

Eagle Feather NEWS

Free



Assignment Beijing

CBC videographer Richard Agecutay was in Beijing covering the Olympics for CBC. He is sharing his experience with of Eagle Feather News readers. Here is Part 2 of his take on the Beijing assignment.

The Games officially kicked off last night. I was assigned to shoot the fireworks in Tiananmen Square. We arrived early, expecting all kinds of restrictions placed on the media. With our Olympic credentials we were allowed to shoot the massive crowd of people waiting to get into the Square. I climbed through the sunroof in our vehicle and shot

the thousands of people pressed against the barrier surrounding the square.

The massive crowd stood for hours in the hot and sticky night hoping to get glimpse of the fireworks promised at the end of the opening ceremonies.

Our driver, Nun Zhu, dropped Emily Sit (Associate Producer for Sports) and myself near a square entrance. We hiked the gear a short distance up to the security gate guarding the Square.

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INSIDE



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It's another Saskatchewan tragedy and people attending a Regina conference want to end the violence. - Page 3



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Métis leader Robert Doucette is talking cooperation these days. - Page 10



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Colleen Walker has landed a new job and she couldn't be happier to be home. - Page 12

Welcome to our
Back To School Issue
Coming In October:
Role Models and Business
CPMA #40027204

Conference draws attention to cases of missing women

By Chelsea Jones
For Eagle Feather News

From the scorching hot borders of Mexico to the ocean-lining cities of Canada, over 300 people flocked to Regina in August for a conference about missing women.

Looking at the crowd crammed into the foyer of the Conexus Art Centre, it is hard to believe that there are more missing women in Mexico and Canada than there are delegates at the conference.

The numbers vary depending on the source, but the Regina Police say there are 28 missing women in this province – 17 are Aboriginal. According to the Native Women's Association of Canada, hundreds more are missing nation-wide.

Over 400 women have been officially reported missing in Mexico, even though thousands are said to have disappeared. Since the 1990s, hundreds have been killed in the northern city of Juárez.

"These women are not forgotten," said Brenda Anderson, a Women's Studies professor in Regina who helped to spearhead the event.

"They meant something, and they'll continue to mean something."

The conference, called Missing Women: Decolonization, Third Wave Feminism and Indigenous People of Canada and Mexico, sought to answer the call of families in both countries searching for missing and murdered women. It was an opportunity for people – families, scholars, students, and investigators among others – to share the stories.

"We wanted to bring together voices that don't often get heard by other groups," said Anderson. "The stories really showed the breadth and depth of the concerns over these issues."

• Continued on Page 3

Author Morningstar Mercredi (right) was the keynote speaker at the conference. She joined the demonstration walk.





Yvonne Chartrand and Mitchell Poundmaker look on as Rajan Anderson fiddles during the wedding scene in 'The Crossing'. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Batoche interactive theatre proves to be larger than life

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Batoche National Park hosted an interactive dance theatre piece this summer directed by Maria Campbell and produced/choreographed by Yvonne Chartrand of Compaigni V'ni Dansi (Michif for "come dance") featuring a four-part re-enactment of the more practical - and romantic - aspects of Métis community life.

Focusing on the romance of Gabriel and Madeleine Dumont, audience were

engaged in the dress, dialogue and dance of the 1800s, and even invited after a wedding processional and receiving line to join community reels, dances, and songs, making them part of the celebration.

Parks Canada interpreter Susan McKenzie described the show from Vancouver-based Chartrand as exciting and unique – engaging the visitors with invitation to participate in a familiar context, a wedding dance, while fulfilling the Commemorative Intent of the site.

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**preserving the environment,
one can at a time**

The Challenge: To minimize unnecessary waste and inspire a passion for recycling throughout Saskatchewan.

The Solution: Armed with a hearty dose of determination, Gail Fry initiated Regina's first tin can recycling program 18 years ago. The venture was so popular that a year's worth of funding was exhausted in just three months. But Fry's dream did not end there.

Today, there is a variety of recycling programs across the province, from used tires to end-of-life computers and waste paint. Fry created a custom recycling centre in her kitchen and has reduced her own household's garbage output to a single bag per week.

To find out more about recycling in Saskatchewan, go to www.environment.gov.sk.ca/gogreen.

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Helen McPhaden marvels over a comic book made by Aboriginal girls at Calgary's Young Offenders Centre. The story, "Life As You Don't Know It," is a visual testimony to the girl's shared experiences of abuse, incarceration, and personal redemption. "The girls really normalize violence, which is not normal," said McPhaden. She works with the girls through the Stardale Women's Group in Calgary. "None of the girls feel safe in their community."



With faces of missing women in the background, journalist Isabel Arivide is filmed to document the conference. Arivide's award-winning journalistic works link abduction and killing of Mexican women to drug cartels and pornography. She criticizes the Mexican government for ignoring the cases of missing women. She said those who kill women find it thrilling – like in the movies. These missing women, she said, are often used for smut videos where women are brutalized and killed. Arivide has become the victim of death threats and she has been in jail twice since the release of her 1996 book, *Muerte en Juárez (Death in Juarez)*. The book chronicles her investigation into the disappearance and murder of her friend, Heidi Saluquet.

Issue not exclusive to Saskatchewan

• Continued from Page One

The goals of the event were to raise awareness of sexualized racism, and to provide support networks for families of missing women.

In two years, another conference will be held to check up on the investigations into missing women.

Anderson, whose scholarly work revolves around colonialism and feminism, said she is relatively new to the topic of missing women. She wants the next conference to be held elsewhere because the issue is not exclusive to Saskatchewan.

"I'd like to see other people scoop up the pieces and put it together themselves," she said. "Those who are involved in it will talk and talk but it does no good if nobody will listen."

Keynote speaker Morningstar Mercredi believes that as an Indigenous woman, she can't afford to be a victim.

"If you're an Aboriginal child, or an Aboriginal woman, be careful," she said. "Your life could depend on it."

Mercredi points out that the sexual exploitation of Aboriginal children and women isn't a twentieth century issue, nor is it distinct to Canada – there are connections between missing women in Saskatchewan and in Mexico, among other places.

"Their plight is our plight," she said.

Citing the sexual assault of a 12-year-old Cree girl near Tisdale, Mercredi said the judge's decision in 2001 not to sentence the three men who assaulted the girl shows that Saskatchewan courts condone this kind of behaviour. The case inspired her to write the book "Morningstar: Warrior Spirit" wherein she pays homage to the victim. "It's time to honour the warrior within all of us," she said.

Timeline: Daleen Kay Bosse (Muskego) Murder



• **May 18, 2004:** 25-year-old Daleen Kay Bosse (Muskego), from the Onion Lake First Nation, attended an Assembly of First Nations function in Saskatoon and then went out to a downtown nightclub with family and friends. At the time, Bosse was studying Education at the University of Saskatchewan and had just finished her teaching practicum.

• **May 19, 2004:** Bosse, who was living with her husband and three-year-old daughter, didn't return home. Her parents, Pauline and Herb Muskego, were concerned, so they went to the Saskatoon Police Service to file a missing persons report. They say they were told to wait 48 hours in case Bosse came home, so they returned on May 21, 2004.

• **June 4, 2004:** Bosse's car was found and floor mats and seat covers were supposedly missing.

• **June 2004:** The Muskegos contracted a private investigator and also enlisted the help of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the chief of the Onion Lake First Nation to attend meetings with the police. An award of \$5,000 was offered to anyone who helps locate Bosse.

• **January 2005:** Saskatoon Police Service transferred the case from investigations to their major crimes unit.

• **May 2005:** Muskego family holds first annual walk to raise awareness about their missing daughter. They, along with friends, walk from Onion Lake First Nation to Saskatoon. It would become an annual event.

• **July 2008:** Muskego family holds fourth and final walk for their daughter. They say their culture protocol says to do things in four, so they plan to do something other than a walk to honour their daughter.


• **August 8, 2008:** Saskatoon police find Bosse's remains in a secluded, treed area near Warman that police believe was used by young people for parties.

