Harvey and Helen Letendre, who were excellent hosts. They have asked that our display

return next year, which is a great compliment for the Institute. The weather might even cooperate next year!

The next stop was Back to Batoche Days. The display did very well: people did not even wait for us to set up. We filled many orders from the moment we arrived and it continued throughout the day. It was so nice to have such a huge response. It is very encouraging to know that our materials are out there for the purpose of promoting our history and our culture. It was good to see so many people attend this year, particularly people from Ile-a-la Crosse. Hope to see again next year!



PHOTO BY GDI



PHOTO BY GDI

In conclusion, my time is almost up here at the Institute as I am returning to complete my degree. I would like to thank Leah, Darren; Blanche and my fellow summer

student co-workers, Calvin and last but not least Lorraine. I am going to miss each and every one of you. Thank you for the wonderful experience!

## Historic Métis Fiddle Project Nearing Completion

BY LEAH DORION-PAQUIN

Fiddle music has always been a treasured part of Métis culture and identity. Many people feel a sense of peace, joy and belonging when they hear a Métis fiddle player bowing out their rendition of the Red River Jig or their favourite waltz. In the fall of 2000, the Gabriel Dumont Institute decided to undertake this historic project to record a collection of Métis fiddle tunes as played by traditional Métis fiddle players from across Canada. The funding for this project was largely provided by the Privy Council Office under the direction of Minister Ralph Goodale through the Métis Cultural Initiative.

This project will leave a legacy to future generations of Métis fiddle players and ethnomusicologists who may choose to study the style, techniques and methods of Métis fiddle music. There is no question that this resource in unlike any others currently in existence. The book and sheet music alone will assist many people in keeping Métis music alive and healthy. Our project will explain the history of the Red River Jig and other traditional tunes.



PHOTO BY GDI



PHOTO BY GDI

*Clockwise from top: Randy Gaudry and Mr. L'Esperance at GDI DISPLAY at willow bunch. - GDI display at Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage. - Display in Regina. - Display at Lac St. Anne - GDI activity at Willowbunch*



PHOTO BY GDI



Richard Lafferty

PHOTO BY GDI



Johnny Arcand

PHOTO BY GDI

We will also feature the oldest known recorded version of the Red River Jig by Fredrick Genthon. It is a tribute to all the Métis fiddle players past and present who have kept our spirit so strong with these expressive tunes. We thank all the dedicated people who have worked tirelessly on this project.

## *The Spirit of the Nation: The Traditional Fiddle Music of the Métis*

### STORY SUBMITTED

With funding from the Privy Council Office, through the office of the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Federal Interlocutor for the Métis and Non-Status Indians, the Gabriel Dumont Institute is in the process of producing the most ambitious traditional Métis fiddling collection to date. This project's vision is to recognize the spirit that fiddle players have brought to our families and communities. The title is symbolic of how Métis fiddlers made people feel good despite hard times.

In addition to having many popular traditional Métis fiddle tunes, this compilation also includes many previously unrecorded rare jigs and reels. This four-compact disc set and accompanying book will contain biographies, archival and contemporary photographs,

sheet music, stories about the fiddle and a history of each fiddle tune used in the anthology. It will illustrate the importance of fiddling to Métis communities and culture. This compilation will feature accomplished traditional Métis fiddlers from across the Métis homeland, each of whom have contributed their own unique personal and community styles to this timely anthology, including: Mel Bedard (Manitoba), Albert Boyer (Saskatchewan), Reg Bouvette (Manitoba), Henry Gardipy (Saskatchewan), Andy Dejarlis (Manitoba), Gilbert Anderson (Alberta), Fredrick Genthon (Manitoba), Richard Calihoo (Alberta), Emile Lavallee (Manitoba), Homer Poitras (Alberta), Gary Lepine (Manitoba), Richard Lafferty (NWT), John Arcand (Saskatchewan), Edward Lafferty (NWT).

The project will be released in the late fall of 2001 or early winter of 2002, with release parties planned for Ottawa, Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Hay River. For further information, or if you would like to contribute to the project, please contact Herb Lafferty, Leah Dorion-Paquin or Darren R. Prefontaine at (306) 934-4941.

# Constructing our Metis Future

STORY BY TAVIA

A unique training program was offered by the Dumont Technical Institute in cooperation with the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. The program began on June 4, 2001 and provided ten Metis students with basic carpentry training. A practical hands-on component of the program included the students assisting in the construction of an Elder's building located at the Metis homeland of Batoche. The program came to a closure on July 27, 2001.

Students were provided with the opportunity to receive First Aid, CPR, and WHMIS certification. Another advantage the students had by participating in the program were the hours accumulated during the Basic Carpentry Program, which may be accredited towards Journeyman qualifications. The students in the program were provided with theoretical knowledge and practical skills related to Basic Carpentry. Once completing the program, students have received carpentry skills that can be utilized to obtain full-time employment.

Basic components of the program that were provided included Math Carpentry, Safety Awareness, Material and Supplies, Hand / Power Tools, and Scaffolds and Ladders. Students were given hands on experience by doing projects that included working on an Elder's building, roofing, concrete dynamics, bleachers, and maintenance. Together with the formal educational portion and hands-on portion, students now have the knowledge and experience to be successful in the field of carpentry. DTI looks forward to providing students with the opportunity to build towards the future.



PHOTO BY GDI



PHOTO BY LEAH DORIAN-PAQUIN

*From top: Elders building in Batoche. - Peter Rudyck and DTI students working on Elders building.*

*Bottom from left: DTI students at Batoche. - Batoche dance floor construction by DTI students. - DTI student at Batoche*



PHOTO BY GDI



PHOTO BY GDI



PHOTO BY LEAH DORIAN-PAQUIN



The financial services designed to serve this purpose include:

- Equity Contributions
- Development of Management and Marketing Skills
- Community Development and Research
- Joint Venture Projects

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) is designed to provide financial assistance to Métis individuals and Métis communities in Saskatchewan for economic and small business development activities.

Applicants must be individuals of Métis ancestry or a corporation or other approved entity, controlled or owned by MNS people. Depending on the type of service requested, other criteria may also apply.

For More Information Contact:

*Roland Duflessis*

*Fund Manager*

108 - 219 Robin Crescent, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M8  
Phone: (306) 477-4353 • Fax: (306) 373-2512



### Get In The Picture! The 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Designed by Aboriginal people, for Aboriginal people, with our communities in mind. For further information, visit [www.apsurvey.ca](http://www.apsurvey.ca), call 1-800-236-1136 or contact your national Aboriginal organization.

### Entrez dans le portrait! L'Enquête auprès des peuples autochtones de 2001

Conçue par des Autochtones, au profit des Autochtones et des communautés autochtones. Pour obtenir plus de renseignements, veuillez consulter le site [www.eapa.ca](http://www.eapa.ca), composer le numéro sans frais 1 800 236-1136 ou communiquer avec votre organisme autochtone national.



1-800-928-6330



613-722-3033



613-747-6022



613-238-8181



613-563-4844



Statistics Canada

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Canada

# We're **FIXING** the **ROADS...**

Construction and maintenance crews are busy across the province. The projects shown are underway or starting shortly. Call the Highway Hotline for full details about other projects starting this summer.

