

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Record number of Aboriginal grads

Christen Gall gives two thumbs up for all the grads this year. Christen and her cohorts are one of the largest grade 12 graduating classes of Aboriginal students in Saskatchewan's history. (Photo Delephine Gall)



Success rate climbing despite lack of adequate funding

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Graduating this past June was special for Christen Gall, as she had to work extra hard to make it happen.

In order for her to graduate with her friends at Regina's Campbell Collegiate, a goal she wanted to achieve, the 17-year-old had to complete nine credits in her second semester. That meant she had to do seven of those independently by module.

"That's a pretty big accomplishment," says Gall, a member of the Keeseekoose First Nation.

Gall is part of an increasing number of Aboriginal students in the province who are graduating high school. According to Bobby Cameron, Second Vice-Chief

of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, First Nation students are graduating in "record numbers."

Those numbers are "due to the determination of students, and the support of parents, caregivers, and teachers," says Cameron.

He says the success is in spite of the inadequate federal funding, noting Francophone schools are provided more than \$18,000 per students, while on-reserve schools receive \$6,500 per student. In Saskatchewan, there are more than 17,000 First Nations students from 84 schools.

"That difference goes a long way in terms of resources, keeping teachers, and the available technology on reserves. Despite these challenges, we're graduating in record numbers."

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INSIDE



MR. BATOCHÉ

Mike Maurice has been coming to Batoche for 30 years and this year he has been named Mr. Batoche. - Page 8



CUMFI CELEBRATES

An old-fashioned street fair was part of CUMFI'S 20th anniversary bash in Saskatoon. - Page 10



KITCHEN MAESTRO

Jazz Goldstack is taking the Professional Cooking Program at SIAST and knows she's found her career. - Page 14



EEKWOL PERFORMING

Organizers of the 2013 Summer Games have attracted a stellar lineup of entertainers including Eekwol. - Page 20



HE'S A PRO

Notah Begay is a four-time winner on the PGA tour and now he's passing on golf and lifestyle tips to youth. - Page 23

Welcome to our
Graduation Edition

Coming In August - Justice & Back to Batoche Issue

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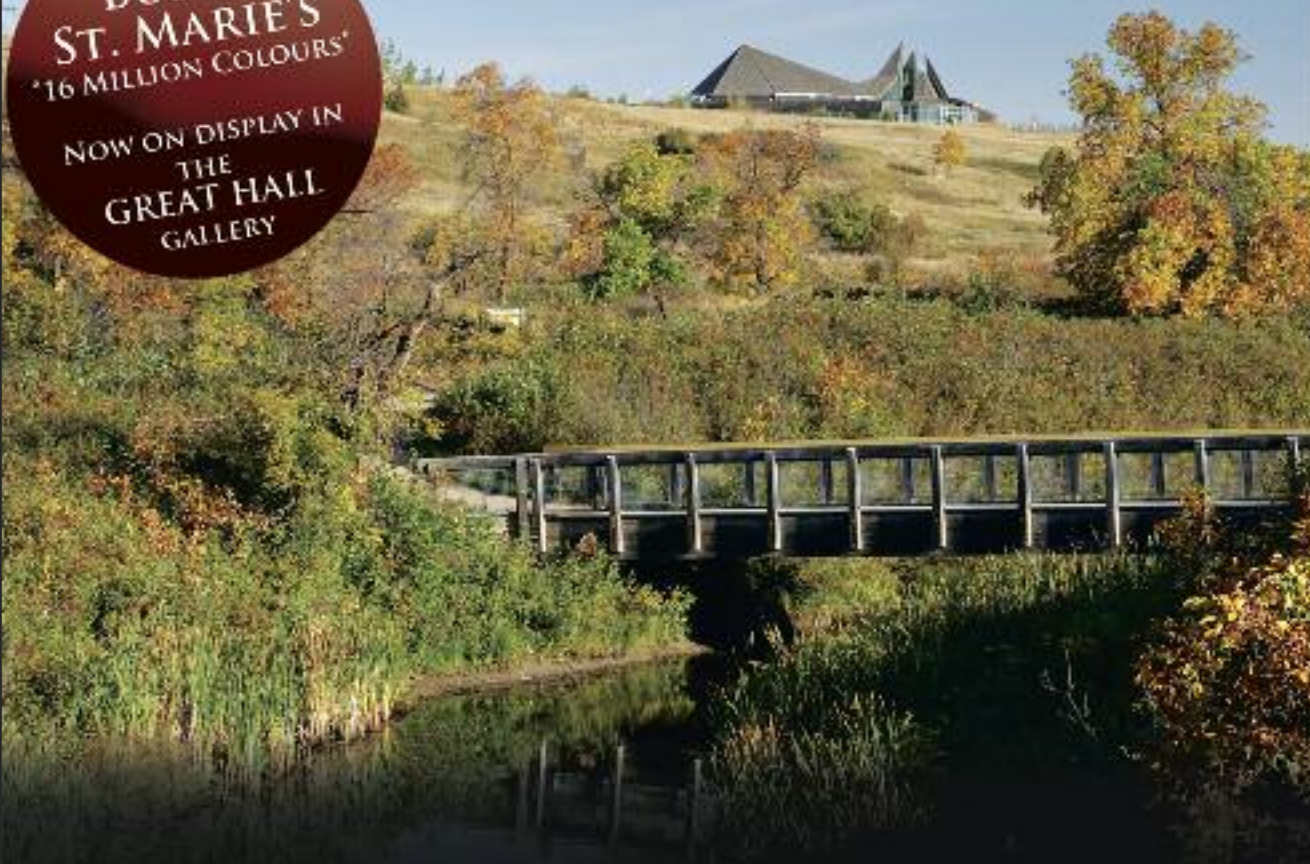


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Organizations honour Aboriginal graduates

• Continued from Page One

Cameron says this illustrates that First Nations people are survivors.

Cameron says 600 graduate medals were handed out to on-reserve graduates – a symbol to celebrate their achievement, continuing on the road of life-long learning, and also recognizing the responsibility each person has to use the gifts given to them by the Creator.



BILL MINTRAM

Innovative programming is also to thank for the increase in number of graduates, says Cameron. He points to bilingual, bicultural schools; flexibility that allows students to come and go without losing an entire school year; more online opportunities; and land-based learning that includes cultural camps, art and athletics.

Cameron welcomes the recommendations in the Final Report of the Joint Task Force on Improving Education and Employment Outcomes for First Nations and Métis People, Voice, Vision and Leadership: A Place for All, noting this fall, Saskatchewan Government Insurance will be implementing one of those recommendations. There will be \$1.7 million provided for driver training in First Nations schools, which currently isn't funded.

