

Voyageur Games

The Metis people have a well-deserved reputation for competitiveness in both work and play. Nelson Sanderson, President of the Manitoba Metis Cultural Club, noticed that over the years, competitive sports had faded in many Metis communities. To counter this trend, Nelson revived traditional Metis competitions such as “The Metis Voyageur Games.” The competition categories that have been reintroduced are described below.

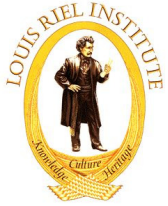


Nelson Sanderson in Flour Sack Carry

Metis Voyageur Games:

- The 450-pound Metis voyageur flour sack carry: this carry is one that is done for distance. The five 90-pound bags are placed on the competitor’s upper back and secured by a tumpline loop around the forehead. The competitor that carries the furthest distance wins.
- The 180-pound Metis voyageur carry: this carry is one that is split into speed and distance events. The men carry 180 pounds over 200, 400, or 600 yards. The women carry 90 pounds over 100, 200, or 300 yards. All those who complete the longest carry are awarded a gold medal, the middle distance competitors are awarded silver, and the short distance contestants are awarded bronze medals. In the speed event, the competitors carry two 90-pound sacks and are timed over 100 yards.
- The cream can carry consists of distance and speed events on a carry of two 125-pound cream cans. The distance event winner is simply awarded for the furthest carry. In the speed event, competitors are timed over a 100-yard distance.
- The sling shot event: this is a family event that allows parents to compete against their children. This event has replaced the rifle target-shooting event due to new gun regulations. Pop cans are used as targets and points are tallied for tips and knockdowns. Each contestant is allowed five shots. They shoot five marbles at the targets and the best shooters are awarded medals.

- The log carry is a distance event. Each competitor picks up the 300-pound plus log, balances it on their shoulder, and the longest carry wins.
- The hatchet throw is another target event. A wooden target with a bull's eye is set up. The competitors have three throwing rounds of one hatchet throw per round.



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