## Major Highway and Twinning Projects

Highway	Description	
1	Twinning	20 km paving east of the Alberta Border
1	Twinning	21.1 km grading near junction of Hwy 21
1	Twinning	33.4 km paving Wolseley to Indian Head
1	Resurfacing	34.6 km west of Regina
4	Construction	Battlefords Bridge
16	Twinning and Paving	16.7 km between Maidstone and Lashburn
55	Resurfacing	10.6 km west of Rapid View

## Rural Highway Improvements

Highway	Description	
2 & 35	Resurfacing	17.3 km near Lipton
5	Resurfacing	11.7 km near Canora
15	Resurfacing	11.5 km near Goodeve
17	Surfacing	13.1 km near Onion Lake
21	Improvements	16.1 km north of Unity
155	Resurfacing	16.2 km north of Green Lake



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# Provincial Metis Housing Corporation

## Programs and Services Available

SUBMITTED BY PMHC

### Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)

The acronym RRAP refers to several program lines, which are described in more detail in the subsequent section. The following are some overall comments about the programs and their delivery.

### Program Guidelines and Delivery in General

Certain programs may be used together (stacked), except for the Emergency Repair Program (ERP), which provides assistance for emergency repairs for the continued safe occupancy of the home until alternate accommodations can be found. This precludes stacking ERP with other programs. Homeowner RRAP, RRAP for Disabled Persons, and the unilateral provincial Home Modification for the Disabled may be stacked. If the homeowner is a senior, Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence can also be added.

Both Homeowner RRAP and RRAP for Disabled Persons require that the home be brought to a minimum level of health and safety and that its remaining useful life be at least fifteen years. As a result, any home which has already had RRAP within the last fifteen years is ineligible for

further assistance.

Because of the requirements that all repairs identified to bring the home to minimum health and safety standards and to extend its useful life must be completed, clients are required to pay for repair costs in excess of the program's assistance. If they are unable to do so, they cannot receive the program assistance. Thus we often refer to RRAP as an "all or nothing" program. In addition, once a client has received the maximum assistance offered through the program, they are not eligible to reapply for a period of 15 years.

As part of its social housing program policy, current homeowners/clients who have arrears owing to the Corporation are eligible for RRAP assistance only after making at least four consecutive payments against the arrears.

Former clients of the Corporation, who have caused a loss or are in arrears, must pay the outstanding loss/arrears in full before becoming eligible for any assistance.

Assistance under Homeowner RRAP and RRAP for Disabled Persons is provided on a sliding scale tied to the ratio between the client's household income and the Household Income Limits (HIL). At 60% of the HIL, 100% of the program assistance is available. At 100% of the HIL, the client is no longer eligible for assistance. Furthermore, the level of household income determines the percentage of the total repair costs that are eligible for assistance, with the remaining costs

to be paid by the client.

To facilitate payment of the client's contribution, clients with good credit ratings are eligible for a repayable loan from CMHC. They also have the option to arrange for financing with a local financial institution.

HILs are determined by CMHC based on the number of bedrooms that should be made available based on family composition (not the actual number of bedrooms in the home).

Clients who have mortgages with SHC are eligible for program assistance under certain conditions. The mortgage program has its own repair program, called "Emergency Repair" (ER), which provides maximum assistance of \$4,635 to address repairs that pose imminent danger to the health and safety of the occupants. If the repairs don't fit that category, or if they exceed the level of assistance available, then the homeowner can apply for RRAP, but must qualify in accordance with program guidelines regarding income, arrears, and etcetera.

In the north, SHC has contracted Provincial Métis Housing Corporation to deliver RRAP.

Repairs are carried out by private contractors who must bid competitively to obtain the work.

### Specific Program Guidelines

Emergency Repair Program (ERP)

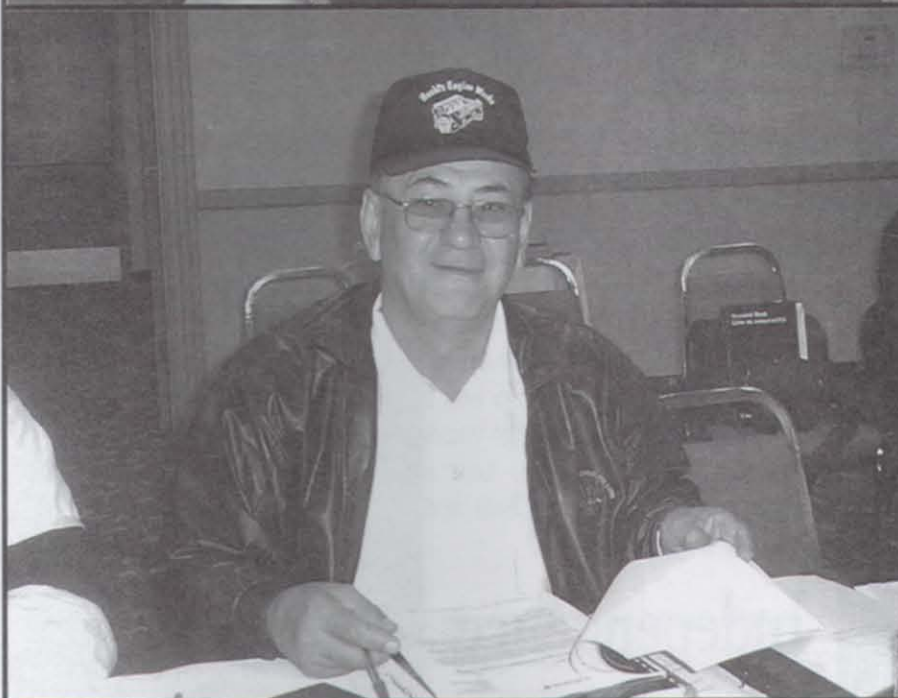


This program provides assistance to homeowners in rural and remote areas to undertake emergency repairs required for the continued safe occupancy of their houses. A significant portion of this program is directed to persons of Aboriginal descent. Assistance, in the form of a grant, depends on the cost of repairs. Maximum contributions vary from \$4,635 in southern areas to \$5,624 in northern areas. ERP cannot be stacked with Homeowner RRAP and RRAP for Disabled Persons.

**Homeowner RRAP**

This program provides assistance to low-income homeowners to bring their properties up to minimum health and safety levels. To qualify, a household's income must be below a maximum established for the applicable area. Assistance is in the form of a loan, part of which may not have to be repaid. In southern areas of the province, the maximum loan is \$18,000 and in northern areas it is \$21,000. The maximum amount that may be forgiven varies from \$12,000 in the south to \$14,000 in the north. The amount of forgiveness depends on household income and is based on a percentage the repair costs covered under the program. Maximum forgiveness is available where the household income is 60% or less of an income threshold for a certain area. Forgivable amounts decline to 0% for households with incomes at this threshold.

**RRAP for Disabled Persons**



*Top: Greg McLeod, Executive Director  
Bottom: Norman Hansen, Minister of Housing*

This program provides assistance to households occupied by persons with disabilities who require special modifications to improve accessibility to their residence. Assistance is in the form of a loan, part of which may not have to be repaid. The maximum loan is \$18,000 in southern areas and \$21,000 in northern areas. Forgiveness levels are the same as for Homeowner RRAP. The forgiveness amounts depend on household income and costs of the accessibility modifications.