Cameron says the FSIN is meeting later this summer with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, where the FSIN will propose the Province provide funding for breakfast and lunch programs.

The increase in graduates is also happening in urban centres. This year was the 29th annual Native Graduate Recognition Event hosted by the Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC), which has a legacy of supporting, encouraging, empowering and recognizing

graduates.

More than 600 people attended the event. Last year there were around 500, and two years ago 200. At that time, there were about 50 graduates. Last year there were 101, and this year there were 129.

"We recognize graduation as a significant milestone and achievement," says Bill Mintram, Executive Director at SIMFC. The message to the grads: "We also are here to support you and walk with you."

Nineteen scholarships are awarded to students – some are academic but others reward resiliency, leadership and achievement in sports. There are also scholarships for specific fields: the Saskatoon Police Service provides a policing scholarship, and CHEP provides one for culinary studies.

One of those recipients was Sally McKenzie, who received the scholarship for school spirit and resiliency. McKenzie, a member of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, graduated from Saskatoon's Mount Royal Collegiate. The 18-year-old, who now lives in one of EGADZ's My Homes, grew up in foster care as far back as she can remember. McKenzie says at times she thought of giving up, but kept going because of the people around her.

"Showing me how much they cared, telling me I can do it, motivating me, making me care about myself.

"If it wasn't for EGADZ My Homes, I wouldn't think of going to university," she says. "Because this is the only family I have."

McKenzie was shocked and happy to win a scholarship, and says it felt awesome and meant a lot to be honoured at the SIMFC recognition event, noting graduating Grade 12 is "a big milestone."

She's enrolled in the University of Saskatchewan's Arts and Sciences transition program this fall.

Mintram remembers when he attended the event himself in Grade 12 and received two scholarships.

"I was blown away," he recalls. "It was based on my community involvement and to see that they recognized what I was passionate about was significant.

"It said 'Thank you for the work you've been doing,' and it did empower me and stuck with me over the years."

He says as a Métis person, it was significant to attend an event where there was a strong sense of cultural reinforcement.

"A safe place that fostered and embraced identity. It impacted me for years to come."

What sets this event apart from other graduations is how personal it is. New to the event, and a hit, were two photo booths, where grads could take fun or formal photos, for free. There are signs



Sally McKenzie accepted her scholarship from Saskatoon Public School Board member Vernon Linklater at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre Native Graduation Recognition event. A record 129 graduates attended this year.

listing all the previous grads, so students can look for family members.

There are the usual remarks from dignitaries, a Valedictorian address, and then each grad is recognized.

"We take that extra step to recognize who they are, where they're from and what they want to do in the future," says Mintram. "Even though it takes a little longer, it's one thing we think is integral."

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Two thumbs up for Aboriginal graduates

Welcome to our July edition. This is the month we like to give a nod to all of those graduates out there. A special thanks to all those people who sent in grad photos for our contest.

The winner, Christen Gall, you have already met on our cover. She graduated from Campbell Collegiate in Regina and her mom Delephine took the outstanding photograph.

Our second place photo was a snap sent in from someone's phone, but is a beauty of Brady Desjarlais from Rossignol High School in Ile A La Crosse.

Regardless of where they graduated from, this year's Grade 12 class was one of, if not the largest graduating class of First Nation and Métis students in Saskatchewan's history. That is fantastic news and even more remarkable when you consider the chronic underfunding of reserve schools and the challenges faced by many young people in achieving academic success.

One uncounted detail we are overlooking is the large number of people who also earned their GED or Adult Basic Ed this summer. Add those folks in and consider the fact we have never had more Aboriginal people employed in Saskatchewan and we have reason for optimism in the community.

We do often put lots of pressure on this next generation for change, but if you look closely, we are all involved in this. Every age, every generation are contributing going forward. Keep it up!

Oh what to do the week of July 15? Do we head to the Yukon for the long scheduled Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 34th national Annual General Assembly scheduled for July 16-18, or do we head to Onion Lake for the National Treaty Gathering July 14-18 or do we drop into Prince Albert and Muskoday to witness the First Nation Summer Games from July 15-19? Hmmm.

That is one tough scheduling decision for the Chiefs of Saskatchewan. Support

the national organization, support a Treaty organization or support the young people of their communities or do it all. Difficult call and those events will make for an interesting week.

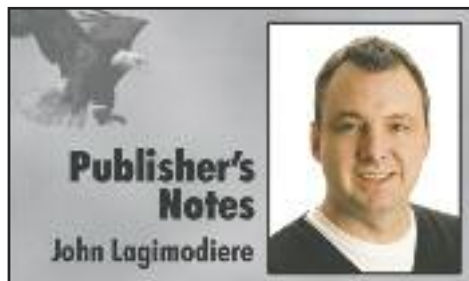
To add more intrigue to the week of July 15, organizers expect thousands to head to Back to Batoche days from July 17-21 and witness the historic Bell of Batoche return to the community. The Bell has been in hiding since it disappeared from the Legion Hall in Millbrook Ontario over 20 years ago.

There have been rumours of where it is and who has it but nothing ever confirmed. There have also been times at Back to Batoche where people were sure a deal had been cut to bring the Bell back.



Brady Desjarlais sent in this fantastic grad photo from Ile A La Crosse.

Heck, I was there with a camera on two different occasions where for sure, the Bell was coming back, only to be left without a picture or a story as another deal fell through.



This year it is for sure and the Bell will be unveiled during a special mass on Saturday July 20 at 4 p.m. at the Back to Batoche site. Really. For sure for sure ... the Bell is coming back. Be there or be an OrangeMan (look it up)....

We have to send a special shout out to the fine people of Nunavut who are celebrating their 20th anniversary. According to Wikipedia, Nunavut is both the least populous and the largest in area of the provinces and territories of Canada. One of the most remote, sparsely settled regions in the world, it has a population of 31,906, mostly Inuit, spread over a land area the size of Western Europe, Mexico or Indonesia. Nunavut is also home to the northernmost permanently inhabited place

remote, but the people of the territory control their own destiny and resources ... nice trade off. Happy Anniversary.

And who can forget that CUMFI Métis Local #165 celebrated their 20th anniversary this month too. Thanks to the generosity of several sponsors, CUMFI was able to take over a part of Avenue M South in Saskatoon to host a free mini fair for the community.

Free burgers, kids rides and entertainment were the order of the day. CUMFI has grown out of two previous locations and has become an integral part of the social safety net in Saskatoon. Their housing and health models have had amazing impact already.

