

Eagle Feather NEWS

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SIGA named Business of the Year

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SERVICES



INSIDE

Cover Story.....1

Editorial.....4

Maria Campbell5

John Cuthand column.....6

Sandra Ahenakew.....11

Sports15

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Eagle Feather News
Happy New Year

Next Month - Health & Wellness Issue



Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority President and CEO Zane Hansen says the Business of the Year Award is a reminder of just how far the organization has come in the past few years. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

SIGA owes a debt to brave visionaries at White Bear

Back in the year 2000, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority was being audited, it was operating under a cloud of suspicion and it was being hammered in the press on a regular basis. The CEO was fired, the board was changed and the Saskatoon StarPhoenix ran a full page of the expenses rung up on a corporate credit card. Times were tough.

Fast forward to 2007 and times have changed. SIGA was recently named the Business of the Year by SaskBusiness magazine, a prestigious award that is usually reserved for manufacturers and trucking companies. But not this year.

"SIGA hit all the criteria this year," said Keith Moen, editor of SaskBusiness. "Also we look for newsworthiness. They have started construction in Swift Current, have amazing sales figures and the new Dakota Dunes Casino is the icing on the cake.

"When you look at how they rebounded from the issues in 2000 and then the lost plebiscite for the Saskatoon casino, to be where they are today is a real testament to their business ability."

Even though SIGA has millions of dollars in revenue, numerous awards for its philanthropy and job creation, the Business of the Year award seems to be the icing on the cake, the award that proves to others that SIGA is here to stay, and then some.

"It is incredible. We have had to prove in the last few years to ourselves and others that we are viable business people," said Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Vice Chief Morley Watson.

"The road has been difficult but exciting. It sends a message that First Nation businesses are here and want to succeed, and partner and make profit and create employment. SIGA is certainly our flagship. The manage-

ment and 1,700 employees, they are our frontline people who help us make that profit for our communities. It is very exciting for all of us and a major business accomplishment."

To think it all began at White Bear First Nation when they set up their casino, only to have the provincial government and the RCMP knock it down.

"We owe those people a lot," said Watson. "They kick-started the process and got us into the business. Then in 2000, the province said, 'This is wrong, that is wrong.' In hindsight I think with them appointing members to the board and putting together some very stringent criteria, at the end of the day it helped us be better business people.

"For that we have to be grateful because that is what true partnership is. To help each other through the difficult times and to celebrate the good times together. We lived up to their criteria and have proven that we can be good business people," Watson said.

"It was tough love and today we are business of the year so it is a major, major accomplishment."

Zane Hansen, President and CEO of SIGA was also grateful for the acknowledgment.

"We are absolutely overjoyed for this kind of recognition and it has made us reflect on what we did that got us here. I thought of the hard work everyone has put into this organization and how far we have come. This will take some time to sink in I am sure," said Hansen.

With a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Saskatchewan, a CMA designation from the Society of Management Accountants and plenty of business experience, Hansen acknowledges that the strict criteria that they operate under has helped them create stability, but that stability is only part of their success as a business.

• Continued on Page 14

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

Carry the Kettle Elder honoured by Province

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

Elder Cora Thomson from Carry the Kettle First Nation was one of seven people invested into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit by Lieutenant Governor Dr. Gordon Barnhart in December.

"It is a deep privilege to serve as Chancellor of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit and to recognize such outstanding citizens with our province's highest honour," Barnhart said.

"The newest members have been well chosen; each has made extraordinary contributions that have benefited the people of Saskatchewan and beyond."

The 2007 recipients are: The Very Reverend Dr. Walter Farquharson, D.D., United Church Minister, Saltcoats; Dr. D. Michael Jackson, C.V.O., C.D., Retired Public Servant, Regina; Mr. Don Kerr, Professor Emeritus, Writer and Poet, Saskatoon; Dr. Reuben J. Mapletoft, Professor, Saskatoon; His Worship James V. Scarrow, Broadcaster, Prince Albert; Mrs. Cora Thomson, Retired, Carry the Kettle First Nation; and Mr. Brian Towriss, Football Coach, Saskatoon.

The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is the province's highest honour. It recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the social, cultural and economic well being of the province and its residents.

Cora Thomson has served Carry the Kettle with distinction and has been a positive role model for all those whose lives she has touched. She has been on council, has led the pow wow committee and has served on boards ranging from the Saskatchewan Police Commission, to, currently, the File Hills Tribal Council Police Service Board as well as board member for the File Hills Agency First Nations Child and Family Services.

The foundation to Cora's success is her straight-ahead attitude. When asked, her reason for her success is simple.

"I did what I had to do," Cora said over the phone

from Carry the Kettle. "I went on and did what I did because it had to be done."

As partner of a mixed farming operation and with her strong agricultural knowledge and experience of crop production, soil management and cattle ranching, she became one of the first trustees for the Carry the Kettle First Nations Treaty Land Entitlement process and was instrumental in obtaining valuable agricultural land.

"My parents were farmers, farmers on my husband's side as well. We just carried on. We still have some cattle," added Thomson.

Thomson was shocked when she heard she was being honoured. It still hasn't sunk in yet.

"This is quite an honour and I was very excited when I first heard, but I just carried on," said Thomson, who was nominated in secret by her sons-in-law.

"Then as the day got closer I got nervous and worried. But everyone was so friendly at the awards and it was nice to have family there."

Cora Thomson says she has slowed down a bit and doesn't do as much, but she relates how she still feeds the cattle, is on a police board and travels to visit her daughters in Meadow Lake, Calgary and Saskatoon.

"In the summer we are busy following the pow wow trail," said Thomson. "My husband is a veteran and we travel around. I like to support the veterans."

To top it off, Cora is also an executive member of the Montmartre Royal Canadian Legion, a member of the Ladies Legion Auxiliary and gives her support to the Saskatchewan First Nations' Veterans Association.

As to those who follow behind her, Cora's advice is straight ahead again.

"Work with the community to do what is best for the community. Be friendly with everyone. On reserves sometimes, people may not agree, but put that aside and do it."

When asked at the end of the conversation for that



CORA THOMSON

one pearl of wisdom to pass on to others, Cora Thomson nailed it.

"Do what you have to do. Look forward, and never look back."

Including the seven new members, there have been 148 appointments to the Order of Merit since its inception in 1985. Portraits of past recipients of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit are on display and can be viewed in the Saskatchewan Gallery at the Legislative Building.

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Around the province



JOAN GREYEVES

U of S appoints special advisor on Aboriginal initiatives

SASKATOON - University of Saskatchewan President Peter MacKinnon announced in November the appointment of Joan Greyeyes to the position of Special Advisor on Aboriginal Initiatives.

"Ms Greyeyes is a University of Saskatchewan alumnus with proven expertise in empowering partnerships for First Nations people to work collaboratively with corporate industry and business alliances," said President MacKinnon.

"As a First Nations senior executive, Ms Greyeyes brings to the University significant experience working with corporate and Aboriginal relations and engaging stakeholders in partnerships that lead to effective co-management relationships."