**Home Modification for the Disabled (Home Mod)**

The Home Mod program is a provincial program developed to assist low income people who are handicapped to make modifications to their home which will assist them in their daily living. A one requisite to the program is that the repairs must pertain to the applicant's disability. Financial assistance is in the form of

a grant to a maximum of \$2,000 depending on the actual cost of

**Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence (HASI)**

repairs. Clients whose incomes are below \$23,000 per annum qualify for the full \$2,000 and the amount of the grant reduces on a sliding scale such that when the income is \$33,000, there is no assistance available. A verification of disability must be provided by the client's doctor.

This program assists low-income elderly clients, who difficulties in daily living can be addressed by certain adaptations to their homes. HASI provides one-time, non-repayable contributions of up to \$2,500. The exact grant amount is based on material costs and labour necessary for required adaptations. To obtain assistance, applicants must be 65 years or older. Household incomes must be less than the household income limits established for the type of household in the local area (same HIL as for RRAP). A verification of disability must be provided by the client's

doctor.

*If you have any questions, call Provincial Métis Housing Corporation at their Toll Free Number: 1-877-396-7933 or visit them on the Internet at / programs and services.*

**Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence**



Home Adaptations for Seniors' Independence (HASI) provides up to \$2,500 per household to low income seniors age 65 and over so that they can remain in their homes. The program enables seniors to make minor adaptations to their homes that assist with daily living.

Adaptations must be related to loss of ability, and be permanent additions, replacements or relocations allowing for easier and safer performance of daily activities. Adaptations could include installation of handrails, ramps or stairway lifts, easy-to-reach kitchen work and storage areas, or shower and bath grab bars.

For information, contact:

Saskatchewan Housing Corporation  
5th Floor, 1855 Victoria Avenue  
Regina, SK S4P 3V7

Telephone: (306) 787-4177  
Or call toll-free 1-800-667-7567



**Saskatchewan Housing Corporation**

A Division of Saskatchewan Municipal Government

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# EMPLOYMENT / TRAINING

## Saskatchewan Hosts National Métis Human Resources Development Meeting:

### Interview with Al Rivard, Minister METSI

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

A meeting was held in Saskatoon, SK, on July 20th and 21st, 2001, attended by representatives from the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, Métis Nation of Alberta, Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis Nation of Ontario, hosted by Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. In attendance were the elected officials from each governing member of the Métis National Council who holds the portfolio for employment and training, along with a senior technician responsible for the business of the provincial employment and training office. The intention of the meeting was to share some common issues and ideas on the ongoing development of the Métis Human Resource Development Agreements (MHRDA) signed with Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC). As well, discussions took place on the future of the MHRDAs beyond 2004, in preparation for the development of terms for a new agreement, talks which begin in November of this year.

The meeting was called as a result of a motion that was made at the Métis National Council Annual General Meeting in Vancouver in July, 2001, where Saskatchewan representatives expressed their concern about how Saskatchewan was being dealt with by HRDC on the matter of policy interpretation and organizational changes. Saskatchewan wanted to talk to the other provinces to find out if there was consistent implementa-



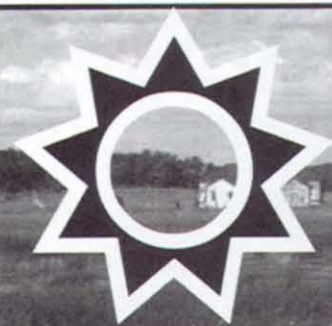
**Back row, left to right:** Lawrence Barkwell (MMF), Keith Henry (METSI), Al Rivard (MNC), Daryl Montgomery (MMF), Russ Vallee (MPCBC). **Middle row:** Jennifer McDonald (MPCBC), Tim Low (MPCBC), Sue Olson (MNA), Marlene Lanz (MNA), Frankie Berland (MNC), Buddy Meade (MMF). **Front row:** David Boisvert (MNC), Wenda Wattayne (MNC), Jennifer St. Germaine (MNO), Brian LaRose (MPCBC).

tion and evaluation between provinces on the management of the AHRDA in their Region. It was also to advise the other AHRDA holders of the new policies being enforced. Saskatchewan was told that they were being used as the first site for this kind of activity.

The agenda allowed for provincial reports from each governing member of the Métis National Council, discussions on management practices, best practices, programming processes, statistics and record keeping, and other such management matters. One outcome of the meeting was the decision to hold a national policy meeting to talk about the MHRDA policy requirements for efficient and successful management of the Métis agreements. Midterm evaluations were also discussed with the provinces need to develop a common evaluation tool and bring forward best practices – what is working and what isn't. As well, the national forum is set up to talk about issues that need to be addressed before the beginning of the new MHRD agreements, post 2004, when the five-year agreements meet the end of

their term. Al Rivard says that "we have had seven years of experience with the AHRD Agreements, under various other agreement names, so we have enough combined experience to make sure the new agreements speak to all the important matters."

The group wishes to ensure the terms of the National Accord that was signed between the Métis National Council in April of 1999 between then Minister of HRDC, Pierre Pettigrew, and Gerald Morin, President of the Métis National Council are revisited and re-evaluated and strengthened. The group felt that the Métis National Council has a major role to play in ensuring that the provincial agreements are dealt with consistently and fairly and equitably. A consultant has been hired to develop a report highlighting the common themes and directions required as set at the meeting which will be presented to the Board of Governors for the Métis National Council. The national policy forum will be held in September in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



# Tokyo Days

PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

CELEBRATION OF MÉTIS CULTURE AND HISTORY

## An Interview with Dennis Langan

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

Tokyo Days is a gathering of culture and history which takes place about 10 miles south of Yorkton, bringing families together for a few days each August. The event used to happen on the Métis farm land that was known as Crescent Lake, however, these days it is privately leased land with a high rental price tag. In a phone interview with Dennis Langan, he says that Tokyo Days is a day to remember the Elders and to encourage the youth to know the history of the settlement of Crescent Lake where the Elders used to live, where the older generations have grown up. The annual event has taken place since 1984, organized by a committee made up of the various families that lived on the Crescent Lake lands. Various sponsors from around the community also participate in the event. The event is attended by many of the families, many of which now travel from Boggy Creek, Manitoba, San Clara, North Dakota and as far away as Vancouver, BC.

Camping is the main event, with cultural events such as bannock-baking, nail driving, square dancing, jigging and lots of fiddle music. As well, there are horse races, horseshoe tournaments and ball games for anyone to try their hand. More than anything, the visiting and socializing was the main event, allowing families to catch up on the news and events. It is a cultural homecoming and a place for communities and families to join together in a bit of fun.