One of the apartments that CUMFI owns helps reunite parents with their children they had lost to the foster system. Over 250 children have been reunited with their parents so far. That is amazing and commendable.

Thank you to all the past presidents and board members at CUMFI for your contribution to the better good of all.

August will be our justice issue at Eagle Feather News and as always we encourage our brothers and sisters inside our correctional system to pen us a letter for publication. We want to know what is going on inside.

Any programs in particular working? Are there enough programs? Tips for people how NOT to get into jail? Any insights on how the system could be changed for the better? Got a funny story?

Whatever you have on your mind we want to hear. Time is of the essence so get writing and send those letters in for the first week of July.

Remember to keep them short and to the point (unless you have a great story, then fill your boots). Send your letters to. EFN Letters from Inside, PO Box 924, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4.

Safe travels this summer to the festival, the powwow or the lake and remember to buckle up.

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June was a month to celebrate education

Graduation time is always busy with many celebrations honouring our high school and university graduates. The graduation powwow at the U of S on May 29 was the biggest ever.

The first grand entry honoured high school graduates, the second honoured the university graduates and there were a good many inter-tribals for everyone to share in the celebration.

Accolades to the Aboriginal Student Centre people for all their hard work and a special thanks to the Native Studies 107 students who volunteered for the day!

Congratulations also to the Saskatoon Indian Métis Friendship Centre for a smashing Grade 12 graduation celebration at Prairieland on May 30. It was a full house and many outstanding students were honoured with scholarships that evening. Special mention to Shelby LaRose of Mount Royal Collegiate, the recipient of the first Native Studies Scholarship.

There was a time way back when you only saw a few Indigenous students walking across the stage. Today there are more than there have ever been. You know we've come a long ways when an Honour Song fills the concert hall at TCU Place. Many thanks to Wild Horse for this and to all the good folks at the U of S who made it happen.

Among the great events that celebrated Indigenous knowledge and scholarship in the month of June was the Native American & Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) annual conference hosted by the Native Studies Department at the UofS. This was the first time NAISA was hosted in Canada and it took almost two years of planning and fundraising. From June 12 to June 15 the campus was inundated with over 860



scholars, students, Elders and community people from all over the world sharing their research and networking.

There were Saami peoples from Scandinavia, Aboriginal peoples from Australia, Maori peoples from Aotearoa (New Zealand), Taroko people from Taiwan, Hawaiians, a few folks from Europe, American Indians from Alaska to Texas, and First Nations, Métis and Inuit from all over Canada. The Native Studies

Department hosted three scholars from the Indigenous Development and Self-Determination program at the Autonomous University of Chiapas who partook in all activities despite the language barrier.

We began the conference with a Pipe Ceremony on the morning of the 12th then an Opening Ceremony the morning of the 13th where our local leadership welcomed delegates to our territory and an impromptu Round Dance song brought everyone together. Then for three solid days there were 19 concurrent sessions three to four times a day that we could choose from to attend.

The range of topics was so wide that almost everyone's interests were covered – from Jingle dresses to sustainable development to oral histories. Extra curricular events included a daily Urban Reserves tour, many receptions, Ryan McMahan Comedy Show, and one of the highlights of the conference ... Maria Campbell's Halfbreed Ball which sold out months in advance.

There are far too many people to thank in this small space for making this conference such a huge success. We could not have pulled it off without the generous support from our sponsors and the tireless work of all our volunteers and Host Committee members lead by our fearless Chair Dr. Rob Innes.

All in all, graduation 2013 was a blast! Congratulations again to all our graduates.



The Chiapas-Saskatchewan Project members: Dr. Alma Isunza, Susana Deranger, Dr. Laureano Ryes Gomez, Dr. Elisa Cruz Rueda, Dr. Winona Wheeler. Missing from this picture are Dr. Nancy Van Styvendale and Swapna Padmandabha.

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The myth of Canada

July 1 being a holiday in celebration of 'Canada' it is timely to reflect on exactly what is Canada?

Is there a 'Canadian way'? Is anything 'Canadian' or 'un-Canadian', as things are 'American' and 'un-American' in the USA?

Gilles Vigneault, the poet, has written "My country isn't a country, it's winter". Is Canada essentially a series of endless winters followed by tempestuous and short summers?

Quebec politicians have been quoted as saying that 'Canada is not a real country' and Google reveals that the topic is a popular subject of discussion. If the question is being asked, can there be a strong sense of what is 'Canada'?

Our early history has been viewed as a struggle between English and French, Catholic and Protestant. Now we hear a cry 'We are a nation of immigrants!'

Surely that view overlooks the indigenous peoples. Immigrant votes are currently being courted by political parties of all stripes while Aboriginal issues are overshadowed by the facile idea of 'multiculturalism' which is now being sold under the vacuous 'diversity' label.

Aboriginal peoples did not participate in the statecraft that resulted in the constitutional creation of Canada. The attempts at Aboriginal Constitutional reform in the 1980s were by and large a dismal refusal of government leaders to treat the participation of indigenous peoples in Canadian statecraft seriously.

While the Charlottetown Accord remains the high water mark of political recognition of Aboriginal self-government, it is notable that it never passed a national referendum.

I recall being part of a group ordering dinner in a restaurant in France some years ago. Someone in our group asked our waiter, a young man, if 'it might be possible' to alter a menu item to suit the wishes of the customer.

Then something remarkable happened. The young man snapped to attention, stood tall and squared his shoulders to proclaim "In France, nothing is impossible!"

There were two older men sitting at a nearby table. They heard the waiter, and they clapped their hands in approval.

Is this something that you might

expect in Regina or Saskatoon, or in Vancouver or Montreal?

Is it Canada that is being spoken of when bureaucrats and politicians refer to the federal government as 'Canada'?

How can that be, when Canada is a federal system that includes ten provinces and three territories in addition to the federal government out there in Ottawa?

And in our Prime Ministerial dictatorship,

who speaks for 'Canada'? Is it the Prime Minister who issued the Residential Schools Apology but refused to acknowledge the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, or is it our MPs who supported a Parliamentary resolution in support of the Declaration?

How are our political leaders chosen in our system? Do we elect the best and wisest people to lead us: the ones who are most dedicated to the health and welfare of the people and the country?

Or do we reward the most ambitious people who are the most adept at vilifying the opposition?

Where do the indigenous peoples fit into Canada? We know that for most of our history status Indians were not wanted when they were cut out of the vote in federal elections until 1960 and in provincial elections until the mid-40s to the mid-60s, the last province being Quebec.

Mathew Coon-Come recently commented on the new Agreement that will create a regional system of government uniting the Cree of the North with municipal governments of Quebec.