• **August 10, 2008:** 30-year-old Douglas Hales was arrested in a Saskatoon parking lot in connection with Bosse's body being found

• **August 11, 2008:** Hales made his first court appearance to a Saskatoon provincial courtroom packed with Muskego family and friends. He is charged with first degree murder and offering an indignity to a human body for setting Bosse's remains on fire. The Saskatoon Police Service holds a news conference to talk about the arrest but can offer little information, saying it will come out in the trial. The FSIN offers its condolences to the Muskego family.

• **August 12, 2008:** Hales makes his second appearance in court and is remanded to custody until his next appearance. The Native Women's Association of Canada offers condolences to the Muskego family and speaks on its behalf at a news conference.

• **September 9, 2008:** Hales makes his third court appearance in Saskatoon.



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Editorial

My, how times have changed

Coulda beens, shoulda beens, wannabes and woulda beens. That is how Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations then Vice Chief Lawrence Joseph described the Métis at the press conference on National Aboriginal Day in 2004.

It was the day when the final report of the Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform was released.

He was not happy the Métis were included in the inquiry. He had wanted an exclusively First Nation specific study. His stance then was indicative of the historic relationship that existed between Métis and First Nation leaders in Saskatchewan.

Anybody remember David Ahenakew and Jim Sinclair? Never the two did mix. There was question of Treaty over Métis ... non status and later Bill C-31. The Métis and First Nations politicians just did not, heck, would not, cooperate with each other.

And remember, things were tough for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan in 2004 when Chief Joseph made his remarks. They were a month past the most grievously flawed and crooked election ever run in Métis country. When the dust settled over a dozen people were charged the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan was in tatters.

Eventually, a long three years later, a proper election was held and Robert Doucette rightfully became the President of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.

In the meantime over at the FSIN, Lawrence Joseph gave up his Vice Chief job and became the Chief of the Federation.

The resource based economy in Saskatchewan and the wild boom we are in has presented a great opportunity to both organizations. Recently the MN-S and the FSIN have had to work together around the Duty to Consult legislation. At the roundtable, technicians from both organizations worked closely together and the politicians got a lot of face and conversation time together.

The talk revolved around the environment and getting their fair share of the natural resource development that was occurring. The groups also wanted the assurance of good stewardship of the land. They realized they had more in common than not. They also realized that they had a common adversary in the government and industries that were developing and profiting from the resource development.

These sets of circumstance led to President Robert Doucette inviting Joseph to speak at the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly. It was the first time ever that a Chief of the Federation had been asked to do so. Because of a funeral he had to attend, Chief Joseph addressed the elected Métis leaders of Saskatchewan at their banquet. And his message could not have been more different than his words from four years ago.

Chief Joseph talked about working together. He stressed the similarities of the Métis and First Nation people. He talked about how Aboriginal people need to work collectively when confronting the government about protecting the land, and ensuring that Aboriginal people are duly consulted and accommodated when it comes to developing and profiting from resources on their lands.

It was a great message and President Robert Doucette wholeheartedly agreed. They also agreed that the Métis and First Nations have to start getting together and organize block voting in specific federal and provincial ridings to help sway elections and collectively flex their political might.

It is too late to get the Aboriginal unity vote going in this federal election, but all provincial Aboriginal governments should have a strategic plan on this that can be implemented. What a powerful lobby that would be.

It was good to see Lawrence Joseph and Robert Doucette working together and saying the right things on behalf of their people. It was good to see the Métis people get along and not rip off each others shirts at the MNLA as well.

Times truly have changed. Right on.

What's next in Eagle Feather News

October will be packed with profiles of role model individuals who have impacted this province in a good way. Young and old will be featured in the arts, sports and education.

October is also small business month so we will give you some survival tips if you want to venture out on your own and we will have some features on some people doing business.

We know we promised you the insight into who is running for the FSIN election ... but everyone is keeping their hands close to their chest. No one wants to let out before the closing date for nominations in the third week of September. So, if we told you anything it would be pure speculation ... and we deal in just the facts. Right? Check it out in October. Then we'll know.



Chelsea Wesaquate was the Piapot Pow Wow princess and led off the parade.

Piapot pow wow a success

The Piapot First Nation held its Annual Traditional Pow Wow on August 14 – 17. The festivities were kicked off by a parade led by Chief Rockthunder and the Piapot Pow Wow princess Chelsea Wesaquate. Also participating in the parade was the Rock Ridge Riding Club from the Muscowpetung First Nation, owned and operated by Kameo Cappel. The club demonstrated their skills and put on an excellent show for the crowd gathered at the pow wow grounds. The whole event was blessed when the community gathered to have their annual feast. The pow wow committee, led by President Ira Lavallee, George Toto, Anna Hutchinson, Sunshine Obey and Tony Ironchild, worked hard throughout the year fundraising for the pow-wow. The committee thanks everyone for attending and making the pow wow such a success. See everyone next year.



Ridge Rock Riding Club owner and operator Kameo Cappel lead horse, Anthony (Peach) Toto and Jaden Toto.

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Return to school brings a flood of memories

There is a lonely little tug at the corner of my heart this morning as I watch kids walking by my window on their way to school.

They are beautiful in their new and not so new clothes, back packs and haircuts.

"Look! That little boy in the new jeans and blue shirt, he reminds me of my Dan, the year I let grandpa trim his long hair and he started school with a very crooked buzzcut (buzzcuts can be very crooked believe me).

And that little girl, she must be seven. She has the same serious look Tanice always had from worrying about the state of the world."

No wonder she is such a great nurse now. I remember getting a call from her teacher one day expressing concern that Tanice had been putting her lunch in the big garbage container every day for the past several weeks.

When I asked Tanie why she was tossing her lunch away she looked at me with big tears in her eyes and said, "It's for all the hungry kids Mom."

"Hungry kids!" I asked. "Where on earth did you get the idea that food from the garbage went to hungry kids?"

"On television all the hungry kids dig in the garbage for food."

That was when I realized just how much influence television had on our

children.

"And over there across the street, see that little girl? She reminds me of Roxanne, the way she has her arm around a little sister who is crying. I remember the evening our doorbell rang like someone was leaning on it and I opened the door to this angry mother.

"Look what your daughter did to my son," she yelled, pushing a hulking 12-year-old son in front of her.

"My daughter, are you sure?" I asked in complete surprise, sure she had the wrong house.

"Yes and this is the second time this has happened and I won't stand for it. This kind of bullying has to stop!"

I turned around and there was my "bully," with her little sister's arm around her, looking very frightened as the woman ranted and raved about big kids taking advantage of younger ones.

The woman was stunned when Roxanne, eight years old, three feet tall and, at the most, 45 pounds stepped forward and said, "I'm sorry but I beat him up cause he kept pulling my sister's hair and pushing her down."

"Yes," Tanice piped up, and "he does it every day, and we asked him nicely to

please stop but he wouldn't."

The woman never said another word. She shoved her son out the door, threatening to beat the crap out of him when they got home. With all her yelling and threats it's no wonder her son terrorized little girls.

Another memory, was a Christmas when we were so poor my late husband and I decided to cancel Christmas but we needed a way to break it to our kids and make it sound like a fun idea.

As a freelance writer, which is what I was at the time and he was a singer, songwriter and artist, our pay cheques were often far between.

I had suggested going to my brothers and just saying that we decided to not have gifts this year and instead we were going on a holiday in the summer.

Shannon wouldn't hear of it, insisting my brother would know that we were lying, instead he would do several small paintings and sell them to someone who hadn't done their Christmas shopping yet. In the middle of this discussion our kids came home for lunch and Cindy, our youngest headed for the pantry and pulled out a can of Chicken Noodle Soup and

started wrapping it. "What are you doing?" Shannon asked her.

"It's a Christmas present for the poor people," she said.

I thought Shannon was going to choke, he had been about to open that soup and heat it up for their lunch. Dan, our always very wise son said, "We are the poor people, right mom?"

To which Cindy promptly replied "No we're not. We're otters and singers and we're famous, Mrs. Kelly (teacher) said so!"

She couldn't pronounce author.

To make a long story short the mail man delivered our cheques that day and we had a great Christmas.


Children are special and we are so blessed to have them. And I love September and the smell of new books, scribblers and pencils.


I miss the rushing around in the morning preparing breakfast and lunches no one remembered to make the night before and I love the memory of threatening to let them all starve if they forgot to do them or slept in again.

My Dad always said "It was important to make memories so children could have good stories."