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

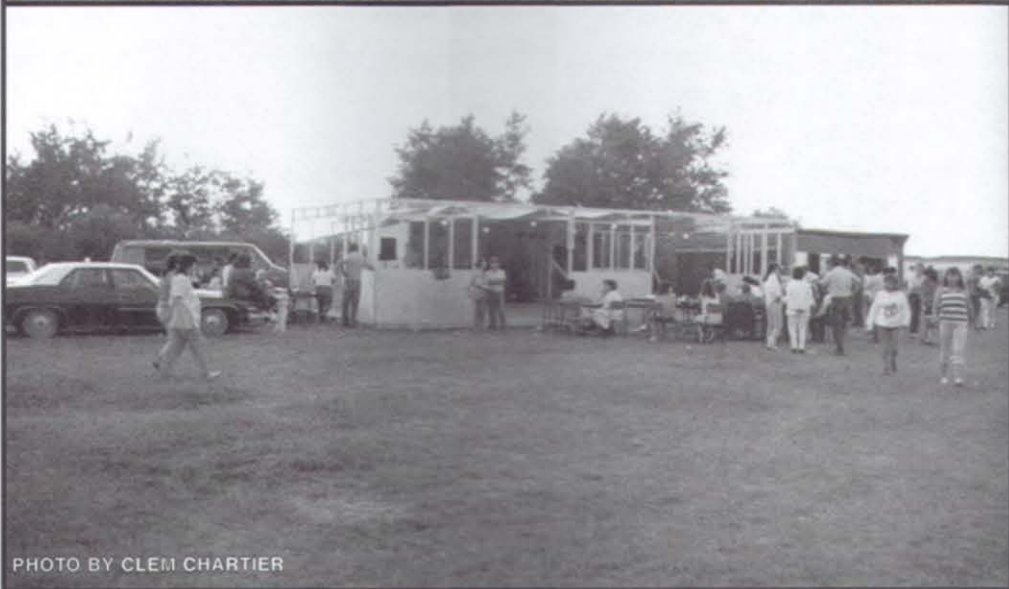


PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

*From top: Tokyo Days grounds. - Building on Tokyo Days grounds adorned with metis symbols. - Festivities during Tokyo Days.*

Dennis Langan was born in the Crescent Lake Settlement and spent his first two years of growing up there. His schooling happened in Yorkton because the school was shut down before he was of school age. Today, the Métis of the Yorkton

Region are engaged in an effort to negotiate with the province of Saskatchewan to gain control of those historic lands to ensure future access for Métis people and the general public to learn of the history and to participate in its celebration.

*"I would never change one thing, not one part of my life growing up in Crescent Lake"*

## **An Interview with Gilbert Pelletier**

**STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH**

Gilbert Pelletier was born and raised in Crescent Lake, Saskatchewan, a community now known mostly by the Métis families who called it home for more than three generations. Today, the old school house stands as a lone reminder of the days gone by and holds the memories of an earlier life. It is truly a historic place, who for a passer by is not unlike the other old buildings marking the lives and contributions of early prairie dwellers, but for those who danced and worked and raised their families there, it is much much more. Gilbert Pelletier remembers the enjoyable life at Crescent Lake in those early years, 1930's, where everybody worked together, shared what they had, finding a sense of balance where everyone was equal and had the same level of wealth and / or poverty, whatever life unfolded. Métis helping Métis, he recalls. No money every changing hands. He remembers the hard times, too, hauling wood with teams of horses using an old car hood as a sleigh.

Isabelle Flamont and Joseph Pelletier, otherwise known as Slim Joe, had a large family of fifteen of which Gilbert was one. Slim Joe came from Belcourt, North Dakota. Isabelle was the third child born to Louis Flamont with Isabelle's mother who passed away when she was just a child. Isabelle's mother was from the Henry family. She had a brother Wilfred



PHOTO BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

**Above:** Senator Gilbert Pelletier with Mrs. Pelletier at her home

**Middle:** Crescent Lake school

**Bottom:** The beautiful land around Crescent lake



# Tokyo Days



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER



PHOTO BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

and a sister Sarah. Louis Flamont was the son of Maxim Flamont. Joseph Pelletier was born in Belcourt, North Dakota where his father owned land along with many other Métis families, although in North Dakota, they are known as Indians, not Métis. The lands set aside at Belcourt are Indian reserve lands. Joseph Pelletier's parents were Helen St. Pierre and Abraham Pelletier. Abraham had two half-brothers, twins – Old Dan Pelletier who died at the age of 103 and Old Sandy. Gilbert had opportunity to travel there when he was twelve years old and met many of his paternal relatives. Isabelle and Joseph Pelletier had fifteen children, two that died at birth. They are: Victor; Wilfred; Evelyn; Gilbert; Mervin; Roy; Rose and Mary (twins); Velma; Gary; Richard; Sylvia; and Bertha. Isabelle Pelletier is 86 years old today and lives in Yorkton.

Many other families settled at Crescent Lake, too, Gilbert Pelletier recalls: Walter Shingoose; Steve Lafontaine; Albert and Louis Frank, Stanley Brazo, Willie and Alexander Allery and Frank and Louis Pelletier, to name a few. The Azure's, Molitaire's, Langan's, Flamont's and St. Pierre's were also part of the Crescent Lake families, Gilbert Pelletier recalls. At fourteen years of age, he quit school to join these men on the thrashing (stoke) teams, cutting bush with an axe; picking stones; fixing roads for the municipalities or fixing fence for near by farmers. In those days, it seems that life for the Métis was mostly as contract and seasonal workers: driving combines and tractors or setting up and moving irrigation pipes for neighboring farmers or working the sugar beets at Taber, Alberta. To supplement this work and put food on the table, the Métis men trapped, hunted and fished.

*Top: A picture of the Tokyo Days grounds.*

*Middle: Dancers at Tokyo Days in 1989.*

*Bottom: A picnic table adorned with an infinity symbol on the Tokyo Days Grounds*



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

*The approach to the Tokyo Days site.*

"When we were there [Crescent Lake], there was nothing there, only the school. We came back there because there was no school anywhere else. They didn't want us to go to school anywhere else. Our family moved back in 1950 to go to the Métis school at Crescent Lake. Horses and wagons were the main transportation and it was twelve miles to the town of Yorkton. There was no power at Crescent Lake. We burned wood in our wood stoves, sawed by hand with axes. We had a swede saw at home. Everybody had a log shack at Crescent Lake that we helped one another build. Our main source of money was hunting and trapping coyotes, fox, skunks and mink for the furs, sold to a buyer in Yorkton. Sometimes we would go to Russell because there was better money there but it was so much farther to go. (70-80 miles) In the summer time our main income was made working for farmers and digging seneca root. We would pull up stakes at Crescent Lake in the summer, travelling around the country following the work and returning home in the fall for school. A buyer in Yorkton bought the muskrat and rabbit pelts and furs of animals caught in the special places or on the old road allowances at night. We would often skin animals for other people, keeping the meat for eating

and stretching and drying the hides to be sold in Yorkton." Slim Joe was an excellent hunter, he said, bringing home deer and partridge and prairie chickens and rabbits. A successful hunt meant food for everyone, especially those less fortunate. Fish was bought from the Indians at Crooked Lake, the home community of Gilbert's wife of 40 years, Mary Lorraine Pelletier. If I had a chance to go back to those days, I would. There was a quite a few houses and families. Everybody got along. Everyone shared what they had.

"We danced a lot there. We would throw out the old stove, the table and chairs. We danced for a whole week every night during new years. Every new years we would go around to every house and eat at every house. I will always remember that. The dance was held at the last house."

This was the life, he remembers, until the 1950's and the opening of the potash mines. He recalls that Father Dale, the Roman Catholic priest at Yorkton, a man honoured and respected by the devout Catholic Métis families of the Crescent Lake settlement, got jobs for the Métis men in the mines near Esterhazy and encouraged them to take their families

with them. As history holds the story, the priest relocated the families from the Crescent Lake area and burned down their homes and buildings in their absence. Nothing was ever said about these losses with the people believing that the government hired the priest to free up the land. The families spread out after that, following work to Alberta farms or to Yorkton or beyond.