Greyeyes earned a Bachelor of Education degree, a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration and a Master of Education degree, all from the University of Saskatchewan. She has most recently worked as a consultant on education, health and governance with the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and as the Director of Education with the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. From 1992 to 1995, Ms. Greyeyes was the Director of the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.

Beatty to contest northern riding

OTTAWA – Federal Liberal leader Stéphane Dion recently announced that Joan Beatty, former Saskatchewan NDP cabinet minister and Aboriginal activist, will be the Party's candidate in the riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River in the upcoming federal by-election.

"Joan Beatty brings to the Liberal Party of Canada a strong mix of local knowledge, Aboriginal expertise, political experience and a tradition of service to the people of Saskatchewan," said Mr. Dion.

Beatty said her continued desire to make a positive change for the North, together with the best possible way to serve the people of northern Saskatchewan, has resulted in her accepting Mr. Dion's invitation to join the Liberal Party of Canada.

"Under Mr. Dion's leadership, I believe that I can best represent the constituency at this level, in particular, the First Nations communities where the need is so great. For me, at the end of the day, it's about being practical. I am proud to announce my candidacy in the federal riding of Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River and continuing to fight for a richer, fairer and greener Canada," said Beatty, who is currently a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.



JOAN BEATTY

The appointment has been met with outrage from northern Liberals who resent not being consulted and the skirting of the democratic process. Due to publishing deadlines, we could not bring you the events from an emergency meeting held in PA on Jan. 12.

There will be more to this story.



FUNDING FOR MICHIF CONFERENCE

The federal government recently announced it would provide \$60,000 in funding to Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research. The money will enable the Institute to host the seventh National Michif Language Conference in March of this year. The goals of the conference are to increase the number of Michif speakers, expand opportunities for speaking Michif, and ensure greater numbers of children and young people learn the language. "This event will bring Michif speakers from across the Métis Homeland together for the renewal and retention of our languages and culture," said Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. Gabriel Dumont Institute is a not-for-profit organization that provides Métis people in Saskatchewan with the opportunity to obtain training and education. Elder Dorothy Aubichon accepts the cheque from Member of Parliament Carol Skelton.

(Photo by Janessa Temple)

Congratulations to all those who received this Province's highest honour: the Saskatchewan Order of Merit, at an Award ceremony held in December 2007.

In particular, I would like to recognize Cora Thomson of the Carry The Kettle First Nation.

Mrs. Thomson was presented the Award for her many contributions to the promotion of cultural awareness, improvements in child and family services, quality health and wellness and enhanced safety and policing standards. She exemplifies dedication and perseverance and is a true role model for all of us.

Honourable June Druault
Minister of
First Nations and Métis Relations

Saskatchewan
Ministry of
First Nations and
Métis Relations



GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
of Native Studies and Applied Research
#2-604 22nd Street West Saskatoon, SK S7M 5W1


The Gabriel Dumont Institute is proud to host the 7th Annual National Michif Language Conference, March 14-15, 2008.

If you would like to be added to the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Michif speaker list please send your name, address, and phone number to david.morin@gdi.gdins.org, or phone David at 306.657.5714.

For further information about the Gabriel Dumont Institute's Michif program visit:

www.gdins.org
www.metismuseum.ca
www.virtualmuseum.ca/Exhibitions/Batoche

The Gabriel Dumont Institute promotes the renewal and development of Métis culture through research materials development, collection and the distribution of those materials and the development and deliver Métis-specific educational programs and services.

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Drunken Monkey hopes to do better in 2008

As promised, in January we always look to our resident expert for great predictions of what is in store for the fine people of Saskatchewan in 2008. In 2006, our drunken monkey was right in eight of his ten predictions. A fantastic record.

Unfortunately, he got into the hard stuff in 2007 and only went four out of ten which is a bit of a disappointment, because even the ones he was right on, like Doucette winning the Métis Nation election, Chief Lawrence Joseph getting mad at the media, fun being had at the Summer Games and more Aboriginal people in post secondary education were all no brainers. But what do you expect from a drunken monkey.

So without further adieu, here are the drunken monkeys predictions for 2008, translated to English from monkey of course.

- Controversy strikes Wanuskewin Heritage Park, but it is not the end of the world, just a new beginning for this important institution.
- The AUCC finally releases a report on the First Nation University of Canada's membership in their organization. FNUC gets kicked out, but it will be business as usual. And they will not go ahead with the very expensive veterans memorial.
- There will be a federal election before June. The Conservatives win a minority government again only because Stephen Harper is much too cold, sinister and unlikeable to win a majority and because Stephan Dion is much too dreary (Dion reminds our monkey of Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh), bumbling and bookish to win a majority.
- The controversy over the appointment of Joan Beatty for the Liberal nomination in the Desnethé-Missinippi riding hurts the Liberals and the Conservatives take back the seat (This riding is controlled by the Aboriginal vote and many Aboriginal leaders are mad at the Liberals ... nothing against Joan Beatty)
- The FSIN Chiefs go to the polls in October to vote

for the 2nd and 4th Vice Chief positions. The incumbents win.

- Coach Kent Austin stays with the Riders and leads them to second place in the CFL West Conference and a home playoff game. After that, it is up to the Gods.
- The Ottawa Senators win the Stanley Cup (remember a drunken monkey is making these predictions)

Editorial

- Donny Parenteau, Andrea Menard and Lindsay Knight AKA Eekwol all have award winning years in their chosen professions.
- At the North American Indigenous Games in B.C. Team Saskatchewan dominates like never before and takes home the overall gold.
- The Métis National Council finally holds an election. Someone with a French last name wins (Monkey took the easy way out on this one).

Much ado about nothing?

Should there be outrage over the appointment of Joan Beatty to the Liberal nomination in the Desnethé-Missinippi riding in northern Saskatchewan?

Northern leaders say they are snubbed and the lack of a democratic process has left them out in the cold. These leaders do not like being told what to do and justifiably so.

But at the same time, there is a definite lack of

women Members of Parliament and certainly a lack of Aboriginal women in Parliament. If it weren't for Tina Keeper, there would be none. If Joan Beatty wasn't appointed, would a woman have a hope in hell of winning that nomination?

If you were to create a woman to represent the riding, Joan Beatty is perfect for it. Long roots in the area, a huge network of supporters and remember this woman has been in the provincial cabinet. She was a Minister for goodness sake and the first Cree person in the Legislature. How many of us can say that. She is absolutely qualified.

But, she is already a recently re-elected provincial MLA, Mr. Dion, the diminutive leader of the Liberals did not consult with his northern network, the decision was poorly communicated and what about David Orchard? Or is this all about Ralph Goodale? Or is this the Liberals way of ensuring the Conservatives win another minority government?

Regardless of what political stripe you wear, there is merit on both sides of this debate. Isn't politics a hoot?

Low literacy levels ... really?

Was anyone shocked to discover that Stats Canada has released a report saying urban First Nation and Métis people have lower literacy levels than others? Was anyone shocked when there was a report released that said inner city people have worse health and suicide stats than those who are not in the inner city?