He said it shows that the Cree are buying into Canada. That idea is the same that informed the opening essay in the final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 1996, which is entitled 'Opening the Door'.

If Canada is to claim status as a real country, it should have a vision of itself that includes the original people of this land, that is, a vision of a North American country rather than a pale imitation of Britain or France.

What we must envisage is not the 'Dominion' of Canada, as Canada was called until recently when 1st of July was called 'Dominion Day', but rather a condominium where power is not centralized but shared and distributed and includes the original peoples.



Comment
Paul Chartrand



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Aboriginal Youth Writers' Retreat: Bringing Back the Buffalo

The Saskatchewan Writers' Guild is offering Aboriginal Youth Writers' Retreat workshops in Regina and Saskatoon on

August 6-9, 2013.

Workshops will be held in Regina at the First Nations University of Canada and at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon.

The Aboriginal Youth Writers' Retreat encourages Aboriginal youth, ages **14-22**, to learn creative writing techniques and share their stories through writing.

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INCA crew documenting 2013 First Nations Summer Games

Ten journalism students will produce daily reports and a video documentary of the 2013 First Nations Summer Games at Muskoday, Prince Albert and Birch Hills from July 15-19, under the direction of CBC Network Videographer Richard Agecutay.

The students are taking Indian Communication Arts (INCA) at the First Nations University of Canada. They completed the INCA Summer Institute in Journalism as well as specialized training in sports videography.

Agecutay has shot sporting events around the world—2008 Beijing Olympics, 2010 FIFA World Cup Soccer in South Africa, 2011 Commonwealth Games in India, and he will be in Sochi, Russia to cover the 2014 Winter Olympics.

“Producers rely on me to deliver compelling images of live sporting events,” he says.

“Shooting sports is challenging because the action is continuous,” says Agecutay. “It takes extreme concentration to follow the action.”

“As a camera operator, you need to be versatile, with experience in everything—news, documentary, sports, entertainment and studio productions,” he says.

Candy Fox took INCA four years ago and is finishing her film degree.



(Back row left to right) Candy Fox, Taryn Riemer, Simon Mocassin, Michelle Lerat, Paige Kreutzwieser, Richard Agecutay. (Front row left to right) Liam Avison, Rafique Bhuiyan, Novalee Fox and Forrest Chief. (Photo by Shannon Avison)

“This gives me a chance to go into the field and work with people as the events unfold,” Fox says.

“I want to learn different styles and be able to handle any situation where video or storytelling is involved. This experience with Richard, who has 30 years experience

in photography, theatre and broadcast television, will make me a better documentary shooter and journalist.”

Paige Kreutzwieser is a University of Regina pre-Journalism student who took INCA this summer. She says covering the Summer Games is the

chance of a lifetime.

“I am passionate about sports and covering the Summer Games is my first opportunity to combine this obsession with my other passion – journalism,” she says.

“I am so excited about interviewing the athletes and sharing their stories. And I can use this on my resume, to show that I am a video journalist who can go out and produce stories.”

INCA coordinator Shannon Avison says this gives her students a chance to use social media, including Twitter, YouTube, Instagram, to deliver stories as fast as they happen.

“We don’t need a broadcaster to share stories,” she says. “Social media means everyone can share stories through the website—with other athletes and participants and people back home.”

Summer Games CEO Marvin Sanderson said the coordinators chose the INCA students because some of them have been participants in past games and understand the Games in a way another production crew might not.

He says the daily coverage, which will be hosted on www.incaonline.ca, and the video documentary will help the coordinators reflect on what was accomplished.

“We want to leave a legacy of the games for everyone,” he says.

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Return of fabled Bell will be highlight of Back to Batoche

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The first time he camped at Back to Batoche over 30 years ago, Mike Maurice and his wife almost got run over.

"Camped a bit too close to the bandshell I think," laughed Maurice as he related one of the several stories he has of his adventures at the annual Métis cultural fest. "I drive back and forth every night now."

Maurice has been going regularly since then and

rarely misses.

"For me, it is a time to visit with my friends and family from up North, and to speak my Cree language," he adds. He has a special reason to return this year since he has official duties as Mr. Batoche. And he wants to see the Bell of Batoche.

And it turns out many Métis people are clamoring to see the Bell of Batoche. The fabled Bell has been in a mysterious person's hands since it disappeared from a Legion Hall in Millbrook, Ontario in 1991. The Legion had been holding the Bell as a war trophy since Canadian soldiers stole it while they were gutting the community of Batoche after the Canadian Government troops overran Métis fighters in 1885. The Metis were resisting the governments taking over of their land without due negotiation or compensation.

The Canadian theft of the Bell has rankled Métis for over a century. Several attempts at a political solution were offered, but the Legion always refused to return the Bell. Eventually some people took it upon themselves to liberate the Bell. Since 1991, there have been rumours of where the Bell is and who has it, but no definitive answers have been forthcoming until National Aboriginal Day this year when the Bell's return was officially announced.

Now, the Bell is in possession of the Prince Albert Catholic Diocese and at a special mass on July 20 during Back to Batoche Days, the Parish will ask the Union



MIKE MAURICE

Nationale Métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba in Winnipeg to be the guardians of the Bell. The Union said its goal is to make the bell accessible to all Métis people and communities.

"As requested by the keeper of the bell, this bell will become the living history of our people," union spokesman Guy Savoie stated in the press release.

"The following message was given to us by the keeper of the bell for the past 22 years: 'The time has come to bring hope to our Métis people; I want the Métis to touch and ring this bell and let its sound reverberate into their strong spirit, to give them strength and courage to keep on fighting for what they believe in.'"

• Continued on Page 9



The famous Bell of Batoche has returned from Ontario where it was being held as a trophy of war.



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Danny Parenteau
Jess Lee
Dallas & Phil Bayer Band
New Horizon
Ovide Pilon CCR & Beatie Mania
The John Arcand Show



Attendance expected to double this year

• Continued from Page 8

It should be a very emotional day at Batoche when that Bell rings again, calling the community to fellowship. The Committee is ready for the historic day and moment.

“We have upped all of our volunteers in every category. More parking staff, more security, more water,” said event Manager Claire Bellanger-Parker. “We expect to double at least our usual attendance as the interest in this Bell and the return has been very high.”

The Bell will be a huge draw that will complement the excellent line up of talent that graces the main stage, the jiggling and fiddling contests that fill the Gathering Place and the good grace and welcoming of the people.

Mike Maurice will be joined by Mrs. Batoche Joanna Blondeau Potyondi. This is the first year where Mr. and Mrs. Batoche are not a married couple.