I'm sure these same stories have a whole other take when heard from my children but as much as I love them, I miss my wee kids and I miss school.







Nettie Wiebe

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The enduring passion of the Tribal historian

My family has kept our history. My father is a tribal historian as was his father and his father before him. There are many others who kept their families histories alive.

I have spent many a time listening and remembering their stories. I share a lot of this when I teach Cree history 208 at the First Nations University.

I found an archive photo of the League of Saskatchewan Indians meeting on Thunderchild Reserve in the 1930s. There was no reference to who was seated in the photo only reference to the meeting.

I asked now deceased Senator John Tootoosis if he remembered anything about the League and I showed him the photo. He named most of the Chiefs without hesitation. I asked him how he knew this. He said he had been there as a boy with his father.

Many of the Chiefs were the original Treaty signers. Senator Tootoosis had been prepared for leadership even as a child and many of his teachers were these original Treaty signers.

I have come across many photos identified by and provided for the Saskatchewan archives by Alphonse Little Poplar from the Sweet Grass Reserve. He had spent a lifetime collecting Tribal history and without his passionate work so much would have been lost. He has gone now but his son Wes Fineday has emerged as a Tribal historian in his own right.

There are so many others. Deceased Norman Sunchild and deceased Solomon Buller from Thunderchild, Geneva Stump and deceased Art Raining Bird from Rocky Boy Montana. Old Night Traveler from Little Pine. Deceased Pauline Pelly and deceased Roy Musqua from Keeseekoose. Elder Danny Musqua is a Saulteaux historian.

The Pellys and Musquas are from the Bear Clan one of the few remaining Saulteaux clans in Saskatchewan.

All of these people had at least one thing in common. They were or are passionate individuals who worked on their own. They were not directed to fit their knowledge to prevailing political demands but kept and keep the 'old' history alive.

The 'old' history differs from the new in that there has been some attempt by Aboriginal politicians to have their writers emphasize the history that fits political expediency and downplay the history that doesn't.

The Canadian Government, through its colonizing agents, ironically did the same to their version of history. Politicians make poor historians.

I tell my children our people were starved into signing Treaty. This doesn't mean we reject our Treaty status.

Far from it. But it does mean our ancestors suffered to retain their sover-

eignty. Their sacrifice is to be respected and understood.

Our Little Pine people also fought honourably during the uprising of 1885. My great grandfather was sentenced to three years in Stony Mountain Penitentiary for his part.



The Tribal wars between the Cree Assiniboine Alliance and the Blackfoot Confederacy makes a fascinating history. There were battles fought between them that involved more combatants than the battles fought between the Plains Indians and the American Army. Not a lot of Indians today want to hear this history.

There were also other people living on our lands long before us. I kept coming across obscure references to the Falls people, the Gros Ventre and Rapids people. I found out these long ago people who lived along the South Saskatchewan River can now be found in Montana on the Fort Belknap Reservation.

I collected what information I could and contacted the Aaninin or White Clay people. Their Tribal historians, Everal Fox and Morris (Davey) Bellgarde critiqued my information. My information was presented in Eagle Feather News in July 2008.

We may not have lived here in the ancient time but we were here long before the settlers arrived. Our ancestors lie buried in the land where no English ancestor born of Royal blood lies buried.

There are always sad memories like the bones of Cree ancestors ground into the pavement of Havre, Montana. There was one Saskatchewan Reserve who decided to collect their band history. Their project was abandoned when they discovered their original chief was a non-Indian who had been adopted by the Crees.

It is incredibly sad they should reject the memory of one who was likely dearly loved and who is literally a part of so many. I have had Métis people who pass as non-Indians, tell me how their families deny their Aboriginal blood and even burn the photos of an Aboriginal ancestor.

When we deny our ancestors we deny ourselves. I like history, warts and all.

I see the long ago people as human with the same strengths and weaknesses as any of us. We are not so very different.

An ideal past inspires us but the very real struggles of the long ago peoples is important too.



We all know that education is an important tool that encompasses learning and enables young people to succeed.

Education gives you a solid foundation upon which to build your future - whatever directions you take. It will help you develop a productive life, full of promise and opportunity.

My desire for First Nations and Métis youth, and all young people, is for you to be healthy... happy... and to prosper.

As we head into the fall and start the school year, I have an important message to all Saskatchewan students:

Education is empowerment. *dream big!*

Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations



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DUNES DEALS BIG PAYOUT TO UNIVERSITY

Wilma Isbister, General Manager of Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, presents Stephen Neapetung, president of the FNUniv Saskatoon Campus' Students Association, with a cheque for \$17,000. The Students Association applied for the grant to buy gym equipment to create a wellness facility in the school's basement. The money will buy a treadmill, elliptical trainer, exercise balls, universal gym and sports equipment for floor hockey, basketball, volleyball, and softball. Neapetung says the gym will be available to all students as well as their families. He hopes the gym will bring students and faculty closer together as well as help develop healthy lifestyles. (Story and photo by Darla Read)



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DIGGING FOR TREASURE

Deputy Premier and Education Minister Ken Krawetz proclaimed September 8 as Literacy Day in Saskatchewan during International Literacy Day celebrations organized by the Saskatoon Literacy Coalition. The event was held in Saskatoon at the SIAST Kelsey Campus. The coalition chose 'Literacy is a Fundamental Human Right' as the theme for this year's literacy day. Here people dig in the pile of free books. Is there anything better than a good book read under a tree?
 (Photo by Michael Gosselin)



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Check out the following Aboriginal Library Service programs happening this fall with Saskatoon Public Library. For more information on these and other Library programs, check out *Library News* available in print at any library or online at saskatoonlibrary.ca

Michif Conversation
 Offices of Central Urban Metis Federation Inc. (311441)
 315 Ave. M, South
 Mondays / Sept. 22 - Nov. 24 / 5 - 7 p.m.
 Join elder Dorothy Aubichon for informal classes in Michif conversation. Supper and childcare will be provided. To register for childcare call 975-9999.

Family Cree Conversation
 Mayfair Branch Library
 602 - 33rd Street West
 Thursdays / Oct. 9 - Dec. 11 / 5:30 - 7 p.m.
 Join Paula Howe and Noella Chief for family time with Cree conversation. Refreshments provided. For more information call 975-7591.

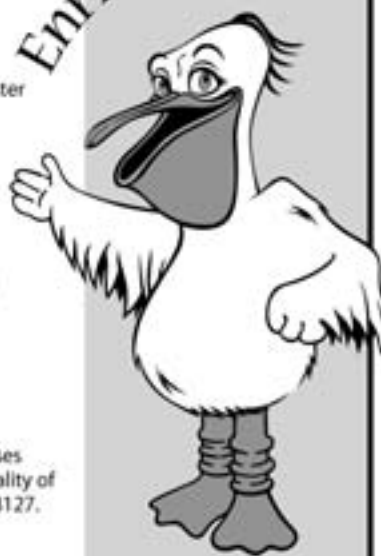
300 Years of Perspective
 Alice Turner Branch Library
 110 Nelson Road
 Wed. / Oct. 1 / 7 - 8:30 p.m.
 Award-winning journalist and publisher John Lagimodiere uses humour and history to offer a different perspective on the reality of Aboriginal people in Canada. For more information call 975-8127.

Health Care Issues for First Nations People
 Mayfair Branch Library
 602 - 33rd Street West
 Thurs / Oct. 9 / 7:30 p.m.
 Members of *nsav* Primary Health Care speak on changes in health care coverage for First Nations people. For more information call 975-7591.

Funding for the above programs is provided by the Aboriginal Library Services Grant, Government of Saskatchewan.

saskatoonlibrary.ca

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Something for Everyone

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Principal Darryl Bazylak is excited about plans for a new St. Mary's school. Bazylak is seen here handing out bannock at this year's National Aboriginal Day Celebrations. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Old school, new outlook

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

It's that time of year – fall in the air and kids back to school – and at St. Mary's, new principal Darryl Bazylak is welcoming a fresh start. "The new school will likely open September 2010," said Bazylak, allowing for Creator, trades, and weather to all co-operate in that timeline.

St. Mary's was built in 1913 and is one of the oldest schools in the city still operating, and the oldest separate school, but a recent announcement from the provincial government has promised much-needed funding for a new structure. Bazylak gives credit to the new government for realizing the need and going to bat for them.