All of these indicators are tied to poverty so of course there is no surprise since Aboriginal people have been marginalized for a century, leaving many poor.

Invest in education and training, and then economic development. Take the money from the stupid redundant studies, and invest in the people. Problem solved.

What's coming up in Eagle Feather News

We are very pleased to welcome Deidre Badger on board as a columnist. The first time I met Deidre, she was at a Saskatchewan Native Theater Company event and she read an article she wrote about a residential

school survivor that we ran last month. I wept.

Seeing her talent and knowing we have been shorting Aboriginal youth in these pages, we immediately began scheming on how we could get her to

write for us. Turns out all we had to do was ask as her ultimate goal is to be a journalist. She will be direct, blunt and honest and a refreshing voice in this paper. We welcome her with open arms.

Next month the theme is health and wellness and we will be looking at some new approaches to addictions and mental health.

Hopefully see you then. Happy New Year to all.

Eagle Feather NEWS

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New year an appropriate time for reflection

There are special moments, events and things that stand out for all of us at the end of an old year and hopes, dreams and resolutions for the new.

A special event for me in the past year was the convocation ceremony I attended in Ottawa in October. It was the convocation of Tracy Lindberg, a Saskatchewan Métis lawyer, scholar, blues singer, novelist and director of the World Indigenous Knowledge and Research Centre at Athabasca University. She is the first Aboriginal woman to receive a PhD. in law at a Canadian University. She also received a Governor General's Gold Medal for Excellence in the writing of her dissertation.

Tracy received her LL.B at the University of Saskatchewan and her Master Degree in Law from Harvard University. Congratulations Tracy it's not just your mom and kokom who are proud of you, we all are.

The "moment" was watching Nelson Bird's award winning television documentary, "Calling Home the Spirits." This show follows a group of Second World War Veterans with their families and leadership as they make the journey to France to commemorate the 90th anniversary of Vimy Ridge, and to bring home the spirits of fallen comrades and family members. This was a beautiful and moving documentary. Thank you, Nelson, for bringing that journey and ceremony home and making it a part of our experience.

A wish for the New Year is that the people who talk excitedly about the revitalization and beautification of Riversdale, will take some time to think about the people who do not "own" homes in this soon to be trendy part of town and ask themselves, "what is going to become of the people who also call this place home?" Where are they to go? The really sad thing about revitalization and beautification of "place" is that it usually means displacement and dispersal of a particular group of people.

I think all of us need to remember that somewhere in all our collective histories, we were once that particular group of people.

And about resolutions, well, some friends of mine just finished celebrating the Feast of Epiphany and this made me think about a New Year resolution. The Feast of Epiphany is the day which Christians mark the arrival of the three wise men at the birthplace of the baby Jesus. We are told that as these wise men looked beyond the pitiful surroundings of a dirty stable they had an epiphany.

to be more than recycling or being energy efficient although that's important.

In the midst of all this thinking I am reminded of my great-grandmother and her role in my childhood and influence in my life.

My great-grandmother was never still, she worked right up to her death. When she could no longer do the work of a younger woman, she took over the cooking, sewing and tending of the children. When she could no longer do that she sat in a corner and told stories and sang songs to the babies and anybody else who would listen.

As old as she was, she always had a keen and critical mind. She cared passionately about social justice issues, culture and land and if she could no longer fight for them, she made sure she taught and reminded everybody around her about their responsibilities. She believed in community building, solidarity, developing networks, educating children and she was never afraid to speak up, saying that this

was the role of grand and great-grandparents.

I am also reminded of something else she use to say and that was if we didn't have time as parents to do something or if we messed up, not to worry because the good Creator gives us a second and sometimes a third chance as grand and great-grandparents to do or to undo.

So my resolution for this year is not to sit around just thinking but instead to educate myself on uranium mining, nuclear reactors and tar sands development. I don't know a whole lot about these things, but I should because they are important issues in our province and our country.

Are there any grand parents or great-grandparents out there who want to get educated about those issues with me? If you are interested write, email or leave a message for me in care of Eagle Feather News.

Happy New Year to all of you and a very special Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to Jim and Marie Favel at Ile-a-la-Crosse.

Reflections

Maria Campbell



In other words they experienced a miracle when they looked into the face of that baby. I am sure that this must be the same miracle that we experience when we look into the face of a great-grandchild for the first time. Otherwise how does one describe this feeling of awe, love and infinity? Perhaps we can't, maybe the emotion we feel is just too powerful and that is why it is a miracle, an epiphany, which by the way means, "to see the face of God."

In thinking of great-grandchildren I think of the huge responsibility we have. When I was a young parent I was too busy protecting, providing and nurturing to think too much about all the things I think about as a great-grandparent.

Like the state of the world, for example, all the wars and suffering created by humankind. The burning of our Earth and the changes that are happening as a result of that to our environment and to the lives and inheritance of our children. I think also about what I am prepared to do to change that, because for sure it has

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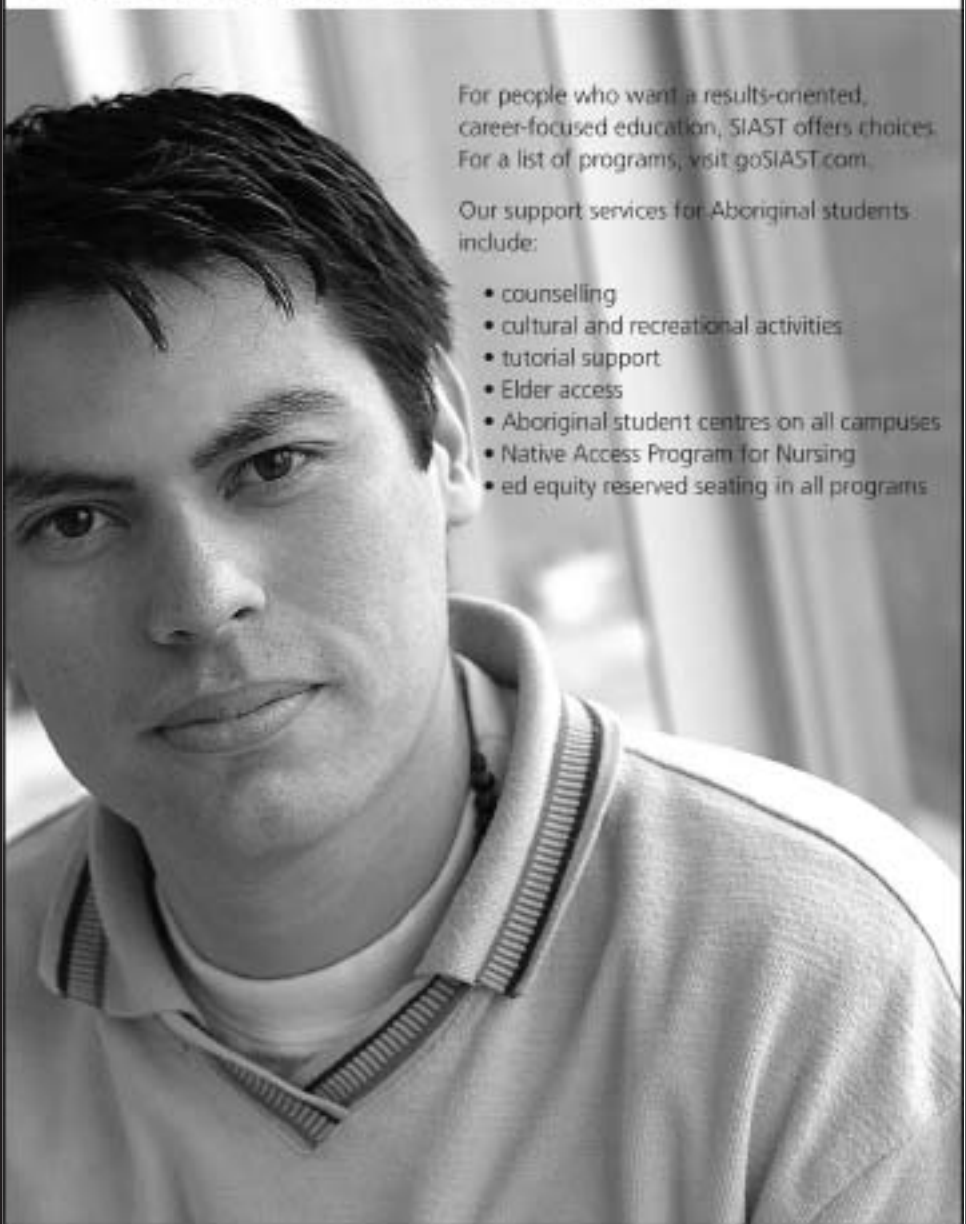
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The beauty and sadness of Punnichy