“Our role is largely ceremonial,” added Maurice. “They told me that we are supposed to be visible and to visit and welcome people. I do that all the time at Batoche. I am looking forward to it very much this year.”



JOHANNA BLONDEAU POTYONDI



RCMP members stand on guard while Louise Tournier, MLA Delbert Kirsch, Peter Rudyck, Claudette Lavergne, Maria Campbell and Jackie Gaudet participate in the ceremonial ground breaking for the new Friends of Batoche Family Fun Centre.

Friends celebrate at Batoche National Historic Site

The Friends of Batoche and Parks Canada celebrated Canada Day at the Batoche National Historic Site. The day started with the flag raising, the singing of “O Canada” and great entertainment featuring Donny Parenteau and his Band, as well as Dallas and Phil Boyer.

The Friends participated in a Sod Turning Ceremony of the New Family Fun Centre at Batoche. Louise Tournier, President of the Friends, is excited about the project.

“This playground and activity area, Natural Willow Maze and a Red River Cart Wheel Path will give children an opportunity to just play. It is a great enhancement for the family programming here at the Site,” said Tournier.

The Family Fun Centre will serve to further enhance the Métis culture and history as presented by the Site.

Other honourable speakers and participants were MLA of Batoche, Delbert Kirsch, Jackie Gaudet, special event coordinator of BNHS, Maria Campbell, author, teacher and playwright performing the ceremonial blessing, Peter Rudyck and Claudette Lavergne, members of the Batoche Shared Management Board.

The rest of the day was filled with fun games for everyone to enjoy and the cutting of the fabulous tasting Birthday cake. Everyone was thankful for the warm weather and for the good turnout in celebrating Canada Day.

This day was supported and funded by Canadian Heritage, along with Parks Canada and Gabriel Dumont Institute.



Batoche National Historic Site
parcs.canada.gc.ca

Lieu historique national de Batoche
parcs.canada.gc.ca

Kidfest at Batoche

Sunday, August 4

Your kids will have a groovy, fun-filled day of petting zoo, bouncy castle, wagon rides, magician, children's activities, music, storytelling, costume photo zone and more!



Kidfest à Batoche

Dimanche, le 4 août

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Plaisirs d'automne :
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CUMFI MARKS 20 YEARS

The little Métis Local that could, CUMFI Métis Local #165 has grown from a small storefront on 20th Street West, into a political and service providing force that is helping change the inner city of Saskatoon. Shirley Isbister has been the President of CUMFI for the last several years and she welcomed the community to a blocked off section of Avenue M South in Saskatoon for a good old community fair. Besides the free barbecued hotdogs and burgers, CHEP gave away fruit and there was heaven for the kids including the old fire truck, horse rides, bouncy houses, dunk tanks and the ever popular face painting. Hundreds of people came by to enjoy the day and celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Local and all of the presidents and board members that have served the community in that time. Because of great community partnerships and generosity, the event was entirely free thanks to the sponsors. (Photos include President Shirley Isbister, painted kids Hayden, Lashawn and Jared, some young horse riders and Jessie Henderson in the antique fire truck).



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Education opens exciting doors for Aboriginal students

“A butcher, a baker, a candlestick maker.” “Doctor, lawyer or Indian chief.” What do you want to be when you finish school?

Graduation is a time to truly reflect on who you are, what you’ve become and how you feel about the world around you. High school offers us a chance to begin this process and some of us actually get lucky and figure it out before we graduate.

Not all of us really know who we are or we are afraid, for whatever reason, to be ourselves in front of others. As you go forward into your future, you need to be comfortable with who you are in order to find your place in the world.

Eventually we all learn that those who truly care about us will allow us to be ourselves without judgment. They will in fact, encourage it.

You are about to begin real life! Know that there will be obstacles; there will be days when you wonder why you were so excited to leave high school.

Remember, if you mess up, it’s not your parents’ fault, so don’t whine about your mistakes, learn from them. As the great Dr. Seuss once said, “You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any

direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who’ll decide where to go.”

As you leave high school, don’t fret over leaving behind the life you have had, don’t waste precious time wishing you could do it over differently because you can’t.

Face the future with the understanding that you will be more aware of your



Opportunities for higher education have multiplied for Aboriginal students, as evidenced in increasing enrolments at the First Nations University of Canada and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. Go and grab your slice of the post secondary pie.

Do what you love and you’ll never have to work a day in your life. You have

we are all relatives.”

So be kind to each other and help each other because it’s the right thing to do.

University isn’t for everyone. There is a severe shortage of skilled tradespeople in Saskatchewan. If you ever dreamed of being a carpenter, millwright, plumber, iron worker or electrician go for it you can make some good money. Consider taking a course at a SIAST campus.

Maybe you want to be a chef? There are wonderful culinary schools all over the world. Imagine travelling to Paris or Moose Jaw. The world is your prairie oyster.

Cooking not your cup of tea? Maybe you love to mess around with computers – you could be the next Steve Jobs (inventor of the Apple computer). Whatever you choose, do your best and enjoy.

Congratulations to all the graduates. Grab your sun glasses because your future is bright.

Keep your letters and emails coming.

Send your questions or comments to: Sandee Sez c/o Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 ST Main Saskatoon, S7K 3M4 or email sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com

If you ever dreamed of being a carpenter, millwright, plumber, iron worker or electrician go for it ...

actions and make the most of every choice you make.

The future offers a blank canvas for you to paint your own future. Embrace the past, be grateful for it, learn from it and move on.

Today, close to ten per cent of the total student body at the University of Saskatchewan is Aboriginal.

the gift of time. Use it to do what you love. Believe anything is possible and then work like hell to make it happen.

An old Cree proverb says, “Realize that we as human beings have been put on this Earth for only a short time and that we must use this time to gain wisdom, knowledge, respect and the understanding for all human beings since



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Conference brought together Native scholars from across North America

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

The Native American Indigenous Scholars Association (NAISA) had its first Canadian conference in June, hosted in Saskatoon by the University of Saskatchewan's Native Studies Department.

Dr. Rob Innes from Cowessess First Nation, chair of the organizing committee and a member of the Native Studies Department, explained that the U of S has been heavily involved in NAISA almost since it began.

"NAISA started officially five years ago but there were two earlier meetings — Oklahoma and Georgia — which were basically to find out if people were interested."

Because he attended those earlier meetings, when the first executive elections were held he found himself on the NAISA council for a year term.

"Since then the U of S has been heavily involved in NAISA, with a high participation rate, usually one of the highest representations in NAISA, sometimes with the most participants in the conference — so the U of S gained a reputation as a supporter of NAISA."