But the new building will be more than just a school. A community driven committee is organizing a school and wellness centre all in one. This year, two pediatricians are working within the school and a clinical psychologist is also available. The College of Nursing is also rotating students through a practicum as part of their class requirement.

"It was the Health Disparities Report that really started the ball rolling – it was so atrocious that many people across many disciplines couldn't ignore it," noted Bazylak. The report found that west-side residents in the core neighbourhoods had very limited access to health care and considerably more health complications and higher mortality rates in many age groups.

"There are lots of people stepping up and saying, 'let's do something about this', they're not letting the traditional red tape get in the way," Bazylak explained.

The pediatricians are there for the whole community, so if kids from Pleasant Hill school or the neighbourhoods need to see them, they are available. The Saskatoon Tribal Council Health division is one of the partners who has helped develop the program, and Bazylak said Ceal Tournier of the organization has been a tremendous support.

Physically, other programs include nutrition, extra-curricular, dance, sports, and the Agility program – an elite program applied to the kids by kinesiology students to improve wellness. Bussing, after-school care, and daycare are also provided, as well as a pre-kindergarten program.

Bazylak notes there is a conscious effort to follow medicine wheel teachings, with the relationships supporting the structure as a whole.

"We need to address all four parts – mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual – but we don't in schools to the degree we need to," he said, adding that St. Mary's is a real leader in these areas and the staff is exceptional.

"If you're able to do that long enough, provide that balance in all four areas, it travels outward – and that's what I see happening."

There are no school fees, and two half-time "Kiteyak", Michael Maurice and Betsy Henderson, provide emotional support and cultural connections for the children and staff.

Smudges, sweats, feasts, prayers, mass, and pow wows as well as a connection with St. Mary's Parish are some of the spiritual components, and intellectually the academics incorporate Cree language and cultural teachings as well as the core curriculum.

There are requests for their dancing, drumming and singing troupes from all over, and Bazylak describes St. Mary's as "a Catholic cultural school". He says they're not adverse to outside partners, corporate sponsorship and dollars – there are many people that want to be a part of what they're doing and make a difference.

Boom times should lead to bright futures



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Métis assembly features spirit of reconciliation

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Moving forward and rebuilding relationships were the themes of this year's Métis Nation Legislative Assembly held in Saskatoon this month.

The turmoil over the past few years was acknowledged as different speakers took the floor, including current Métis National Council President Clem Chartier who has until recently been embattled with Métis Nation – Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and other provincial Métis leaders.

"It hasn't been easy. As we know, we went through some fairly rough times, but I think we're at a stage, and we've reached that stage over the past number of months where we can set that behind us and move forward collectively because that's what we're elected for," Chartier told the crowd.

"That's why we're here ... to promote the rights, interests, well-being of our people, and that's what we should always put before us."

Doucette agreed with Chartier when he gave his state of the nation address and thanked Chartier personally.

"We are trying to rebuild our relationship, and we are going to move things forward ... in the spirit of cooperation for Métis people."

During his address, Doucette also called on Métis people to work closely with First Nations people. He says they are the Métis' brothers and sisters and share common concerns.

"I believe it is in our best interests to work with and support First Nations as so many issues they face are currently impacting Métis people and our communities. As an example, the Oilsands Quest development in northwest Saskatchewan.

"Clearwater River First Nation Dene Chief Roy Cheecham has made it clear that Métis have to be at the table just like First Nations. No deal is going to be signed without them there. That's progressive, that's inclusion, and you know, that's power."

For the first time in the history of the MNLA, a chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations addressed them. Chief Lawrence Joseph spoke at the MNLA banquet.

The MNS' finances were also a topic of discussion at the MNLA. When the current executive took office, it had outstanding debt from previous executives total-

ing around \$700,000 and \$285,000 worth of unsubmitted reports.

Since taking office, the MNS has worked to reduce the debt to \$120,000 and around \$103,000 for unsubmitted reports. That's included working with federal and provincial governments to resolve outstanding reports and re-establish a working relationship. The same was done with vendors who had outstanding invoices as well as RBC Royal Bank.

The MNS also "caught up" with the previous three years of audits to meet reporting requirements, although accountants said in a couple of cases, there

new agreement with the MNS leadership, and at this time, capped the gaming money at \$2 million a year. We estimate that if the agreement would have remained a percentage, the Métis would have received an additional \$21 million."

The annual general assembly was also held in Saskatoon after the MNLA, and it was decided that next time these meetings were held, they will be held at Batoche. A motion was put forward that perhaps it would be easier to have quorum if the Métis went back to their roots and held their meetings there instead of at a hotel in Saskatoon.



Métis Nation of Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette says it is time to forget past differences.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

wasn't proper documentation to show expenses were properly authorized.

One way the MNS is trying to rebuild its capacity is renegotiating its gaming agreement with the province. Doucette says that agreement is up for review, and he would like to see the agreement go back to what it was before: just over six per cent of the 25 per cent of gaming revenues that goes to communities.

"Approximately seven years ago, the Saskatchewan government of the time negotiated a

Some expressed concern that there aren't properly facilities for the elderly at Batoche, but Chris Perry says, as an older person, she'd rather sleep in a tent at Batoche than a hotel room in Saskatoon.

"When the year ends ... I'll be 80 years old. I love walking around, I can run, I can ride, I can do many things, and sitting on a bench at Batoche at a meeting like this would not be a hardship on me whatsoever."

In the end, the motion was passed by a close vote.

Writer-in-Residence Call for Applications

September 1, 2009-June 30, 2010

Regina Public Library invites applications from Canadian creative writers for the position of Writer-in-Residence. The successful candidate will work with the public through individual consultations, community/school visits, and group workshops or seminars. The Writer-in-Residence will devote 80% of their time to personal writing projects. The author must live in Regina or surrounding area during the term of the residency. Experience working with the public, a history of literary publications, and a background in the literary field should be clearly demonstrated in the covering letter or résumé.



Please include a résumé, 10 page writing sample, and three letters of reference from members of the writing community. References should include a daytime and evening phone number in their letters. Previous experience as a writer-in-residence or teacher would be an asset. All genres of writing will be considered.

Salary:
\$26,000/year (under review/based on availability of grant funds)

Eligibility Criteria:
Based on The Canada Council for the Arts guidelines

Application deadline: 4:00 pm, Friday, October 31, 2008

Apply to:
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c/o Public Relations, Regina Public Library
P.O. Box 2311 (2311-12th Avenue)
Regina, SK S4P 3Z5
www.reginalibrary.ca



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Anaquod blazing trail of leadership in education

By Mike Gosselin
For Eagle Feather News

Back to school excitement hits more than just the kids who get new knapsacks. Many adult learners are excited to be heading back to SIAST to get their degrees and certificates to better their lives. In Regina, they will be greeted by a familiar face in First Nation education.

Della Anaquod is the new Dean of Basic Education at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences (SIAST) and feels her job entails nothing more than giving back to the students attending the programs she oversees.

"It's quite simple; we help get students ready for work or study," she says over the phone from her office in Regina. "No matter what their needs may be, we try our best to help get them where they need to go."

A holder of four degrees and countless certificates, Anaquod knows what being a student is all about and is committed to providing her students with an experience they'll look back on with pride.

"I'd like to think I'm setting an example to be a lifelong learner."

Anaquod travelled around for many years before returning to her home province in 1985 to begin studying for her Bachelor of Business Administration at the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College (SIFC). Her then-husband was in the U.S. Air Force and she was in

Shreveport, Louisiana before coming back to retain her Treaty Rights under Bill C-31.

"I was the first one reinstated," she said.

In addition to her BA, Anaquod has a Bachelor of Arts (Indian Studies), Bachelor of Laws and a Masters in Business Administration. With so many options regarding employment, Anaquod jokingly admits she couldn't ask her brother Del – a long time Professor and Dean at SIFC – for advice.

"He always told me he could only teach me what not to do," she says with a chuckle.

In the end, she asked herself a simple question.

"I reflected on where I'd been and where I was going next. Then I asked myself where I was needed most. I decided accepting the job at SIAST was an opportunity to give back to the people of my province."

SIAST is well-known to be obligated to the residents of Saskatchewan and takes a more collaborative, cooperative approach in addressing the needs of all its students.