Punnichy, Saskatchewan is a prairie jewel surrounded by the scenic Touchwood Hills. Long before the railroad and the immigrant it was a wintering ground for the buffalo and the original people who hunted them. It was once the eastern most hunting territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy.

The expanding Cree, Salteaux and Assiniboine Alliance moved into the area in the eighteenth century following a devastating outbreak of smallpox among the Blackfoot.

In 1874 the Cree and Saulteaux peoples took Treaty at Fort Qu'Appelle. Four First Nations selected lands in the Touchwoods. These were Gordon, Day Star, Kawacatoose and Muskowegan.

The railroad brought immigrants and a series of communities along the line. They came predominantly from Hungary and the Ukraine. In keeping with British colonial policy the best lands in the province were given over first to British subjects. In a bitter irony the railroads and the national and provincial parks received more land than the unsundered lands set aside for the First Nations.

The rail people named the towns as they had in other areas of the vast prairies after sequential letters of the alphabet starting with Ituna, Jasmine, Kelliher, Lestock, skipping to Punnichy, Quinton, Raymore and then Semans.

Punnichy was named after a fur trader

named Hubick. He was bald and so acquired the Cree nickname "Punnichy" meaning a new born bird without feathers. Hubick's Store bartered fur and catered to the local population and the surrounding First Nations, Gordon in particular. The old fur racks can still be seen upstairs in the building I once knew as Quinn's Store.

There was time when a prosperous

Indian Affairs when it, too, was built. There was always a tension and divide between the town and First Nations people. Both needed the other but they seldom mixed socially. There were, as there always is, a few people of goodwill who freely visited and were good to one another. This, however, was the exception.

The Metis were then, as they are now,

Common Ground

John Cuthand



Punnichy supported a car dealership, a lumberyard, two cafes, a hotel and a bar, two general stores, a Shell station and movie theatre.

The First Nations became an important and integral part of the local economy. This relationship is common to many Saskatchewan communities. Few if any Indians, were employed by the local businesses. A few locals, however, found employment at the Gordon's Residential School.

Gordon's people helped build the covered ice arena in 1968 and the local high school received considerable funds from

a marginalized people. In the sixties few local Metis declared themselves as such, fearing an unspoken but emphatic backlash. Racism was real but cloaked in an uncomfortable silence. In fairness to the community this was common to the prairie provinces.

It was during the late 1960s and early 1970s that a homosexual sex offender, William Penneston Starr, committed crimes against young boys at the Gordon's residential school. His actions created other predators among his victims. He left a damage path that still wounds 30 years later. Starr was an heir to the wealthy Starr

family of New Brunswick who had made their fortune in coal mining and shipping. It was common for wealthy families to send their wayward children far away from the family home in order to save the family embarrassment. A lot of pedophiles employed by the residential schools came from such a background.

I remember Punnichy from the late 1960s and from time to time I have returned there. I married a Kinequan from the nearby Day Star First Nation. A lot has changed. The Indians are no longer a minority but the most significant employers in the town. The local Tribal Council is housed there and the old Hubick's store is now under First Nation ownership as is the local gas bar and bingo hall.

It is at the local high school where change is most noticeable. First Nations were once a minority but they are now overwhelmingly the majority. Many local students, far from being absorbed, are now bussing to Raymore. I find this deeply disturbing and I wonder if it is even legal.

For many years First Nations were expected to integrate with the larger non-Aboriginal communities. It is very sad to see when the situation is turned around it is the non-Aboriginals who refuse to integrate with Aboriginals.

Punnichy is not alone in this divide. Rather it is only one sad case among many where Saskatchewan families who have lived together for so long should know and appreciate so little about one another.

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U of S to honour the late Gordon Oakes

BY JOHN LAGIMODIERE

The late Gordon Oakes (Red Bear) was born in the Cypress Hills on what is now the Nekaneet First Nation to the late Mo-ca-na and Abel Oakes. As a community, the people of Nekaneet remained isolated from the other Nations, and thus, their language and spiritual beliefs have remained strong. Gordon always was a strong leader, spiritually and politically, within his own community and within the province.

According to his son, Larry, Gordon always stressed living in both worlds and said the best way to get ahead was for the young people to get an education.

“He compared it to driving a team of horses,” said Larry. “As you hold the reins, they go back and forth. Those two reins are your culture and education. You need both of them together if you want to succeed.”

It was Gordon Oakes’ determination and commitment to education that made the University of Saskatchewan approach the Oakes family about naming the future Aboriginal Students Centre Building after the late leader. The University of Saskatchewan made a commitment many years ago to be the university of choice for Aboriginal students in Canada.

They did this by adopting a series of goals that create engagement in learning, help students’ transition into a university setting, create a sense of belonging at the U of S and ensure that ongoing and appropriate support systems are in place for Aboriginal students across the institution. There is an existing centre for Aboriginal students on campus, but space is limited, allowing little room for an expanding Aboriginal student population and expansion of services. Consequently, Aboriginal student programs and services are widespread throughout campus, making it difficult for new and returning students to access the full complement of Aboriginal resources at the U of S.

That is why there are plans for an \$11 million building on campus between the Arts Building and the library, a beautiful building designed by renowned architect Douglas Cardinal. The building will have a computer lab and a place to relax or study, but more importantly the building will have an area for ceremony and reflection.