While the conference has previously been held in the U.S.A., when returning from the 2010 Tucson, Arizona conference, Innes thought the U of S could pull off hosting.

"We put in an application for proposal to host and it was accepted — so we have been organizing for two-and-a-half years, putting it together."



ROB INNESS

The association boasts members from around the world, from 240 members five years ago to over 1,000 members currently. The attendance here was no different, with panels and visiting scholars from Europe, New Zealand, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The international community loved the location, despite cooler weather for mid-June (a heat-wave arrived the following week). They were blown away by the beautiful campus beside the riverbank, and overall hospitality.

"This year we had the highest number of people to apply," Innes noted. Close to 1,000 abstracts were submitted with a 25 per cent rejection rate due to space constraint.

"We would have had between 900 and 1,100 attendants but there were a number of cancellations due to circumstantial and individual difficulties."

Close to 100 people from Saskatchewan were slotted as panelists — three days of sessions, with as many as 20 occurring during



Three of the founders of Idle No More presented at NAISA and afterwards accommodated people from around the world who wanted pictures taken with them. These folks are from Scandinavia.

(Photo by Marcel Petit)

any timeslot — but there were about 860 other presenters from places like Taiwan, Sweden and the rest of Europe, the US, and New Zealand/Australia.

"I heard so many good things about the sessions, people were really happy with the whole conference. And we were pretty happy too."

Ten to 15 people ran the organizing committee, including: Innes, Winona Wheeler, Denise Fuchs, Robert Henry, Joan Greyeyes, Deborah Lee, Michelle Garvin, Ron Laliberte, Kathleen Makela, Wilna Masuskapoe, Signa Daum Shanks, Priscilla Settee, Nancy Van Styvendale, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, Carrie Gates, David Brown, and Allison Piché.

"There were also about 70 volunteers during the conference — it was quite a task to organize and coordinate."

This conference featured a number of receptions, which hadn't been done at previous conferences. Not only large ones, such as the Sheraton on Thursday, but smaller ones like the Kimiwan launch at the Woods, or events in the Grad Commons lounge.

"That took a lot of work to coordinate and organize but it seemed like it paid off," Innes said. "At the U of S it made a lot of sense because there are not necessarily a lot of attractions nearby to mingle at (the last conference was held at a casino, for example) — but it created a sense of community, an opportunity to visit and network. It breaks it down a little, makes it more intimate."

One of the best attended events was the "Idle No More" panel, with several founding members of the grassroots initiative: Alex Wilson, Erica Lee, Sylvia McAdam, and Sheelagh McLean. The panelists, who received a standing ovation, discussed the worldwide movement that will continue to bring environmental, democratic, and social justice issues to the foreground during this year's "Sovereignty Summer," encouraging

individual communities to take action for change, challenge colonialism and environmental destruction, and cause electoral changes.

"We knew that it was going to be a heavy draw and put it in (the big theatre) for that reason, that one really without a doubt was

He added that NAISA allows for regional and topical associations to form, as people with similar interests can form groups and even begin other conferences that are focused on those interests.

"Here, what it really allowed us to do was to really showcase to the world what the U of S has in terms of Aboriginal scholarship and research, we are clearly a leader internationally and I think NAISA showed that to our international audience," he noted.

"Locally it also gave the Department of Native Studies, the official host, the chance to showcase to the university and the students what we are all about. Sometimes people think Native Studies is about history or dreamcatchers, it's not just a department, but also an approach to do research that will improve Native people's lives, not just in this department but across campus...a lot of people do it but don't even know it."

While bringing almost 1,000 people to campus in June was no small feat, Innes adds the conference has brought positive attention to the U of S overall.

"A lot of people comment about what they see as a high level of Aboriginal presence on campus. At the opening ceremonies, the University president and various politicians gave welcomes, and they were amazed to hear what some of those speakers had to say about Aboriginal partnerships and realities in the city," said Innes. The next NAISA conference will be held in Austin, Texas in 2014.

an important session," Innes noted.

"But there were a number of panels that drew media attention, for example the Brazeau/Trudeau fight paper and panel. There were just so many, 167 panels in three days. It's hard to say 'this one was a good one' because they were all good."

WANTED WEBSITE EDITOR

Eagle Feather NEWS

Eagle Feather News is redesigning its website to be a regular online news source for Saskatchewan's First Nations and Métis communities. As website editor, you will be responsible to update the website content regularly, attend media events and write news stories for the on-line edition.

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The contract is 10 hours per week. As well, you can access additional revenue opportunities through sales and feature story writing for the newspaper edition.

If you are interested in this position, please send your resume or inquiries to: JohnL@eaglefeathernews.com.

We are accepting applications until July 31, interviews will be held in August and the position starts September 1, 2013

Halfbreed Ball's celebration of Métis culture will be tough to top

By **Andréa Ledding**
For **Eagle Feather News**

A few hundred luckier attendees of the 2013 NAISA Conference were able to snag tickets for a once-in-a-lifetime experience: the "Halfbreed Ball" — a ten course meal of local and traditional Métis fare prepared by Maria Campbell and her hard-working crew of cooks, artists, and servers — interspersed with historical fashion shows, storytelling, poetry, music, and dancing.

Courses included moose nose, muskrat and beaver patés, bison roast, tourtières, rabbit stew, traditional greens, fiddleheads, berry sorbets and ices, and pies. Each table was decorated with local wildplants gathered from the land that morning, and returned to the land the next day. And every bite of the mouth-watering food was prepared with love and care by a handful of chefs used to feasting their families and friends.

"I kept thinking I couldn't eat another bite, and then the next course would come out and I couldn't say no — the food was incredible," said Kristina Fagan-Bidwell, Associate Dean of Aboriginal Affairs at the University of Saskatchewan.

The food was all locally sourced and organized by Campbell, and freshly prepared by a dedicated volunteer staff of culinary experts under her direction, along with her daughters who also assisted. Other cooks working with Maria included Rose Richardson of Green Lake — who along with her partner Ric, hand-picked all the berries used in the pies, as one example of community contribution — and Christi Belcourt, whose renowned artwork graced the walls along with work by Sherry Farrell Racette, while her ladle danced in the kitchen.

Brenda Macdougall, a scholar currently based in Ottawa, was another woman who wielded utensils in the kitchen but also walked the runways for the fashion show, like many of the other multi-tasking volunteers who drove or flew in to Saskatoon not only for the

NAISA event but also to assist in the gala evening. The final event of the multi-day conference was the "talk of the town" for many delegates from as far away as Europe or New Zealand, as well as many locals and (localish) North Americans.