Gilbert Pelletier returned to Crescent Lake area in 1963, where he took upgrading to finish the schooling that he never completed at the Crescent Lake School which was built in 1946-47 for the Métis of the area who had been denied access to the town school and the reserve mission. He finished his grade twelve and started a group to fight for welfare. The Department of Social Services offered him a job shortly thereafter, beginning his lifetime career as a government employee. His dream to drive a government car came true and Gilbert Pelletier worked as a field man, assisting in financial and child services in the area, today being semi-retired and holding a seat on the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority board. Mr. Pelletier continues also to bring his efforts to the betterment of the Métis community, having worked



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

with the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and the Gabriel Dumont Institute in reviving the Michif language. Michif was the language of Crescent Lake and remains at the heart of the identity of the people who share the common history of that area and across the Métis homeland from the southern plains, northern United States, and west to Red River.

In 1984, Gilbert Pelletier got together with one person from each of the families that lived at Crescent Lake and planned a Tokyo Days Celebration, reviving the cultural gathering tradition of the earlier days. "We got one from each family, try and raise money, asked for donations, sold tickets, had card games and stuff like that, to rent the lands of Crescent Lake. The government had leased the Crescent Lake lands to an individual family and we had to rent from them. We had a real good turnout that time. We cleaned up, bought all the food and gave it all away for free. Everything was free. Today, the event is not able to happen on those lands because the rent is too high for the three day event - \$5000. We couldn't afford it. The last gathering was in the year 2000. It was held on the lands next to Crescent Lake. Our people are fighting for these historic lands now. We had local

### *Scenary around the Crescent Lake area*

talent shows, held horse shoe and ball tournaments, dancing every night for three nights. We had races, including horse races. We held different events for the kids. We made one hole of golf for closest to the pin. We had singing, jigging, singing and dancing. It was good for the spirit."

Today, the historic community of Crescent Lake is privately owned and the old schoolhouse is rented out to an individual family. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Eastern Region III Métis council, lead by Myles Pelletier, is struggling to regain control of the historical Métis lands for the development of a historical site and archival facility. A lease was signed between the Government of Saskatchewan and the Métis Elders of Crescent Lake to preserve the lands of Crescent Lake for use by the Métis for 99 years. Gilbert Pelletier recalls that the father of Elder Mary St. Pierre, who will celebrate her 91st birthday this year, signed that agreement on behalf of the citizens. Today, the Métis families wish to continue the traditions of their ancestors, the language, the dances, the fellowship of helping one another out and knowing

each other's children. They wish to reunite and rekindle in whatever way they can the feelings of community and family through the development of the community lands set aside for this purpose more than seventy years ago.

As a Senator for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, Gilbert Pelletier tries to bring those values and community ways into the present, sharing a smile and a helping hand where one is needed. "I would never change one thing about my life growing up at Crescent Lake", the Senator said with a smile. "Crescent Lake is one part of my life that I'll never forget." Senator Pelletier is confident that the Government of Saskatchewan Minister Clay Serby will support the wishes of the people in this plight and looks forward to the spirited times of the past brought forward as an opportunity for the youth on the traditional lands of the Métis at Crescent Lake.

Gilbert and Mary Pelletier have three children – Gale Gilbert Pelletier; Eleanor Rose Marie Pelletier (now Shaolopiak); and Avaline Cecile Pelletier. They also celebrate their nine grandchildren – seven girls and two boys.

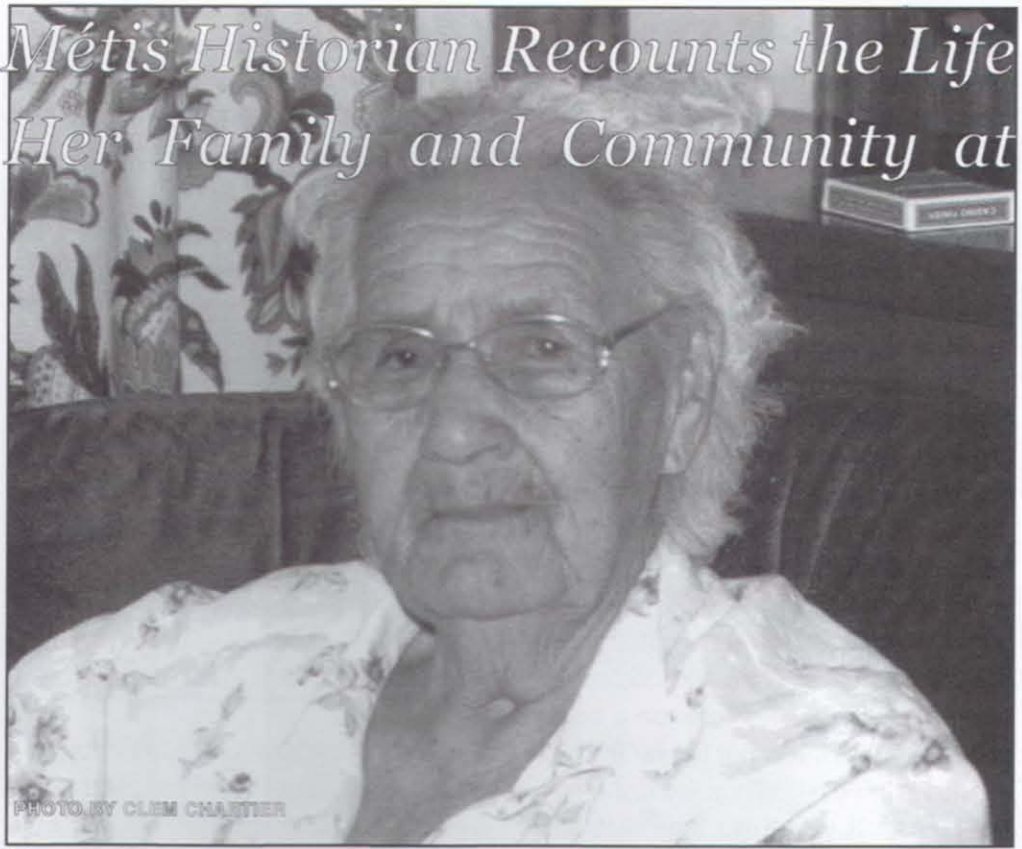


# Mary St. Pierre: Métis Historian Recounts the Life and History of Her Family and Community at Crescent Lake

STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

Mary St. Pierre will celebrate her 91st birthday this year. She recalls some of the memories she holds from her long life, sitting in her favourite chair in her living room in Yorkton, Saskatchewan. Mary St. Pierre was born at Crooked Lake, the Métis settlement across the lake from the four neighboring Indian Reserves: Ochapowace; Sakimay; Cowessess and Kakawistahow. Her family was the first to move to the Métis settlement of Crescent Lake during the wintertime of her 21st year. She recalls the rhythms of her growing up years, the family moving between Crescent Lake and Yorkton and the surrounding areas, following seasonal resources and employment. It was a rich life then, she holds, shaking her head saying that things have really changed now.

Her family roots lead her to back to those lands in the valley where she was born, raised, married and taught the language and ways of her people – the Métis. When she was of school age, her father took her to the nearby Indian Reserve Dubuque Day School where she was turned away because of being Métis instead of Indian. She recalls that her father then took her to the school in Grayson to register her but she was turned away because she was Métis and not white. She recounts her father's words saying: "You are not going to get to go to school, my girl! I take you one place and they turn you away and I take you to the other and they turn you away there, too. There is no place left to go." So Mary St. Pierre returned to her family and the lifestyle of the time. Years later, a school was built for the Métis of Crescent



Mary St. Pierre at her home in Yorkton.