GORDON OAKES

MacKinnon as he and the Oakes family met in his office before the family headed out to have the ceremonies about the naming process. “This will be a place where all



To commemorate the agreement to name the Aboriginal Students Centre building after Gordon Oakes, the family and University representatives posed for this historic photo. In the front row (left to right) Gordon Francis, John Oakes, Margaret Oakes, and Jean Oakes, Gordon’s widow. In the back there was David Hannah, VP Student and Enrollment Service U of S, Larry Oakes, Irene Oakes, Colin Oakes, University President Peter MacKinnon, and Lisa Rainville Oakes. The scale model in front shows the unique design of renowned architect Douglas Cardinal.

students can learn from the legacy left by this great leader.”

Gordon Oakes was Chief of Nekaneet for a total of 16 years and was instrumental in developing the Treaty Land Entitlement Process. He was also an Elder Board member of the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Board. During Prince Charles’ April 2001 visit to Wanuskewin, Elder Oakes bestowed a Cree Name to the Prince. Elder Gordon Oakes also created the Treaty 4 flag.

To commemorate the occasion and to thank the family for allowing them to use Gordon’s name, President MacKinnon presented Gordon’s wife Jean with an Allen Sapp print. Ironically, the painting had two horses in it. Gordon resided at the Nekaneet Reserve with his wife, Jean and raised three children, Irene, Larry and Colin and numerous grandchildren and adopted family members.

“The new centre for Aboriginal achievement will be the focal point for Aboriginal programming at the University of Saskatchewan,” says President Peter MacKinnon.

“In building this Centre, we are creating a place for all people- students, staff, faculty and the community – to come together in discovery and appreciation for Aboriginal culture.

“Gordon Oakes held a strong belief in education while honouring one’s culture and traditions, so it is fitting that a building with the same goals be named for him,” said

Wishing everyone a Happy & Prosperous New Year from your Saskatoon NDP MLA's



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Saskatoon Riversdale
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651-1211



David Forbes, MLA
Saskatoon Centre
904D - 22nd Street West
244-3555



Pat Atkinson, MLA
Saskatoon Nutana
664-6101
621A Main Street



Judy Junor, MLA
Saskatoon Eastview
477-4233
1-3012 Louise Street



Frank Quennell, MLA
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651-3581
610 Duchess Street



Andy Iwanchuk, MLA
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

2007 an exceptional year for arts, entertainment

By all accounts 2007 has got to be one of, if not the, most fulfilling and successful years on record for the arts and entertainment industry in Saskatchewan.

From ever-increasing TV and film production to glitzy award shows to, okay I know it's a stretch, the GREY CUP! Hey, football is an art in many ways. Without further adieu, let's recap the year that was...

BY MIKE GOSSELIN

Of course we'll start with the pillar of performing arts in our fair province. The Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company (SNTC) had another stellar year providing outreach, live production and theatre training in Saskatoon and beyond. General manager Donna Heimbecker points to SNTC's eighth year of delivering the Circle of Voices program as a distinct highlight. This year the program developed and performed a play that had remarkable timing and powerful meaning. The play Kihew delved into the subject of Indian Residential Schools Agreement offered to survivors of residential schools in Canada and the effects, both good and bad, on those receiving compensation.

The third Annual Anskohk Literature Festival was produced by SNTC and saw Marilyn Dumont walk away with both Poetry Book of the Year and Book of the Year for her submission *That Tongued Belonging*. The year 2007 also marked the beginning of the end for another one of SNTC's efforts: the first edition of the Ensemble Theatre Arts Program (ETAP) will graduate this spring. To cap off the year, *A Rez Christmas Story VI: Luff Actually* was nothing short of a side-splitting, light-hearted laugh trip to kick off the holiday season!

...

Saskatoon had the distinct honour of hosting the 2007 Juno Awards and did not disappoint. Toontown was overcome with an influx of star-power and proceeded to put on a party like no one else can ... Saskatchewan



Leela Gilday won Aboriginal Recording of the Year.

style! Notables in and around town included host Nelly Furtado, Hall of Fame inductee Bob Rock (who performed with The Payolas for the first time in 20 years at an after-party), The Tragically Hip, Nickelback, Billy

Talent, etc. Musical powerhouse Leela Gilday won Aboriginal Recording of the Year and SNTC did a wonderful job of promoting Aboriginal talent with their Aboriginal Showcases in Prince Albert and Saskatoon. Everyone in Saskatoon should take a bow once again for making the 2007 Juno Awards the best one ever – Hey Cowtown, good luck following that up in 2008.

...

Staying with award shows, both the Canadian Country Music Awards and Gemini Awards were held in Regina. Big winners at the CCMA's were Brad Johner (Male Artist of the Year) and Shane Yellowbird (Rising Star Award). Our province's own 306 Records won Record Company of the Year and 306 President Louis O'Reilly received the much deserved Record Person of the Year Award.

The big winner in Aboriginal country at the Gemini Awards was Wapos Bay. The 'claymation' series won for Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series and rightfully so – Wapos Bay is well written, expertly crafted and includes the voices of the who's who of Aboriginal entertainers ... FYI: Lee Majors is a guest star on January 20.

...

Andrea Menard had another successful year and was cast as the lead in *Rabbit Fall*, the Saskatchewan-based half-hour series aired on APTN. The *Velvet Devil*, which she created, co-wrote and acted in, also won Best Television Program or Special at the 2007 Canadian Aboriginal Music Awards (CAMA). Also winning at the CAMA's was Donny Parenteau for Best Song Single and Best Producer/Engineer (along with Steve Fox, Matt Andrews and Glen Enns) and the White Fish Jrs. for Best Pow Wow Album Traditional.

• Continued on Page 9

New Artist in Residence Grant Program Application Deadlines

NEW Artist in Residence Development Phase Grant:

Community organizations may apply for a \$5,000 grant to partner with a Saskatchewan artist for up to three months to research and develop a 10-12 month residency program. All first-time applications are only eligible for a Development Phase Grant.

Application Deadline: Monday, February 4, 2008

Residency/Residency Renewal Phase Grant:

Grants of up to \$35,000 are awarded to organizations that have already undertaken the Development Phase. Residencies are 10-12 months and organizations may apply for renewal of up to an additional 12 months.

Application Deadline: Monday, June 2, 2008

APPLICATIONS AND SUPPORT MATERIAL MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4:30 P.M. ON THE DEADLINE DATE.

Complete application forms and guidelines are available on the Saskatchewan Arts Board website: www.artsboard.sk.ca. The Artist in Residence Grant program is a partnership between the Saskatchewan Arts Board and SaskCulture, with funding from the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.

For more information or to discuss applications, contact:

SASKATCHEWAN ARTS BOARD

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(306) 964-1155 (Saskatoon)
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Big year for Eekwol, Halfe, Hugli



Fellow poets Louise Halfe and Marilyn Dumont at the Anskohk Aboriginal Literature Festival.

Eekwol also had a breakthrough year – she is now a full-time Hip Hop artist and doesn't need a day job anymore! She also released a new album with her brother Mils – their first project with equal credit. The List is an excellent listen for Hip Hop and non-Hip Hop fans alike. Eekwol

is a skilled lyricist who tells stories, examines society and incorporates culture in her work and Mils is a master behind the scenes. Together they are a Hip Hop force to reckon with and The List proves it.