The versatility, creativity, and endurance of the Métis nation, that same zeal and energy that was harnessed to help build the vast country of Canada, was very evident over the many days of feast preparation — some dedicated chefs even spent the night in the hosting church building, St. Paul's United in Sutherland, to ensure nothing got burnt — but all that work paid off.

"This was amazing, completely amazing, from start to finish," noted attendant Keavy Martin, a professor from Edmonton. "I can't wait to start dancing."

Others were quick to add that they had never experienced anything like it, and what a gift it had been to really learn more about the Métis culture in all aspects over the course of the evening.

Farrell Racette organized a fashion show extravaganza which featured a survey of Métis clothing from many eras, 1600s to contemporary times, along with an accompaniment of commentary and storytelling read by Farrell Racette and Karon Shmon of Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI). The pieces, on loan from private collections, Manitoba museums, and GDI, were modelled by some of the many volunteers who also doubled as servers, dancers, and food prep workers, walking around the tables in the packed room so that everyone could admire the details of each piece.

The period costumes had been largely created and hand-beaded by both Farrell Racette, and another master seamstress, Jocelyne Pambrun, from Winnipeg. Many costumes were the backdrop for an historical moment or vignette described by the narrators from the podium, to help give a general overview of the rich Métis history over the centuries.

Music — traditional, contemporary, and classical — was provided by young



Joe Naytowhow and his dance parnter join Yvonne Chartrand and Krystle Pederson to share a laugh backstage. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

champion fiddler Rajan Dornan-Anderson, accompanied by his mother Kim Anderson on keyboards. Dancing was provided not only by Raj himself, while fiddling, but by most of the servers at one point or another, although featured dances were also demonstrated by others such as the talented young Modeste Mckenzie, the nimble Joseph Naytowhow, and professional dancer and instructor Yvonne Chartrand of the "V'ni Dansi" company based in Vancouver.

Occasionally a guest or two was pulled up to join in the fun, and near the end, Donny Parenteau performed a few tunes which had all the jiggers in the house showing off their fanciest footwork.

After all the courses had been cleared by the hard-working efficient — and fast-dancing — servers, and an honour song was shared which everyone joined in on,

guests then made their way to the dance room next door and tore up the floors to the musical stylings of Métis master musician Donny Parenteau and his band.

Then as the guests departed, take-down began, as the site of the HalfBreed Ball was restored to a church hall once again. Long past midnight, all the hard-working Cinderellas and Cinderfellas of the Métis nation tucked themselves in for a well-deserved rest, leaving their still-smoking moccasins to cool off until the next event.

"I've never seen anything like it at any of the other NAISA conferences," noted one attendant, who preferred to be quoted anonymously. "And I honestly don't think anyone will ever top it, but that is the Métis for you."

When they work together, they can't be beat.



Modeste Wakiza Dyami Mckenzie and Maria Campbell backstage before the big show. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Jazz Rae Goldstack has found her niche in the Professional Cooking Program at SIAST. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Maestro in the kitchen making up for lost time

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Jazz Rae Goldstack was the recipient this year of the SIAST Achievement Award. She is a maestro in the kitchen and has found her groove, thanks to the women in her life, in the Professional Cooking Program at SIAST Kelsey Campus.

"After high school I spent four years figuring out what I wanted for my career. I moved from Alberta to Saskatoon two years ago to restart my life and my girlfriend suggested that I was an amazing cook. This talent stems from skills my mom had passed on to me years ago," said Goldstack.

Jazz used the Summer Transition Support Program to get ready for school and then hit the ground running. She excelled in the program, aced her job apprenticing at the Radisson Hotel in Saskatoon and also did very well in the Skills Canada Competition. She sees the Culinary Arts Program in her future at SIAST but first she has to apprentice at the Radisson.

"I like to work in the hotel area for experience under well trained chefs and eventually further my education and secure my CCC or CMC," added Goldstack.

Goldstack was impressed with the instruc-

tors in her program and found them to all be good people, but had a bit of trouble with the bake shop part of her course.

"I get energized in the kitchen and really get into cooking. Eight hours just flies by. However, when I get baking, the technical almost scientific part of it frustrates me because if you make a mistake, you have to start over," she added.

The only regret about her career journey that Jazz has is the time she took off after school.

"If I did this right after high school, I could have my journey person status already," she adds. "I really enjoy SIAST. I like using the library and I have also used Learning Services for help with math. I had a tutor that is ultra friendly and really makes sure she explains things to me in a way that I understand.

"With those supports and encouragement of my fiancée Nicole, school has been a great experience."

And it seems that her chosen career in cooking has become really satisfying.

"I wanted something I would enjoy every day, something I am good at and something that is fun and challenging at the same time. I have found it."

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at Friendship Park.**

SIIT holds graduation ceremonies in Saskatoon

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

About 200 graduates packed into Prairieland Park in Saskatoon on June 20 for the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies convocation ceremonies.

Graduates in programs such as business administration, childcare and carpentry accepted their diplomas and will soon head out into the workforce.

Chief Darcy Bear of the Whitecap Dakota First Nation, who was one of the keynote speakers, says the graduates should be proud that they have completed their education and can now become part of Saskatchewan's growing economy.

"And if you look at the demograph-

ics across Canada, we have an aging population, all the baby boomers are retiring and there is going to be lots of opportunities, lots of demand for skilled human resources," he says.

"And this is why you are getting your education, to be part of that opportunity, to be part of the Saskatchewan advantage."

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation Vice-Chief Simon Bird, also one of the featured speakers, says Indigenous leaders have long fought for investments in education and today's graduates are seeing the benefits of this.

"Our leadership that is out there, you should be very proud because we are developing a workforce," he says. "And that's something that our leadership up here is constantly saying. We are talking about this education boom, this economic boom, well this is our answer right here."

Bird adds the students should never forget education is a treaty right.

"A treaty right to an education is a powerful tool to help our people to succeed, to achieve goals and be strong nations," he says.

This is also the first year of the Randell Morris legacy scholarship. The provincial government has committed \$30,000 for five years to the scholarship, which is split equally between 15 students at \$2,000 apiece. In order to qualify for the scholarship, students must come from a single parent household and be of Aboriginal ancestry.

Randell Morris joined SIIT in 1992 and became president in 2008. He worked with the provincial government to expand a number of programs including the construction careers projects and aircraft maintenance engineering. Morris passed



Samantha Isaac receives the Randell Morris Legacy Scholarship from Minister of Advanced Education Don Morgan.

away in October 2012.