Lake which still stands to mark the historical events of those early times. Her father signed an agreement with the government, leasing the lands of Crescent Lake to the Métis Elders for a period of 99 years, providing schooling for the children and protecting the lands for the betterment of the Métis residents. She remembers some of the families who lived there at that time: Pelletiers; Lafontaines; Desjarlais; Flamonds.

She recalls milking cows, collecting willows and wood. Her father was a hunter, bringing home the meat and hides of deer and muskrats and rabbits. They used to tan them and make beadwork, although she did not recall doing beadwork herself. She used to make blankets and sew, a craft that she kept up for most of her life, providing patchwork quilts for many of her children and grandchildren. They used to collect seneca root by the pail full, a root used for medicine, selling them to make a wage as part of the fur trade economy. She remembers traveling to find berries, as well, saskatoons, blueberries and chokecherries. They

used to dry the berries on a big rock, to be later soaked in water and boiled, tasting as fresh and sweet as they were picked from the branches. She remembers canning more than 300 quarts a year. Those were good days, she says again.

Mary St. Pierre is a fluent Michif speaker, having spoken the language her whole life. I asked her if she taught her children to speak Michif and she said: "Oh yes. That is our language. You don't throw away your own language. All my children speak Michif", she said. She uses the words along with her English, pausing at times to find the English word to recount her memories of her earlier life. She is a religious woman, devout Roman Catholic, a teaching she was born into. She recalls the respect given to the priests over her lifetime and the importance of the church, leading her to recall when the houses of Crescent Lake were burned to the ground by Father Dale. Shaking her head, she does not understand why such a terrible thing had been done to the people. That was the end of the settle-

ment with the people having to move on to other places to find a home.

Mary St. Pierre recalls the Tokyo Days celebrations held at the mission. It was a big time, she recalls. "The priest from Regina would come down for that celebration. My goodness, there was a lot of people. It was in the Crooked Lake valley. It was a very religious event. There was a nice church and a big school. I was born in Crooked Lake and baptised in the small church at Crooked Lake. I was a young girl when they [Tokyo Days] first were held. We left the valley thirty or forty years ago now. I remember one time, I guess there was no cars in those days, the Bishop from Regina came to Crooked Lake to say mass. He came on a buggy, pulled by horses. It is not too far from the mission to Regina. They were there for ten hours. It was a big time that time. They did everything – dancing, singing, fiddling. It was good times, mass midnight mass. Every Christmas night we

would go to midnight mass. They don't have it any more like that. They had horse racing, too. Horse racing is a big game for our people – horses. There was no cars them days, just buggies and wagons or on foot. I was just a small girl when I remember these days."

---

*They help each other –  
turn about, turn about. No  
money going around there.  
Everything was free in  
them days. Everybody  
helped one another out.*

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She also remembers delivering babies, twenty-three babies delivered and they all lived. Her mom taught her how to deliver babies. There was few doctors in those days, she said. Lots of women knew how to do that. They help each

other – turn about, turn about. No money going around there. Everything was free in them days. Everybody helped one another out.

Mary Vitaline St. Pierre (nee Flamond) is the middle child of twelve children born to Marie Adele Allary from Cowessis Reserve (sister to Francis Allary) and Alexandre Flamont of the Valley – Crooked Lake (brother to Andrew and Maxima Flamont). She recalls her own brothers and sisters: John; Zelda; Clementine; Flora; Ature; Frank; Albert; Norbert; Rosadel; Dora and Tina. She married Martin St. Pierre in 1930 at the church in Yorkton with whom she had eight children of their own: four girls and four boys: Flora; Lucy; Stella; Florence (twin); Edwin; Lawrence (twin); Frank Martin; and Gerald. She thanked us for giving her an opportunity to think back to those days, the dances, the laughter, the language, the community and the families. Those days were the best of days.



PHOTO BY CLEM CHARTIER

# The First Step Toward A Rewarding Future: Eastern Region IIA Celebrates Educational Achievements

**STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH**

On June 29, 2001, Eastern Assiniboine Training and Employment for Yorkton Region celebrated the graduation of the 2000-2001 classes for the Yorkton Adult Secondary Education, Esterhazy Adult Secondary Education, Carpentry, Homecare and Computer System Support Specialist programs. More than fifty students are registered in these programs, accredited through the Dumont Technical Institute and SIAST.

The evening began with prayers and a wonderful hot meal for all families in attendance. Greetings were given by Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President Clem Chartier, Are Director Myles Pelletier, Senator Gilbert Pelletier, Yorkton Mayor Phil de Vos, Eastern Assiniboine Training and Employment Director of Education Don Kondrat and other dignitaries.

As well, awards were given at the selection of the classmates for the non-graduating students completing the first of their two-year program. The supper and awards were followed by a dance.



*The class of 2001 from Yorkton.*

Eastern Assiniboine Employment and Training is an office of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Yorkton Region and is funded through Métis Employment and

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## ADULT SECONDARY EDUCATION 2001

**Director of Education Award For Highest Marks:**

Stephanie Flamont

**DTI Attendance Award for ASE:** Stephanie Flamont

**Lawrence Langan Memorial Award for Most Dedicated Student:** Della Gregory

**Edwin Pelletier Memorial Award for Most Dedicated Student:** Melody Hayden

## COMPUTER SYSTEM SUPPORT SPECIALIST 2001

**Director of Education Award for Highest Marks:** William Remus

**DTI Best Attendance Award:** William Remus

**SIAST for most Dedicated Student Award:** Devona Lerat

## OTHER AWARDS

**Mary St. Pierre Cultural Award:** Lorne St. Pierre

**Isabelle Pelletier Cultural Award:** Melody Hayden

**Senator Rose Ledoux Memorial Award:** Francis McAllister

**Glen Rusnak Memorial Award:** Francis McAllister



# Palmbere Days

PHOTOS BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH AND CLEM CHARTIER



## STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH

I was lucky enough to attend the Palmbere 2001 celebrations again this year at Palmbere Lake which is situated off the highway between Buffalo Narrows and La Loche east on the Turnor Lake road. Hundreds of people attend this event each year, with families settled into camps around the south edge of the lake. The formal gathering began as a result of the recognition of Louis Morin, whose contributions are commemorated at the entrance of the lake, that there was a need for Métis and Cree and Dene peoples to come together to discuss the issues of access to and protection of the land and its resources of the area. This

year's Palmbere Days events followed a week-long meeting of the youth from the region with a final meeting on Saturday, August 4th. Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Minister for Youth, Ralph Kennedy, attended the meeting as well. While the evening dances are a focal point of the celebration for many family members, along with the canoe races, kids events, beach volleyball and horseshoe tournaments, annual meetings are held in the main building to discuss issues of concern amongst the residents of the region.

This year's meeting was again well attended. The Clearwater Clear Lake region held their regular meeting, followed by a panel discussion and question

and answer period. Senator Johnny Woodward opened the discussions with a prayer, followed by opening remarks from Métis National Council President Gerald Morin; Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President Clem Chartier; Vice President Lorna Docken; Treasurer Allan Morin; Area Director Norman Hansen; and Saskatchewan Environment Resources Management Minister Buckley Belanger. Philip Chartier chaired the meeting.