This and That: Saskatchewan's Poet

Laureate Louise Halfe released a new book in November called *The Crooked Good*. Read next month's *Eagle Feather* for a review and interview ... Marcel Petit's documentary *Hookers* has been hailed a triumph in spreading awareness about the sex-trade industry by approaching former prostitutes in a respectful, non-judgmental manner. Check out his film's trailer at www.nativue.org/blog ... Corey Haim attended the Gemini Awards in Regina and after a short discussion with Wapos Bay writer Trevor Cameron, decided he was going to be the next guest star on the series. Cameron said the guy wouldn't leave him alone for the rest of the night. Haim, who hails from Toronto, was apparently at the Gemini's to kick-start his career ... Michelle Hugli, the former editor at *Shout Magazine*, began hosting her own radio show on Rawlco in 2007. You can catch *The Michelle Hugli Show* Saturdays and Sunday's at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on NewsTalk 980 out of Regina 650 NTR in Saskatoon.



JUNO host Nelly Furtado charmed Saskatoon when the national awards show touched down in Toon Town in 2007.




Mike Metatawabin new board chair at APTN

APTN (Aboriginal Peoples Television Network) recently announced that Mike Metatawabin has been elected chairperson of the network's 21-seat board of directors.

Metatawabin replaces outgoing

APTN Chairperson and former Vice-Chairperson and Member-appointed NNBY Director Shirley Adamson.


A member and former Chief of the Fort Albany First Nation in Northeastern Ontario, Metatawabin possesses a strong background in public relations, having been involved in radio and TV journalism for over 13 years.



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P: (306) 933-2282 F: (306) 835-2738 E: projectcoordinator@sntc.ca Website: www.sntc.ca



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For additional information contact:

Glenna Coven @ 477-7523 or email glenna.coven@siga.sk.ca

Maxine Dieno @ 477-7502 or email maxine.dieno@siga.sk.ca

JANUARY

Yorkton
Galagher Centre
(The Children's Room)
Date: January 16, 2008
Time: 1:00 pm

North Battleford
Gold Eagle Casino
(Gold Ridge Room)
Date: January 22, 2008
Time: 1:00 pm

Fort Qu'Appelle
Treaty 4 Governance Room
(Archive Room)
Date: January 24, 2008
Time: 1:30 pm

FEBRUARY

Prince Albert
Prince Albert Grand Council
(Main Boardroom)
Date: February 6, 2008
Time: 10:00 am

Wheatear Bear First Nation
S/E Treaty #4 Tribal Council
(Council Chambers)
Date: February 14, 2008
Time: 10:00 am

Meadow Lake
Meadow Lake Tribal Council
(Main Boardroom)
Date: February 26, 2008
Time: 1:00 pm

MARCH

Spiritwood
Agency Chiefs Tribal Council
(Main Boardroom)
Date: March 6, 2008
Time: 1:30 pm

Chief's feast in Regina marks new beginning

For the first time in Saskatchewan history First Nations Chiefs from across the province, Premier Brad Wall, Saskatchewan cabinet ministers and members of the Legislative assembly gathered before Christmas in the provincial legislature to share in a traditional celebratory feast.

The gathering was a way for MLAs to meet with the Chiefs and to signal that the new provincial government intends to build a strong, long-term relationship with First Nations people and their leaders based on mutual respect and understanding.

"First Nations people are such an important element of the past and future development of this province that I thought it important that we all meet in the spirit of the season to demonstrate our belief in a shared future and to share in First Nations traditions," Wall said.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph was honoured that the Government had extended the invitation to First Nations Chiefs.

"The 'breaking of bread' in this celebration and feast is symbolic of what I see as the beginning of a long-lasting relationship based on mutual co-operation and respect," Chief Joseph said.

"The feast acknowledges First Nations traditions as well as non-First Nations traditions and is a good way to mark our new beginning."

First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude initiated the event, which took place in the legislature.

"I am so pleased we are able to get together in this fashion," Draude said. "For the first time in our collective history, we have a wonderful opportunity to meet many of the First Nations Chiefs during this special festive season. To me, it represents the start of a joint effort to move forward together on the important issues that are facing First Nations people and non-First Nations people across the Province."

Draude was the SaskParty First Nation and Métis Relations critic before becoming minister and built many positive relations with Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan. The Yellow Quill First Nation named her a honorary Elder in March of 2007.

"You know, we had over 20 Chiefs from around Saskatchewan come and feast here with members from both sides of the Legislature," said Draude.

"It was fantastic. We intend to invest in the Aboriginal community in Saskatchewan and promised in the Throne Speech to make Treaty education mandatory, include Aboriginal people in Enterprise Saskatchewan and to take our duty to consult very seriously.

"I do not think the past 16 years have seen any gigantic steps forward for Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan, but we are going to do it and people will see it."



FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph, Premier Brad Wall and First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude addressed the media before the Christmas feast at the Legislature. (Photo supplied)

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Poor choices can come back to haunt you

Life is all about choices. My one and only resolution for 2008 is to make good choices. I spent some time reading over your emails and letters from 2007 and I hope that you also will make good choices for 2008.

If memory serves me correctly some of the toughest choices came to me when I was a young woman. Should I stay in school? I chose to quit school – bad choice. I went back to school years later – good choice.

As I look back on some of the choices I made, I see that my friends were a huge influence on many of those early decisions – bad choice. I should have listened more to the advice of my parents and grandparents – this is why they say hindsight is 20/20.

I don't envy the youth of today – well maybe I envy their youth – for the world has changed. This is the information generation; you have computers, internet, and television. There is the Jerry Springer show and Reality TV so you can see how some choices people make are ... definitely bad.

There is this television program called 'Intervention' where you can actually see what happens to people with alcohol and drug addiction problems – very intense show. Dr. Phil, Oprah Winfrey, John Tesh and Don Burnstick have good advice.

Don't get me wrong – I am not saying that you should make your choices based on television programs, Internet advice and radio programs. Instead, use all of the information you can get your hands on to make the really important decisions in your life.

Chances are if it doesn't feel like the right choice – it probably isn't.

Our emotions can affect the choices we make. Take anger for example. When people are angry they



Sandee Sez

Sandra Ahenakew

can do awful things. There are people with road rage that will chase you for blocks because you cut them off in traffic. A young fellow in Moose Jaw lost his life because of road rage. There are hockey parents who have been banned from arenas because they can't control their anger. That's a shame.

Then there is love. Love makes people do silly things. Some silly folks fall in love with someone they met on the Internet – never met each other – but decide they want to get married. Hmm, probably not the best choice.

Some of you will choose to have unprotected sex, some won't. Some will chose to have a baby, some won't. Remember that some of these choices will affect the rest of your life so choose wisely.

Sadness has been known to cause some bad choices as well. When my family lost our mother to cancer, we had a disagreement about her house and who would keep it.

Nobody really won with that disagreement. We ended up losing the house to a fire a couple of years ago and we still haven't repaired the damage caused to our family.