"SIAST ensures our students receive a world-class education. It's my job to be more than an administrator. I believe I must blaze a trail and lead by example, offer guidance and always support each student in their pursuit of learning, no matter what the area of study."

Anaquod describes her goal of sending each student out of SIAST's doors with a "tool box full of knowledge" and admits she often views herself as a cheering



Della Anaquod is the Dean of Basic Education at SIAST.

section for the people attending Basic Education.

"I'm a lifelong learner and it's my job to set a benchmark to always move forward. It's about the power of example, not an example of power."

And the thought-provoking quotes just kept on coming. Interestingly enough, however, it's her daughter who inspired Anaquod with a simple observation many years ago.

"One day she looked at me and said: the Great Spirit doesn't want you to be a couch potato, ya know."

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Several thousand people attended the eleventh annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest.

Fiddle Fest keeps toes tapping

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

The 11th Annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest was “record breaking in every way – weather, attendance, workshops, concerts” according to Vicky Arcand.

It was the best \$20 I spent this summer – my younger kids and I took a turn on keyboards accompanying a fiddler in one workshop after practicing with CDs, and learned simple fiddle tunes in another. Groups of young and old musicians jammed in the pavilions or in impromptu groups outdoors, while a concession offered a variety of meals, drinks, and snacks.

Sask Native Theatre Company provided four youth and an Elder to do crafts, activities, and storytelling, and the shade of the teepee was a welcome place to relax and sing along with Joseph Naytowhow, or play games, hear stories, make new friends, and be entertained.

Four thousand seven hundred people attended, by industry standards, although Arcand allows this may be closer to 2,500 individuals over the four day event. With 400 more than last year, they’ve noticed a real increase in local traffic. From a modest beginning of 200 people in Alberta in 1998, it continues to grow at the Arcand home, Windy Acres, just outside Saskatoon.

On Thursday night the inaugural “lifetime achievement award” was given to Everett Larson, who at 83 is still teaching about 83 students a week in fiddle, guitar and accordion.

A raffle, among other fundraisers, continues to create capital for permanent structures.

“There’s not enough yet to build a roof but we’re still hopeful that come spring, we can start,” said Arcand, adding many attendants were begging for an extra day to be tacked on for the free workshops – which offer all levels of fiddling, jigging, and guitar and piano accompanying. Competitions begin on the weekend – jigging and fiddling competitors took home \$10,545 in prize money this year.

With no admission charge for children, free camping, and the gate pass all-inclusive (\$40 for all four days, or \$20 for just one) Arcand noticed youth attendance up in all the workshops, a consistent trend encouraging them in their goal of transmitting culture and music to the next generations.

Arcand offers heartfelt thanks to all the funders, sponsors, and volunteers who make the event possible.

“What we were most happy to see is that a lot of Saskatoon local people are finally understanding that we’re here and not just a fiddle contest,” she added.

“You can drive out for an evening concert and get a show that will knock your socks off– or buy a \$40 pass and come to all three concerts.”



Young fiddlers take to the stage at the John Arcand Fiddle Fest.

Connie Walker returns home

CBC Television in Saskatchewan recently announced that Connie Walker is returning home to host season three of *Living Saskatchewan*, an entertaining guide to better living in Saskatchewan.

Award-winning journalist Connie Walker was raised in a large family from the Okanese First Nation. She attended the University of Regina is a past student of the Indian Communication Arts Program at the First Nation University of Canada.

Her hosting debut was with the Gemini and Emmy award winning CBC youth program *Street Cents*. Walker has also been a national reporter for *CBC News*, and was most recently an associate producer for *CBC News: Sunday* where she has done in-depth profiles on some of Canada’s rising stars including country artist Shane Yellowbird, Aboriginal actor Adam Beach and indie-singer Feist. Walker has also been on the red carpet with seasoned celebrities like Brad Pitt, Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

“I was born and raised in Saskatchewan and still consider myself a prairie girl,” Walker said.

“While I’ve had a lot of opportunities to meet famous people, the stories I love to tell are those from everyday people who are making a difference. I’m looking forward to chatting with the people of Saskatchewan, and finding out from them how we can all get the most out of living in Saskatchewan,” she says.

During season three, which launches Sept. 15, Walker will help you furnish an apartment on a tight budget, provide tips on buying sneakers and fresh fish, show off viewers’ tattoos and share ideas for living green.

Check out *Eagle Feather News* next month for a profile and interview with Connie Walker in our *Role Model* edition.



Connie Walker is the host of CBC Television’s *Living Saskatchewan*.



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Two more Gemini nominations for Wapos Bay

Another year, another couple Gemini nominations – and Dennis Jackson couldn't be happier.

"It just feels great. It's great for the show and the crew. I'm really happy for everyone."

He should be most happy for himself, to be honest. In addition to the Wapos Bay nomination for Ensemble Cast, Jackson is up for Best Writing for Children's or Youth Programming for 'The Guardians'; an episode featuring Lee Majors.

Jackson insists the recognition is a testament to the people who work on the show and credits them for its longevity.

"We're in pre-production for Season IV and look forward to what will hopefully be another great year."

It seems like every year is a great one for the stop-motion animation show featuring Gordon Tootoosis, Lorne Cardinal and Andrea Menard .

"So far we have five nominations and two wins at the Geminis."

Any special guests planned for Season IV?

"Mike Holmes is coming to do a show on Native Housing," he says with a chuckle. "It should be pretty fun."

• • •

The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) is gearing up for a new season of programming and CEO Jean Larose is excited with the direction the network is moving.

"We're really happy with our new season. The network's maturing and getting better each and every year."

Larose is quick to mention some of the television series broadcast on APTN and feels they each bring (or will bring) something very unique to its audiences.

"Mixed Blessings was much more relaxed on set this season. The crew and cast are a lot more comfortable with one another and the show is really picking up."

Rabbit Fall just finished shooting in and around Saskatoon and Larose looks forward to its air date at the end of October.

"Rabbit Fall has an excellent season on the way and we're really, really excited about Cashing In, a new series set to air in Winter (February)."

Cashing In is set in First Nations casino and begins shooting in early October near Winnipeg. Global is a partner in the project, which bodes well for both the series and APTN since the two networks will be cross-promoting the series.

APTN programming also recently received five Gemini nominations, something Larose feels reflects APTN's commitment to its audience and their suggestions.

"Our strategy is to ask producers to do up to four language versions per show because we have such a vast audience who speak a total of 52 languages."

Translating all

programming into every language in Canada is a very difficult task but Larose vows APTN is dedicated to encouraging producers to do as many versions as humanly possible.

"The key thing we try and do is build bridges amongst ourselves (APTN) and all Canadians. The best way to do that is through language"

"To date we've broadcasted in 23 different languages."

But, Larose admits, APTN needs extensive audience interaction in order to keep expanding .

"We can only keep growing to the extent of our audience so we need as many people as possible to give us feedback."

Larose urges APTN viewers to leave any and all feedback at info@aptn.ca

It's a Boy!

Lindsay 'Eekwol' Knight recently had a healthy baby boy with hubby Randy Morin. Proud Mushroom Harvey Knight spread the good news and says both baby and mama are doing fine. The little guy's name is Keesik and was a whopping 9 lbs. 7 oz.

Mushom Harvey said "the baby looks so much like Randy, I was compelled to tell Lindsay to take a blood test to see if it was hers too – just to be sure – Cha!!"

From all of us at Eagle Feather



Jean Larose is APTN's CEO.

News, congratulations Lindsay and Randy! You'll be such groovy, awesome parents!

My bet is Keesik came into the world beat boxing for mama and rockin' out like daddy.

Turtle Island up for five music awards

The nominations for the 2008 Native American Music Awards were recently announced and Saskatchewan based Turtle Island Music is up for five of them.

Edmund Bull's album Follow Your Dreams is nominated for Best Country Recording, Best Male Artist and Best Producer (Kelly Parker).

Also receiving nominations are Old Style Round Dance Songs (Various Artists) for Best Compilation Recording and Meewasin Oma's Mourning Praise Unto Our Creator for Best Native American Church Recording.

Voting is done online at www.vote-native.com Be sure to show your favorites some love and click some vote buttons for them!