A number of concerns were voiced, with much time spent on the matter of the lands in the Clearwater Provincial Park. The first to speak was John L. Montgrand who voiced his concern for the protection of the lands within the park into the

# Palmbere Days



future and to ensure continued access for Métis people who hunt, fish and trap in that area. The parklands were established in 1986 by SERM in consultation with the residents of the area to ensure continued use for Métis and First Nations residents. Across from the parklands is the La Loche fur trapping zone, 33, where a number of trappers still hold permits for trap lines. John L. Montgrand is concerned with the potential of private and outside organizations who will access and control the activities of the more than 130 square miles of forested land. It is his belief that this activity will result in loss of opportunities for the many young people in the north who will inherit the lifestyle of living off of the land, hunting and fishing and trapping but will lose control of the lands which are so vital to this future. As a result of this concern, John L. Montgrand participated in the establishment of a barricade at the park entrance across the main road which heads toward the Cluff Lake mine. As part of this effort, John L. Montgrand presented Minister Belanger with 650 signatures requesting protection of the traplines from the neighbouring fur conservation area, along with several hundred names supporting the protection of park lands

for future generations of Métis, Cree and Dene youth from the region to practice the traditional lifestyles of hunting, fishing and trapping.

The second to the microphone was Skip Montgrand who played a tape recording of a man from the Cold Lake Peace Camp (CLPC) in northern Alberta who was in attendance at the United Nations meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, where the matter of the Montgrand family was being considered by the CLPC for presentation to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the subsequent Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, along with their own concerns. Media coverage to date has suggested that the Montgrand family is seeking consent from SERM to build eighteen cabins within the Clearwater Provincial Park boundaries, along with future opportunities to develop a separate municipality and community, based on the long-standing usage of the parklands by the Montgrand family as members of the Denedeh Nation now included in the provincial park boundaries. However, none of these particulars were discussed or brought forward to this panel.



**Top left:** Traditional land users meeting.

**Top right:** Gerald Morin, Buckley Belanger, and Clem Chartier at meeting.

**Below (clockwise):** Brian Morin, Mr. Janvier, JB Montgrand, and Skip Montgrand

# Palmbere Days



**Top:** Young people gathered together.

**Middle:** Adults take a rest.

**Bottom:** More camping at Palmbere Days.

An Elder from the Clearwater Dene Nation suggested that the Métis and First Nations leaders should work together on this matter, bringing the community together on such resource use matters. His remarks were echoed by President Clem Chartier who recalled the words of Louis Morin and those early discussions around resource management and protection, suggesting that these matters were a common concern to all and solutions should include discussion with all affected. Norman Hansen also echoed the need to work together to find solutions to issues as they arise. He felt that provincial governments, including municipalities should meet with leaders of Aboriginal governments to find the needed solutions.

One of the last areas of concern was the matter of forestry and the issue of immediate and future access for northern loggers and business people. The forestry plans of SERM, articulated in a leaked cabinet document in mid March of this year, has taken claim to hundreds of hectares of prime forest for use within the La Loche fur block by a new sawmill and Tolko Industries to be established in Meadow Lake. Already, loggers are unable to find employment or run their operations because of the decrease of territory. Where economic development opportunities based in the north have shown a slight increase, the opportunities are now declining with the sale of lands to the outside business interests.

Minister Belanger presented in both English and Dene lan-

guages, through interpreter Brian Morin, the correspondence from his office on the matter of the Clearwater provincial park lands, stating that SERM is prepared to meet with interested parties on the matter to bring closure. However, SERM had no plans to close out the La Loche fur conservation blocks or rid trappers of access to the lands. The matter of hunting and fishing for subsistence were not considered in this response. SERM maintains its policy that only traditional land users are able to access to resources and so far the definition for "traditional land users" includes only trappers with valid trap lines or unemployed / destitute Métis residents. The matter of forest lands remained unanswered as well.

In closing remarks, President Gerald Morin brought forward his concerns for the protection of rights for Métis and First Nations people in the north with the future development of the road between Fort McMurray and La Loche. He warned that while the new road would mean greater opportunity for employment, it also meant greater access to the north and its resources by outside interests, including governments and private ownership. The matter of protecting the Aboriginal rights of the Métis and First Nations residents was a priority matter.

The main building, where the meeting was held, is a roofed structure similar to the one erected at Batoche and was originally housed in Buffalo Narrows. The community decided it was needed at Palmbere, so twenty or thirty families dismantled the build-

ing and moved it to Palmbere Lake, setting it up again amidst the pines near to the sandy beach. Philip Chartier, predecessor to Norman Hanson as Area Director for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Clearwater Clear Lake region, remembers that the effort was a community one, where people volunteered their time to make Palmbere Lake a special place for important gatherings and meetings. He said that he is always reminded of what can be accomplished if a community comes together. The voices of Palmbere are definitely united on one thing: that the lands of north-west Saskatchewan are meant to benefit the people who were born to protect them and whose grandparents and great-grandparents had done so for many generations into the past. The traditional lifestyles of living off of the land remain strong and the teachings of these Aboriginal peoples is obvious and clear. The land is our life, President Clem Chartier articulated, reading from the Palmbere Days 2000 t-shirt worn by Minister Buckley Belanger. We must continue to protect our life and fight for the rights which are ours. We must work together in this effort to ensure strong communities and a future for our youth.



**Top:** People gather to watch the canoe races

**Middle:** Two young men take part in competition.

**Bottom:** Friends old and new gathered at Palmbere Days.



# *Ile-a-La-Crosse Celebrates 225th Anniversary*

A PICTORAL REVIEW BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH







*Festive times were had by all as Ile-a-La-Crosse celebrated its 225th anniversary. Many dignitaries were on hand to give praise while children enjoyed summertime fun.*





**ILE-A-LA-CROSSE  
TURNS 225**





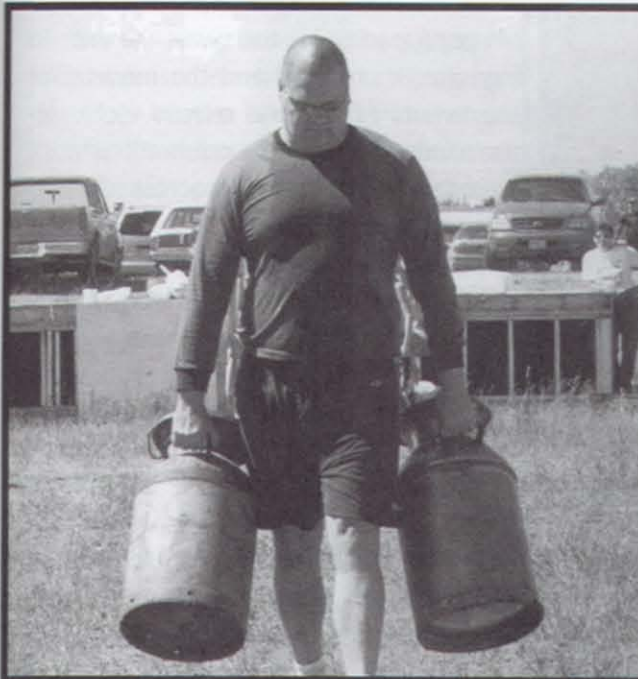
**ILE-A-LA-CROSSE  
TURNS 225**





*Top left: RCMP at ceremonies.  
Right: Land claim displays.  
Centre left: Festival parade.  
Middle: Children gather at event.  
Bottom left: a float in the parade.  
Bottom right: Children dancing at ceremonies.*