We have to find a balance between what our minds tells us and what our hearts want us to do. Somewhere in between the two is the right choice.

In our ever-changing world there will always be choices put before you. Spend some time thinking about what you want from your life and find the path to get you there.

I heard that life is like eating a jar of jalepenos, what we do today, can burn our butts tomorrow. Be aware and be careful. Make good choices and enjoy the time the Creator has given us.

Your friends and family may not always like the choices you make. You may not like the choices you make.

Know that you are not alone; we all are in the same boat when it comes to choices and at the end of the day we are the ones that will have to live with the choices we made.

It is my hope that all of you reading will choose to take care of your health, go for a check-up with your doctor and dentist.

Take time to laugh and enjoy life because it truly is short.

I enjoy reading your emails and letters.

Write to: Eagle Feather News c/o Sandee Sez, P.O. Box 924 Station Main, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.

You can also email me at s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca

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Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) Labour Market Profile

New Year, new career?

The new year is always a great time to evaluate your current employment situation and career potential. With the Saskatoon region's strong economic growth, now is a great time to consider what may be out there for potential career prospects and new job opportunities.

In November 2007, Saskatoon was the provincial leader in new job creation, accounting for 65 percent of job growth in the province, as reported by Statistics Canada.

In 2008, Saskatoon job prospects will continue to be strong in industries such as manufacturing and construc-

tion, which will require the skills of trades people, like carpenters and welders.

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For more information contact SREDA's Labour Market Coordinator, Bernie Ness.



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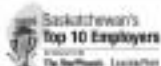
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We would like to thank all applicants for their interest but only those being considered will be considered, no telephone phone calls please.

B U S I N E S S

New column won't sugar coat the reality

Hey there Indian country! My name is Deidre Badger, I'm 26 and I'm from the Mistawasis First Nation. I recently completed the Circle of Voices program that runs through the Sask Native Theatre Company, I received the Aspiring Actress Award and the Leadership Award, which I am very proud of and thankful for. I currently reside in Saskatoon and I am presently a freelance writer.

Welcome to my column!

My future goal is to be a journalist, so I can tell the positive and negative stories of our people and try to instill hope in our people that have none. I plan on telling you, the reader, what my perspective is, on why we are the way we are. Well, I hope you're ready. I'm not speaking on behalf of anybody, this is going to be my truth as I see it. Some people can't handle the truth, but I'm not going to sugar coat it, for fear that the point I'm trying to make won't be told.

My intentions are not to disrespect or point fingers. My intentions are to bring up issues that should be brought up, but yet remain unspoken. I believe that this will be both a learning and a healing process for others and myself. But for that to happen, we have to expose

the poison, otherwise, we will always remain in this state, the state of self pity and the state of denial.

I'll start by letting you know who I was, who I am, and who I want to be. I was raised on the Mistawasis First Nation, and as a child, I endured both good times and bad. I am able to relate to those who grew up around alcohol,

friends, and most of all, myself. I was about 19 and drunk, when I lost my virginity, along with my self-respect. After that I no longer cared about what others thought of me, and what I thought of myself. I then began the process that we, in my opinion, as people fall back on. Dwelling and self-pity. I never let it get to the point where I needed it; all I

I've learned more in these past eight months than I did in the first 26 years of my life. It was a struggle, but it was worth it, because it helped me become a better daughter, a better granddaughter, a better auntie, but most of all a better woman. As for who I want to be, I don't know yet. I don't think it should be about who we want to be. I think it should be about admitting our past and who we were yesterday so that we as a people can start the healing process and start recreating who we are today. Let's get over it now, so we can create a better future for the generation that will lead us tomorrow. The way I see it is that everyone is capable of change he or she just needs direction. I've got nieces and nephews and that made me realize that my life is no longer just mine. So for them I will walk a new path. Your perception of me may change as you get to know me. But I'm not going to change who I am just so that you'll keep liking me, for fear that I'll end up not liking myself!

I would like to get feedback from you and hear your personal opinion on the articles that I write; therefore, it will be a learning experience for both of us.

If you have ideas or feedback for Deidre, drop her an email at dbadger17@hotmail.com

Dee's Words



Deidre Badger

drugs and abuse, both emotionally and sexually. I was unable to talk about it with family and friends, because at times, it was family and friends who hurt me. I was 13 or 14 when I decided to drink and do drugs with friends. I have to say that in the beginning, it was all about having fun and chilling with friends. They say all good things must come to an end. Well in this case, it did.

I started disrespecting my family,

wanted was the high. By 24, I tried everything except heroin and needles. I eventually realized that all I was doing was self-destructing my mind, body, and spirit. I decided that living the same day over and over, was just keeping me from being who I really was and who I wanted to be.

I am 26 and I recently graduated from the Circle of Voices program at the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company.

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SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGIES

Joseph, Doucette set high standards for 2008

BY WARREN GOULDING

The leaders of Saskatchewan's two most prominent Aboriginal organizations have similar objectives as they look ahead to a new year they hope will be good to the people they represent.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph has a plan that he hopes will lay the groundwork for increased economic activity and financial prosperity for First Nations people in the province.

"I want to look at offering economic development on a very grand scale," suggests Chief Joseph.

The FSIN has been working on an initiative that is tentatively named the Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Authority. The concept involves partnerships between First Nations and the mainstream business sector.

"It's a central effort to bring about wealth to our territories," Joseph says. "There has been a lot of interest from the corporate world, now it's up to government to put their money where their mouth is."

Joseph says the idea is based on the knowledge that economic development is a treaty right, one that has been in place since the treaties

were signed more than a century ago.

"We got this from the Elders. They reminded us that we were given spades, shovels, ploughs and oxen and fish nets. That solidifies and validates the fact that economic development is a treaty right."

At the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, President Robert Doucette also has his eye on economic activity that would benefit Métis people in the province.

"We're negotiating a human resource development agreement," says Doucette, adding that discussions are underway on many fronts including a new gaming agreement.

"We want a process that brings resources to Métis people so they can get retrained, learn trades and other skills so they can provide for their families."

Doucette is hoping additional revenues from gaming can be directed to the Clarence Campeau Development Fund, a key economic engine in the province's Métis community.

Joseph, who says he continues to stress the importance of the Treaties, also intends to devote much of his energy in 2008 to the issue of outstanding specific land claims. Working with high level government officials throughout 2007, Joseph says he was encouraged by the progress made in many areas relating to unfinished treaty business. He expects 2008 to be a breakthrough year. A bill currently making its way through the federal government would see a mechanism created to deal with outstanding claims.

"If and when this bill goes forward, the process that was employed there to settle this long outstanding issue of settling outstanding claims could be applied elsewhere. It can happen in justice, health, education. You name it, as it relates to treaty."

As a result of progress made in 2007, Joseph has his sights set on a major gathering of First Nations leaders from across Canada, possibly in 2008.

"We are going to host a National Treaty Conference with 630 plus chiefs. I suggested and received a com-

mitment from the federal government to hold this conference."

Joseph says the gathering he envisions will not be like most conferences.