New Website for Aboriginal Music Fans

The Aboriginal Music Association of Saskatchewan (AMAS) recently announced its new website is up and running.

The new site is located at www.amas.ca AMAS encourages anyone interested to join and leave comments and suggestions, they'd love to hear from you!

Arts Board Grant Deadlines

Independent Artists Grants

Includes grants for established and emerging artists in support of creative projects, professional development, and research. Maximum funding levels vary by category.

Deadline: Wed., Oct. 1, 2008

Project Assistance Grants

Project grants up to \$5,000 are available to assist organizations or groups presenting short-term activities. Individuals may be eligible for activities not supported through Independent Artists Grants.

Deadline: Wed., Oct. 15, 2008

ArtsSmarts Grants

Arts and education grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded to schools, artists and community partnerships for innovative projects in any art form that bring K-12 students and professional artists together.

Deadline: Mon., Nov. 3, 2008

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

Forms and guidelines are available at: www.artsboard.sk.ca.

For more information, contact:

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Theatre was a living lesson in Métis history

• Continued from Page 2

Audience participation in historical re-enactments is not a widespread Parks Canada phenomenon (and for most battlegrounds that's probably wise).

But McKenzie appreciated that the dance piece, besides being engaging and moving, also gave a different sort of story of the Métis people at the time.

"During a focus on battles they learn about the hardship – but it's important to remember this was also a living, breathing community where people fell in love, were married, raised families – so that transferred beautifully for visitors," McKenzie said.

Not many parks have emotionally moving theatre which uses the on-site buildings while interacting with the audience, but it's natural to expect innovation, efficiency, and excellence of a people who have survived so much, on so little, so well, for so long.

"It exposed visitors to traditional dance steps in traditional dancewear – visually it looked like you were back in the 1800s," McKenzie explained.

"The spirit of the people – the wedding ceremony – it all came alive to the visitors, to really understand there was a community here, a thriving Métis community."

And the importance of that, she explains, is that it puts into context the actual resistance itself – so that people understand not only the 1800s but the living history that continues to this day.

"The Métis people are still here, and the Métis nation is still alive and very well," she adds, and her roots are showing. In fact, McKenzie's 13-year-old son Modeste ended up in the cast when a dancer had to drop out.

"Modeste learned to jig in one day," noted Chartrand, also praising 13-year-old fiddler Rajan Anderson from Ontario, who, by the end, could fiddle and jig at the same time – a skill he delighted in surprising Maria Campbell with in their final performance of the season.

"It was an extremely successful project."

Both Chartrand and McKenzie call Campbell a mentor, role model, and great teacher as well as artist. Chartrand obtained funding through the Canada Council "artist and community collaboration project" for which she is thankful, and hopes future funding and the project will continue.

McKenzie also notes substantial support from organizations like the Gabriel Dumont Institute and the Friends of Batoche, and the importance of continued collaboration with artists, historians, Elders, and the community.

Other programs this year have seen descendants return to honor the women and children of the resistance, on-site artists, and a panel which brought together artists, experts, elders, and students from nearby reserves. Elder Rose Fluery helps visitors both on-site and online with their genealogy in tracing their Métis roots. The dancers helped dedicate the Petitville Métis wintering grounds site.

And McKenzie especially recalls Brenda McDougall, a history professor, urging the youth to own their shared history – "This is your story – don't sit back and read about your own history – talk to your moshums and kokhums and find out how you were involved."

McKenzie notes we're at a point in history that when the Elders of this generation pass away they are the last direct connection to the 1885 – it was their grandparents.

"The Elders have that knowledge and first hand account and soon that direct connection once they pass on will be lost – it will be different – it's really important that in the community we really listen up and pay attention and keep this in mind.

"They really hold knowledge and stories that are really valuable to all Canadians. At Batoche we can really enhance and diversify the perspectives and stories told on-site."



Modeste McKenzie, on stage demonstrating his jigging skills, was a quick learner.

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Office Relocation

The Department of Canadian Heritage, Regina office, located at Suite 100 – 2201 11th Avenue, has moved to:

Canadian Heritage
 400 – 1975 Scarth Street
 Regina, SK
 S4P 2H1

For additional information: 306 780-7657
 (Telephone numbers remain the same)

Note: The Saskatoon office address remains the same.

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Registration prior to September 26 is \$140. Day rates available. Check out www.saskculture.sk.ca for more details or call (306) 780-9284.

Funding Available for Cultural Leadership

Deadline October 15

The Aboriginal Arts and Culture Leadership Grant aims to build capacity in Aboriginal communities through the development of Aboriginal arts and culture leaders at the individual, group and community level. For more details, visit www.saskculture.sk.ca for more details or call Damon Badger Heit at (306) 780-9251.

Francophones and Métis will meet again

From September 19 to 21, two founding peoples of Saskatchewan will meet in Willow Bunch for the second edition of the Traveling Roundtable of the Francophones and Métis of Western Canada.

Organized by the Institut français and its partners – the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise (ACF) and Willow Bunch Métis Local #17 – this breakthrough community gathering of bilingual exchange, learning and celebration promises to re-establish a constructive dialogue between two groups that have grown apart over the last century.

“Looking back at how the Métis and Francophones didn’t always get along, there are still a few hard feelings among the older generation,” says Leonard Lamontagne, president of Willow Bunch Métis Local #17.

“This roundtable is an opportunity to put those differences behind us and start a process of healing. I think it’s going to do a lot of good – we’re expecting a high turnout and it will be a positive thing for the whole community.”

“The Roundtable is an opportunity to

bring these two groups closer, in order to celebrate our history, speak with open hearts, and heal,” adds Henri Bouvier, the elected ACF representative for Willow Bunch.

“Hopefully we can move towards collaboration and sharing, supporting each other’s survival and progressing together into the future.”

Central to the event are two community roundtable discussions on issues of Francophone and Métis pride. The dialogue will be enriched by joint artistic performances and cultural workshops throughout the weekend. Among the artists performing will be Annette, Paul and Solange Campagne (Willow Bunch), Coulée (Manitoba), Roger Dallaire (Alberta) and the Métis Fiddler Quartet (originally from Manitoba).

“We are confident that the two communities will find the roundtable experience both enjoyable and stimulating,” says Peter Dorrington, president of the Roundtable’s organizing committee and associate director of the Institut français. “The gathering will bring together two proud communities that have a lot of catching up to do.”



At the last Traveling Roundtable of the Francophones and Métis of Western Canada in Batoche, hearty participants dressed for the weather as they discussed how the two groups can reunite move forward together.

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When you are opening an account, you should find a credit union that best meets your needs, is close to where you live, has low service fees and convenient hours.

You will want to visit or call your local credit union and ask them about the different kinds of accounts they offer.

What do I need to open an account?

To open an account, certain legislative conditions must be met. You will be required to:

- Provide your name, address and date of birth
- Complete account opening documentation
- Provide two pieces of identification, one of which must be a driver's license, social insurance number, provincial health card, birth certificate, Indian Status Card or similar identification
- You may open an account regardless of your employment status

Why should I set up an account?

- You can have access to your money through ATMs, make purchases with a debit card or take advantage of on-line services such as Internet banking
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- You will have access to a variety of additional financial products and services
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The biggest reason for setting up an account is for your personal safety. By placing your money in an account, it will remain in a safe place until the funds are needed.

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Saskatchewan credit unions are an integral part of the fabric of this province. As community based organizations, they are keenly interested in the people and communities they serve.



Please contact your local credit union for more information on the products and services they offer and they will help you select the type of account that is best suited to meet your needs.

Watch future issues of Eagle Feather News for more information on Saskatchewan credit unions or visit www.saskcu.com. If you have questions about the credit union system or their products and services, you can contact us at communications@saskcentral.com.



**Saskatchewan
 Credit Unions**

Muskeg Lake members protest business plan

I'll have a double double ... vote that is. Citizens of the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation demonstrated outside a Chief and Council meeting on their urban reserve. The dispute is over a re-vote the Chief wants to hold after a duly called band meeting rejected a \$12 million loan and business development on the urban reserve. The business is a Tim Hortons and at the re-vote, the Chief wants people to go behind a curtain and vote by a show of hand to three independent witnesses picked by



the Chief. The voter then is to initial their vote. There were about 30 protesters ... and five police cars. There were no arrests



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MN-S, Clearwater say not so fast to La Loche, Oilsands Quest

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

The northern village of La Loche has entered into an exploration agreement with Oilsands Quest. The two parties announced their agreement at a news conference in Regina last month.