## **Back-to-Batoche Days 2001**

PHOTOS BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH AND CLEM CHARTIER



### **STORY BY KATHY HODGSON-SMITH**

Under the direction of co-Chairs Dave Ross and Peter Rudyck, the Back-to-Batoche Days 2001 celebration was held from July 27th to 29th at the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan grounds at Batoche, Saskatchewan. By Thursday evening, hundreds had already gathered and set up their tents in preparation for the week-end of events. Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. the opening ceremonies were held to a full crowd followed by an open stage of dancing, singing and jigging. The dance competitions began on Saturday afternoon to a full house crowd, with finals on Sunday afternoon. This year, Batoche featured a professional rodeo, with wagons running each evening and

carts in the morning. As well, a slow-pitch tournament was held which featured co-ed teams from across the province. Again, the voyageur games were held with can carrying, flour packing, hatchet throwing and much more. The bannock-baking contest was great fun with three winners and a runner up. Saturday evening featured a tornado-like wind that gave everyone in attendance a good scare and sent some tents on a bit of a journey, however no injuries were reported. Hopefully next year, the wind event will be a no-show! Sunday morning church services were held in the main building, led by Father Guy Lavallee, followed by the annual walk to the mass gravesite encompassed on the traditional grounds now controlled by the

Government of Canada as a national historical site. Senator Hap Boyer played songs on a fiddle belonging to one of the granddaughters of those buried in the mass gravesite, followed by words of encouragement and reflection by Métis leaders from across the homeland, including Elders and Senators and Veterans. Senator John Boucher led the ceremony, with prayers by Father Lavallee, who acknowledged that the Métis soldiers buried at Batoche are Saints by any definition by virtue of their contribution to Canada and to the Métis Nation. The National Métis Veterans Association president, — from Alberta, brought thanks to the many veterans who have given their youth and some gave their lives for the betterment of all. Each year the number



of participants in the walk seems to increase in numbers and the memory of the events of Batoche remain etched in the minds of many. The celebrations were attended by many from across Canada and the United States. The only complaint was that it ended too soon, a problem that will be left to the organizers for next year's event.



The Batoche grounds are being increasingly developed each year, with the main building sided and fresh sod laid for the comfort of all. A closed in stage was added to provide extra safety for musical equipment and musicians. Along with this, an Elder's building was built, with electrical power, stoves, fridges, freezers and plenty of seating for visitors. The Métis Elders provided three meals a day to passers by and a full line up of story and laughter and friendship to old and new-

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*Top: Contestants line up for the Bannock contest.*

*Middle: The Veterans Entrance.*

*Bottom: A rider attempts to rope a calf at the rodeo.*



comers. The grounds were equipped with increased electrical capacity, giving the food booths and events non-stop electrical services. Firewood was also plentiful this year, as well. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan is looking forward each year to adding more and more facilities and making Batoche a comfortable stay for everyone and a place where the many talents and traditions of the Métis community can be shown and celebrated. For those of you who have never attended, mark it on your calendars for next summer. It is typically the third weekend of July every year.

### The Batoche Musical

The Batoche Musical was performed on Thursday evening, with a performance on Friday and two on Saturday. Each night was a sold out event. Seats are provided at no cost to participants, making it available to all Back-to-Batoche Days visitors. This is made possible by the purchase of seats by various governments and organizations. This years sponsors of the Musical included: Métis Nation – Saskatchewan Clarence Campeau Development Fund and Gabriel Dumont Institute; SaskTel; Métis Nation of Ontario; Northwest Sask Métis Council and Municipalities through the Northern Project; SaskEnergy; Weyerhaeuser; Government of Saskatchewan Department of Aboriginal Affairs and the Métis National Council.

**Top:** A bronco gives a rider a run for his money.

**Second from top:** Senators Ritchie and Boucher with MMF President David Chartrand.

**Third from top:** Camping around Batoche.

**Bottom:** Elders building at Batoche





The Musical featured the original cast from the first performance in 2000 courtesy of the successful application by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan to the Millennium fund. The creative team of writers - Maureen Belanger; Rita Bouvier; Lon Borgerson; Duane Favel and Bruce Sinclair - wrote the script that was performed again this year, originally performed with producer Jack Walton. Don Freed, Andrea Menard, Rita Bouvier and Chris Besenski provided original poetry and songs. The cast included: Maureen Belanger (old Ernestine); Duane Favel (old Alphonse); Andrea Menard (young Ernestine); Lorne Duquette (young Alphonse); Sarah Loutitt (Sara); Bruce Sinclair (Jules); Jon Runolfson (Louis Riel); Chris Besenski (cousin); Jeff Soucy (Gabriel Dumont and the dancing buffalo); Janet Regan; Jessica Belanger; and several children actors: George Belanger; Koonis and Moon Sinclair and Erik, Sara and Jesse Loutitt. The music of Métis Fiddler John



**Top** (from left to right): Dignitaries Pat Lorje, Clem Chartier, Harley Desjarlais, Buckley Belanger, Gerald Morin.

**Middle:** Batoche musical: John Leclair; Jay Campbell Ross

**Bottom:** March to the gravesite.





Leclair and Guitarist Jay Campbell Ross bring the traditions of the past into a play of the future.

If you have seen the Musical, you will recall the story of Alphonse and Ernestine who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary and remember the beginning of their life together. They were both from Batoche and were caught up in the tragedy of the events of 1885, after which Alphonse and Ernestine join in marriage. The story, which is based on historical fact, subject to the poetic license of the drama performance art, recounts the pride and honour of the people who gave their lives for the protection of Métis rights in this country, rights now protected under Canada's Constitution Act, 1982. Alphonse and Ernestine recount the events that are held in the memories of the people and in the stories of the Métis Nation passed on from generation to generation. Music, song and dance make this event an unforgettable experience for all who are fortunate enough to attend. "What does it take for a people to go into a battle knowing they will lose?", Old Alphonse asks. "It is all



*Top* Two children performing at the musical.

*Middle Left:* Manitoba Senator

*Middle Right:* Children Dancers.

*Bottom:* A packed house.



about hope. If you don't have hope, you don't have anything", Old Ernestine replies. It is the hope of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan that this is the beginning of many good things for our increasing Métis youth population, a future of opportunity in the performance arts and all the opportunities that go along with that.



*Top: a Red River cart.*

*Left & Bottom: Performers with the Batoche Theatre delight audiences.*



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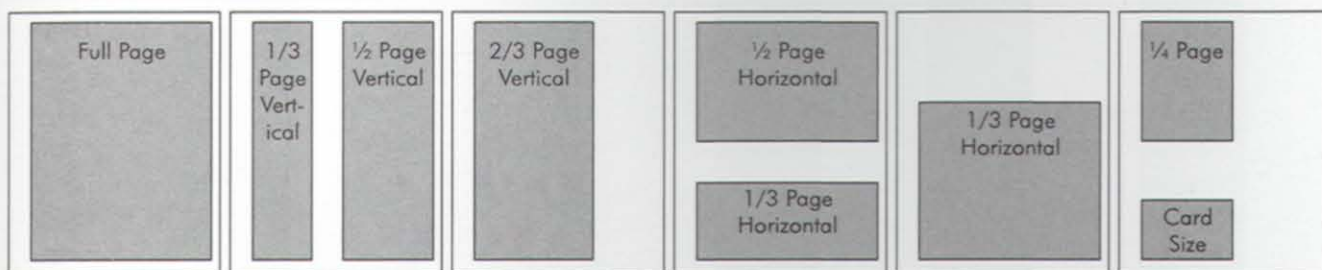
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