"It will not be one of these meetings where you stand up and talk about treaty, treaty, treaty and talk, talk and then you have a big group hug and nothing comes out of it.

He says the discussion should focus on creating legislation to address outstanding treaty issues and force the federal government to take action.

Joseph says the ultimate goal is to reduce the First Nations' dependency on government and find ways to generate wealth within the communities.

Doucette also hopes for a day when Métis people can be more self-sufficient.

"We need resources for the issues that Métis people confront at a community level.

"If both levels of government would sit down and negotiate and we could see actual resources going to Métis people in our communities that would help their families.

"That would make it a good year."



LAWRENCE JOSEPH



ROBERT DOUCETTE

New casino will boost employment numbers

• Continued from Page One

"We have survived because our key asset was always a great customer service environment. That was always there. We always had that ingredient," Hansen explained.

"I think putting good rules based structure around the organization gave us the stability and ability to plan things out. Then the opportunities were in front of us and with our staff, there was no stopping us."

SIGA has a mandate to hire and retain First Nation employees and currently have a staff level of over 70 percent First Nations people, but, as Hansen puts it: "Everyone is part of the family."

They now have over 1,700 employees and that will grow significantly when the Swift Current casino opens next year.

"The most amazing part of my job is watching the results," said Hansen. "We have the opportunity to really develop the gaming industry in this province and to maximize it in a responsible way. Watching the Dunes with 450 new faces just charged right up. It is overwhelming and you can hardly speak in front of them when you see the energy and the smiles."

If the future looks bright for SIGA, so does the now. With a moratorium on casino development in the province, SIGA is now looking at other ways to stay on top.

"We will always pursue growth," added Hansen. "Now we will pursue it through widening our entertainment offerings. We are built on customer service and we are good at it. Today and

in the past, hospitality is a part of who we are. We are taught to respect people and to welcome them into your home. It is naturally part of what we do. It is hard to explain, it is just there."

And so is the Business of the Year Award for 2007.

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Canada completes the Golden Circle

I love the holiday season for so many reasons. But none more than the fact that on any given day you can turn on the tube and watch a wide variety of sports. To me nothing compares to the World Junior Hockey Tournament. Sure, sometimes you have to get up at 6 a.m. to watch our country play, but it's so worth it.

For the fourth consecutive year Team Canada won gold at the World Junior Hockey Championships. In the final they defeated Team Sweden 3-2 in overtime in what was a very good hockey game.

It almost looked like a repeat of the round robin loss that Canada suffered to Sweden. Canada led throughout the game only to see Sweden score two late goals to tie the game. And then in overtime it took a big save from tournament MVP Steve Mason to keep Canada in the game. Just over three minutes into overtime Matt Halischuk was able to poke home a loose puck in front of the net and the celebration was on.

Canada will look to five-peat next year on home soil, as the tourney will take place in Ottawa.

Sports

Blue Pelletier





Ken Badger practices what he preaches to young people. Time in the gym is one of his secrets to success on the gridiron.

Ken Badger football's next big thing



KEN BADGER

Today he's working at the White Buffalo Youth Centre, where he spends his time with young people. In just a few short months he'll be mauling it up in the trenches with the best Canadian Interuniversity Sport has to offer.

Badger, who hails from the Mistawasis First Nation, has a long list of schools to choose from as he contemplates which Canadian university he'll head to in the fall to continue his football career. Every school in Canada West would love his services and many out East including the football factory that is St. Mary's, have come calling.

The last two years he played for the Okanagan Sun of the BCJFL, after two years with his hometown Hilltops. Badger was named an All Canadian Offensive Lineman this year, and a BCJFL All Star.

Prior to his Junior Football success Badger was a standout for the E.D. Feehan Trojans. While at Feehan they were able to win a city title and in his final season he was

named Team MVP, which he says is one of the highlights of his football career.

Badger enjoys being a role model for many of today's youth and says that success does not come easy. He tells kids to "get in the gym, work hard, go to camps and give yourself an opportunity to succeed and stay out of trouble."

He hopes that after his career in the CIS is over, wherever it may be, that he can have a shot at the CFL. With his size 6 '5 and near 300 pounds (he's actually lost weight), and athleticism, don't bet against him.


Some random thoughts

Watching the Penguins and Sabres play outside in front of 70,000 fans in the snow, man I wish I was there ... Back to school for everyone means one thing around Saskatoon, BRIT is HERE! Make sure you come check out the action, I went to BRIT with my Grade 8 teacher, Dean Dickson, and have yet to miss a tourney since (don't ask, it was a long time ago) ... In case you were wondering, yes Canada did win the Spengler Cup ... And before I go I have to say it was nice to see the Patriots go 16-0, but if they win the Super Bowl I'll puke ... Go Cowboys, Wahoo!!

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<p>Men 40 Team Limit \$400.00 Entry Fee 1st: \$4,000.00 Plus Jackets 2nd: \$2,000.00 3rd & 4th: \$1,000.00 each 5th-13th: \$600.00 each</p> <p>Youth (Male) 19 & Under 8 Team Limit \$200.00 Entry Fee 1st: \$600.00 Plus Jackets 2nd: \$400.00 3rd: \$200.00</p>	<p>Women 16 Team Limit \$300.00 Entry Fee 1st: \$2,000.00 Plus Jackets 2nd: \$1,000.00 3rd & 4th: \$500.00 each</p> <p>Youth (Female) 19 & Under 8 Team Limit \$200.00 Entry Fee 1st: \$600.00 Plus Jackets 2nd: \$400.00 3rd: \$200.00</p>	 <div style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 5px; font-weight: bold;"> DEADLINE TO ENTER: MARCH 14, 2008 5:00 P.M. </div> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">ALL STAR TEAM</p>
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Proceeds from this event to Metis Youth & Sports Funds.

2007 - The Year in Pictures



The RCMP Musical Ride made a rare appearance in a community to perform at the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation. They were on hand to help the community rededicate their school as the Constable Robin Cameron Memorial Complex. Const. Robin Cameron, a band member of Beardy's, and her partner RCMP Const. Marc Bourdages were shot and killed while on duty in 2006.

(Photo Sask Valley News)



Elder and FSIN Senator, Margaret Keewatin gave Princess Anne the Cree name Wapis-ki-mahihkan-iskwew, or White Wolf Woman, during a public ceremony attended by the Lieutenant Governor, Dr. Gordon Barnhart, his wife, Naomi, the Treaty Four Chiefs, FSIN Vice Chief Lyle Whitefish, Vice Chief Glen Pratt, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Chairman Edmond Bellegarde and many other dignitaries and special guests. Princess Anne visited the province in June.

(Photo Morgan Beaudry)



Richard John and his grandson Dante are seen here at the grave of Chief One Arrow. One Arrows remains were repatriated from the St. Boniface cemetery in Winnipeg back to his home community in September. Mr. John's comments about the oral history surrounding the Riel Resistance and One Arrows involvement opened an interesting debate amongst historians over oral tradition and the true role that First Nations played, or didn't play, during the Battle of Batoche.

(Photo John Lagimodiere)

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