La Loche mayor Georgina Jolibois says the agreement provides a lot of opportunities not only for people living in La Loche, but also those living in communities in the surrounding area.

Jolibois says the agreement wouldn't have been signed if she thought Oilsands Quest didn't share her community's concern for the environment.

"Going to the bush and picking berries. That's a traditional activity that we love to promote and that we love to practice. Fishing, hunting and trapping.

"Oilsands Quest has assured us that we can continue to participate in those events in their discussions.

"I believe that the northern village of La Loche and the group share the same vision as Oilsands in protecting our environment."

Missing from the table was the chief or representative for the Clearwater River Dene Nation. Last year the Dene Nation put up a blockade to prevent Oilsands Quest from coming in. Chief Roy Cheecham issued a press release the morning of the news conference, calling for a provincial inquiry into how the company's originally purchased oil shale permits were transferred to oilsands permits, which are worth much more money.

Oilsands Quest CEO Christopher Hopkins would not say how that would affect negotiations between the two except to say they were ongoing.

"The process of negotiating this agreement with the northern village of La Loche and other communities was inclusive of the Clearwater throughout."

Also missing from the table was a Métis represen-



La Loche Mayor Georgina Jolibois has signed a great deal with Oilsands Quest for her community. The Métis and First Nations leaders are adamant that their groups be involved.

tative for the region, and after the announcement, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan issued a press release of its own, saying there has been a lack of consultation with them regarding this development.

"The Métis in this region have continually requested to be constructively engaged about what is happening on their traditional lands. Starting in 2006, letters have been written to the government, outlining Métis claims and concerns.

"They have also written to Oil Sands Quest Inc.," says MNS President Robert Doucette.

"To date, there have been no substantive discus-

sions or engagement process with the community to ensure Métis rights, interests and way of life are being respected. The MNS is now calling on the province to begin to constructively engage the Métis before it is too late."

Hopkins says people from the reserve and surrounding communities, including Métis, benefit because some of them are employed right now.

He says other communities are welcome to sign agreements but the terms would be the same.

The terms of the agreement have not been made public.

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SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGIES

Pentathlete told to leave sash at home

Monica Pinette is a two time Olympian in the Modern Pentathlon. It is a complicated sport that has competitors participate in a grueling one-day event which includes the following sports: epee fencing, pistol shooting, 200 metre freestyle swimming, a show jumping course on horseback, and a 3 km cross-country run.

But it was her wardrobe that was the talk of Beijing and not her performance in any of her events.

Pinette is a Métis woman from Langley, British Columbia. And just as she did in Athens four years earlier, she had planned to wear her traditional sash over her Team Canada track suit during the opening and closing ceremonies of the Olympics.



The Canadian Olympic Committee told all athletes that "anyone who attempts to make any sort of political, racial or cultural statement will be sent home immediately." Not that her sash would be considered a political statement, it would however make her stand out as she walks into the opening ceremonies alongside the other Canadian Olympians. And that would be a definite no-no at the Beijing Olympics.

The Chinese Government has put immense pressure on the International Olympic Committee to respect the way of life in China. Any sort of behavior that is deemed outside of the norm is definitely looked down upon. Pinette acknowledged this.

"There are a lot of issues with regards to human rights in this country. It's definitely disappointing but I am willing to follow the rules. After all, I am a visitor to this country. For me it's about the athletics and not what I'm wearing," she said.

Pinette finished eleventh at this year's World Championships. This is remarkable, considering she didn't

pick up the sport until she was 21. The best pentathlon athletes are generally from Europe.

She ended up finishing 27th overall in Beijing. Things looked great for her early on as she finished second in the shooting event. Pinette struggled with the other events later that day and was never able to recover.

Lakeland College now recruiting families

It's becoming a real family affair over at Lakeland College in Lloydminster. Not only will Desai Walkingbear suit up for the men's volleyball team, his sister Skylar will redshirt this year for the women's team.

The Walkingbears have a long history of volleyball prowess. Desai was a standout in high school in Saskatoon. He was later followed by younger brothers Sierra and Savannah who also made a major impact on the local scene. All three represented Saskatchewan at multiple North American Indigenous Games as well.

Skylar has been playing volleyball for years and is looking forward to the journey west.

"It will be hard to be away from home, but it will be nice to have family around," she says.

And it won't just be Skylar and her brother. Mike Linklater, who is their cousin, will be playing for the men's basketball team this year.

It has been quite the journey and comeback for Linklater who is attempting to play competitively for the first time since seriously injuring his knee a few years ago.

"Things are going great. I just registered for classes and they are running us like dogs," he said.

Sounds like a lot of fun. Best of luck to all of you in the coming year!

Riders continue to impress

The Riders continue to roll, winning back-to-back games against their

arch nemesis the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

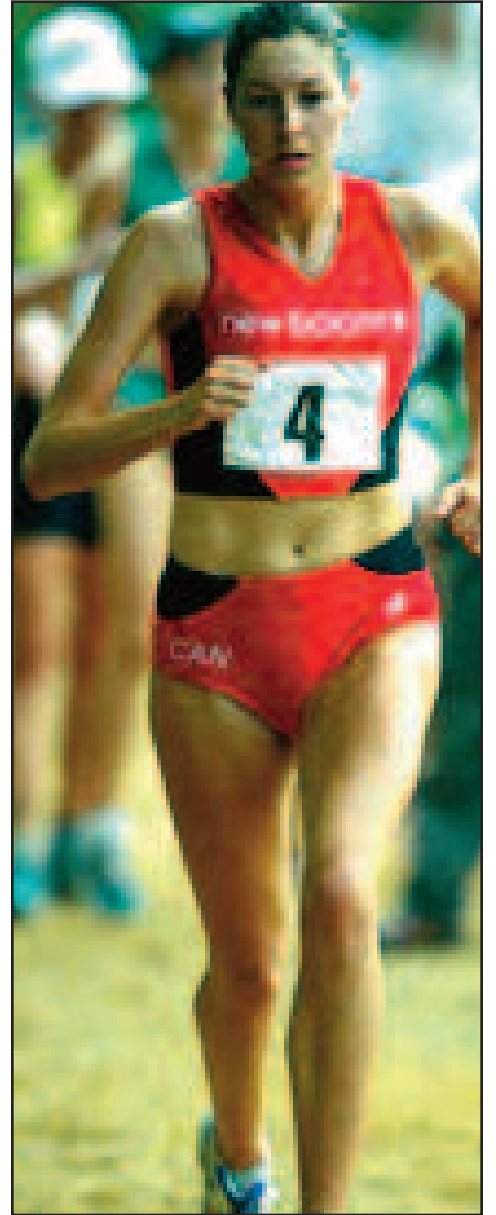
Despite playing with a group of receivers that even the most die-hard of fans would have trouble naming, they just seem to find ways to win. With their two wins over the Bombers they now lead the West and entire CFL with a very impressive 8-2 record.

Michael Bishop has looked like somewhat of a steal. Those who originally doubted Eric Tillman are once again giving the Riders GM respect. He is definitely proving his worth.

Like I said earlier in the year, I have no doubts that this team will once again win the Grey Cup. Umm, unless Edmonton gets real hot ... cross your fingers.

Random thoughts ...

With a country of well over 33 million, tell me how we only sent ONE First Nations Athlete to Beijing. Whatever the problem is, we need to fix this by 2010!...My NFL predictions are as follows: Super Bowl: Dallas 27 Pittsburgh 17, MVP Tony Romo, Rookie of the Year Matt Forte...The Jays are real hot, winning eight in a row as we went to press. Way to raise expectations for next year guys! Try starting these kinds of streaks a little earlier and make sure you bring back Cito...The Devil Rays will not win the World Series...seriously!



Monica Pinette decided to leave politics and her Métis sash at home when she competed in the 2008 Olympics in China. She wore the sash for the opening and closing ceremonies in Athens four years ago but chose not to make waves this time around.

SASK SPORT INC
A Division of Provincial Sport Development Services



Aboriginal Community Sport Grant

What is the Aboriginal Community Sport Grant?

The purpose of the Aboriginal Community Sport Grant Program (ACSGP) is to provide greater sport participation and development opportunities for Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan. The program will assist and support the implementation of organized community sport programs to increase sport opportunities for youth in the Aboriginal community, specifically in urban, rural, on-reserve, isolated and northern communities.

- The Aboriginal Community Sport Development grant will focus on communities and building their capacity to offer quality, organized sport programs** for Aboriginal youth.

Who can apply?

- Organizations that provide services with First Nations and Métis people and are registered under the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act are eligible to apply (these organizations must have been incorporated and in existence for a minimum of one year); or
- Communities are eligible to apply provided endorsement is received from a Bonded Authorized Officer (i.e. Mayor, Reeve or Chief);
- Applicants must have appropriate levels of participants insurance covering projects, events and activities that fall under its sanction;
- Ineligible communities or organizations may partner with eligible communities/organizations to apply for support and deliver activities that meet the objectives of the program;
- Individuals and provincial organizations may not apply for funding assistance through this program.

How much funding is available?

- Recipients are permitted to apply for more than one community sport initiative; however a separate application per initiative is required. If an organization or community is submitting more than one application, consideration will be given to the second or subsequent application(s) after all other community submissions have been reviewed.
- The maximum eligible amount a community can receive per initiative is \$5,000 per year. The minimum application amount to be considered is \$1,000 per initiative, per year.
- For approved sport initiatives, grant recipients will be eligible to apply for additional funding support in subsequent years. Initiatives can be funded for up to three years but the maximum eligible amount a grant recipient can receive is \$10,000 per initiative, over the three years.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Fall Programs- June 1st, 2008
Winter Programs- November 1st, 2008
Spring/Summer Programs- February 1st, 2008

For more information or to receive your application form/workbook please contact the Saskatoon Sports Council 975-0830 or saskatoonsportscouncil@shaw.ca

The ACSGP is jointly funded through Sport Canada's Aboriginal Participation Bilateral the Province of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.



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Heavy military presence evident in Beijing



Richard Agecoutay on location for CBC in Beijing.

• Continued from Page One

We had no problem clearing security. They let us through without searching us or X-raying our gear.

Once inside, we noticed a heavy presence of military, special police and security personnel blanketing the square. We followed the crowd into the Square on a path bordered on both sides by a human fence. This fence was manned by hundreds of soldiers placed four feet apart with a yellow ribbon to their back, defining where the crowd could or couldn't go.

Stiff in their stance with brows bent in a stern gaze, their eyes were ever-shifting, gauging and alert for any potential flourish of trouble. Later, when we left the square, traffic was stopped to allow many military trucks to pass by. The trucks were filled with soldiers. My guess is they were on stand-by just a few blocks from the square, laying in wait if a protest of any significance were to materialize!

The Square was filled with many revelers; their faces glistened with sweat from the profound heat of the night.

Once the crowd noticed I was carrying a TV camera they quickly surrounded me and began a loud chant in Chinese. I was caught up in the moment and focused on the technical part of my job: correct exposure, decent audio levels and acceptable shot composition (CBC cameramen are trained to focus on acquiring images under prevailing conditions).

I was not aware of the growing crowd around me, the feverish pitch of their chanting (It was great colour but one should not to get killed or injured for colour!) This went on for two to three minutes and I finally came to realize that this situation could attract the attention of the security personnel surrounding the square.

I could be singled out for inciting a riot. Yikes! We were warned in pre-Olympic briefings that if we came upon a protest, flee ASAP because the authorities view those watching or videotaping the proceedings to be compliant and would herd them up and detain them. Realizing this, I quickly extracted myself from the scrum and retreated to a lamp post beside a soldier.

Other Western news crews who were also there experienced the same situation. I watched from a distance, as the crowd surrounded the cameramen and soldiers slowly moved in to monitor the situation. Nothing happened as the crowd was in more in the mood to celebrate than exacerbate.

Our crew waited for a few hours in the relentless heat and humidity. Our producer, Paul Harrington, phoned us when the torch entered the Birds Nest (he was watching the opening from the air-conditioned confines of the International Broadcast Center, 'bastid!) and advised us to be on stand-by as the fireworks were to kick off after the main torch was lit.

We set up near the middle of the square with Chairman Mao's portrait in the background, crowd in mid-ground and the Beijing Olympics sign in the foreground. All the other shooters and photographers were set up in the same way. It wasn't until half-past midnight that the fireworks began. They began behind us, in front of Mao's mausoleum! I quickly spun around and started shooting. Since we were near the soldiers' line, the fireworks opened right up on top of us. I shot as much fireworks as I thought we needed and then went to work looking for faces.

I've been a cameraman for many years, and I've been to many places that I, as a regular Joe, would never go to on purpose. When you're shooting you tend to focus on the technical and forget the esthetics of the event. When I was done with the shoot and turned off my camera, it dawned on me ... I was in Tiananmen Square, in China, shooting the Olympics for CBC!

In my regular life, I never thought of going

to China on purpose but tonight I really didn't mind being a few thousand miles away from home and rolling tape on one of the greatest sporting events in the world.

Wednesday, August 20

Holy sheep dung! I've now been working for 26 consecutive days!! Sweet WODO's (Work on Day Off) Mad 'chedda overtime!!

Again, my camera has given me access to some awesome experiences. I've climbed the sacred Mt. Taishan, got blisters toting my camera around the Forbidden City, ate seafood we personally picked out at a restaurant in Tang Shan, was on hand shooting (and crying) as Canada won its first medal, watched with my own eyes as Michael Phelps won his eighth gold medal, shot an imperial calligrapher, had adult beverages with the owner of the hottest night club in Beijing, "China Doll", shot a peasant working her cornfield, shot a sixth generation bow and arrow maker, ate scorching hot noodles in a tiny place in south-west Beijing, was stuck in the biggest traffic jam I'll ever see, shot Taoist Monks performing their ancient prayers, drank beers with the best TV crew in the world (yes, CBC!!), paid 400 RMB for my laundry, shot in the ancient Hutong's, ate KFC and loved it, ate at the International Broadcast Center and hated it, didn't get the runs (like a lot of the crew members), woke up many times and forgot where I was, fallen asleep leaning on my tripod, endured the relentless heat, and every day of it all I thanked the Creator for giving me this great experience!!

Oh, did I mention the sweet, sweet WODO's!!

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Mobile health unit will serve core neighbourhoods

Health Minister Don McMorris was in Saskatoon recently to launch an innovative approach to providing primary care to residents in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods.

A mobile health unit will feature a paramedic, a Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioner) and house an exam room.

The unit will cruise the core areas and park at different locations each day, effectively taking health care to the people.

Patients will have access to basic health care and health promotion services. The primary health care project will begin immediately as a six-month pilot targeting communities with the greatest barriers to accessing care. The initiative is a partnership between the Ministry of Health, Saskatoon Health Region and M.D. Ambulance.

CUMFI President Shirley Isbister is pleased with the impact of the bus already.

"Over 100 visits already," says an impressed Isbister of the first few days of the program.

"And the best thing is you don't need a health card to get help. This program really eliminates roadblocks."

"When designing projects like this, we need to be creative and explore how we can best meet the needs of the people who will actually be using the service," Health Minister Don McMorris said.

"What we've come up with here is a proactive approach to help people overcome many of the everyday barriers they may face in accessing health care services."

"Saskatoon Health Region is thrilled to be part of this unique program," Saskatoon Regional Health Authority Chair Darlene Eberle said.

"This partnership will provide an innovative way to ensure all members of our community have access to the best health care services possible."



Health Minister Don McMorris introduced the innovative health bus program to Saskatoon recently.

The government is providing the Saskatoon Regional Health Authority with \$175,000 to cover staffing costs and some of the overall operating expenses. M.D. Ambulance Care Ltd. will supply the bus and fund its related operational costs.

"It is exciting for us to be a part of this project," M.D. Ambulance Care Ltd. President and CEO Dave

Dutchak said.

"We see this bus as the ideal vehicle for taking primary health care services to where they are needed in the community."

The bus will be in service seven days a week, eight hours a day. The Saskatoon Health Region will make information about the bus stops available to the public.

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