This year's Randell Morris scholarship recipients are Amy Derocher, Clarissa Ballantyne, Laurie McAdam, Lorraine Fiddler, Marco Theriault and Rae Genereaux from the Prince Albert campus; Amanda Nabess, Charity Mondair, Fran Oksasikewiyin, Heather Cameron, Nadia Nichol, Samantha Issac, Ty Dewalt and Wendy Paddy from Saskatoon campus and Candace Cochrane from the Regina campus.

Other keynote speakers at the graduation ceremony included Saskatchewan Minister of Advanced Education Don Morgan and Legislative Secretary for First Nations Engagement Rob Norris.

SIIT has about 2,200 students enrolled in various programs across the province.

Other programs the institution offers include information technology, accounting, health care aide, educational assistant, practical nurse and welding.



The late Randell Morris has been honoured with a scholarship by the Province of Saskatchewan.



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Mary Swiftwolfe
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Find out how you can catch your career dream at goSIIT.com.
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Sod turned for Student Centre at U of S

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Jean Oakes and Ilene Busch-Vishniac stood together on National Aboriginal Day and in unison drove a spade into the ground, officially starting the construction of the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.

"We are very pleased to see this project become reality," said Irene Oakes. "My late father, Gordon Oakes, lived and believed in the power and strength of ceremony and prayer. Our Cree ceremonies have guided and supported the vision of this symbolic project."

"Today is a very important milestone for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students on campus as this building is meant for everyone."

The centre, designed by world-renowned architect Douglas Cardinal, will be an inclusive space that will house the Aboriginal Students' Centre, Indigenous Students' Council and will have spaces for ceremony and learning. Its location between the Arts Building and the Murray Building make it central to campus.

"I look forward to seeing the new centre rise in the core of our campus on Treaty 6 land," said Ilene Busch-Vishniac, U of S president and chair of the project's steering committee.

"I know this centre will become a symbol of student support, success, learning and cultural understanding. The centre is intended to be so much more than just a building."

As part of the planning and in preparation for the ground-breaking, the president took part in a

sweat lodge and tobacco ceremony to honour the traditions and recognize Aboriginal Peoples' important role on campus.

Busch-Vishniac said she is confident that the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will help Aboriginal students feel supported at the U of S as they pursue their educational and personal goals. More than 1,700 students at the U of S have voluntarily self-declared themselves as Aboriginal.

"The U of S Students' Union (USSU) has one of the largest First Nations and Métis memberships of all student unions in Canada and we take pride in that," said Max FineDay, USSU president who is also a member of the steering committee.

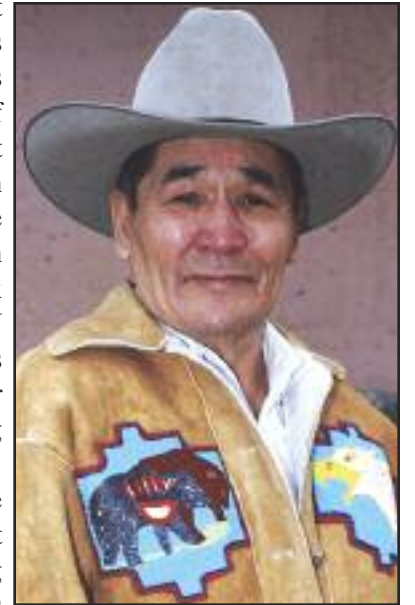
"This centre is a great first step in showing First Nations and Métis students that they are valued and recognized at our university."

Seventeen elm trees will be removed to make room for the centre, and the wood from the trees will be incorporated into the design of the building.



University of Saskatchewan President Ilene Busch-Vishniac and Jean Oakes cut ground for the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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Genes, generations, curses and success

John L: Ten years ago there were only a dozen Aboriginal Grade 12 graduates in Saskatoon, but last month there were over 120. According to a Joint Task Force report released in April, education rates are improving but there is work to be done if First Nation and Métis youth are to be full participants in the economy.

Here to discuss this trend is our very own Dirk Dashing. So, Dirk, did anything strike you as important in the Task Force's Report?

Dirk: As a matter of fact, yes. To quote the authors, "chronic toxic stress associated with childhood abuse and neglect has a negative impact on brain development in young children."

John L: That makes sense. Children need safe, secure and loving environments to develop. If Mom and Dad are always fighting, drinking and the fridge is empty, kids learn the world is a dark, lonely and scary place.

Dirk: Exactly. Instead of dreaming and exploring, the focus is on survival and wondering if there's enough milk for the cornflakes or if Daddy is going to mean on mommy. If they are always stressed they learn the wrong things and they carry those coping skills into adulthood. If there is one thing we do not need are more adult hoods.

John L: So what is the solution?

Dirk: The Joint Task force made some fanasticular recommendations which will help us all get the desired results. But I find interesting the idea from other sources that we can escape our generational curse of poverty and dysfunction.

John L: I am intrigued.

Dirk: You are familiar with the idea that our genes help determine our

physical make-up, right? But did you know that our genes influence our thinking, attitude and even our lifestyle? For instance, if one of your parents was an alcoholic then your chances are ten times greater that you will become one too.

John L: Wait. Alcoholism might be genetic, but I can just see some yahoo in court pleading, "Your Honour, it's my genes fault I went into a homicidal rage."

Dirk: What the yahoo would be ignoring is the fact we can turn some genes on and others off, just like eating some foods will kick on the genes for "let's make a fat ass."

So just because Mom was

depressed or Grandpa an angry lunatic does not mean you have to turn out that way.

John L: I think you are wandering into some tricky territory here, Dirk. What's your point?

Dirk: Just because a gene has been passed down it is not necessary for that gene to be activated. Some genes can be

activated or de-activated by our environment, by our experiences, and by our decisions.

John L: I cannot see myself saying to the single mom that all she has to do for her child to succeed in school is make the right choices when Daddy has bugged off with the family allowance.

Dirk: I hear you. That's why those in power have to create the conditions necessary for our single moms to make the healthier choices easier. Our deadbeat dads got to step up too. And there is a payoff. For instance, a warden in the 1800's studied the ancestry of a family with six men in

the same prison. They found one man, a hundred years earlier who was a drunkard, and violent. From that one ancestor they found 1,200 descendants. John, 310 were homeless, 180 were alcoholics, 160 were drug addicts, 150 were criminals, and seven committed murder.

On the other hand he looked at the ancestry of a successful man around the same time. He found one man, hundreds of years prior who made a series of decisions to succeed. His legacy? Among his 1,400 descendents were 13 college presidents, 66 professors, 100 lawyers, 85 authors, 66 doctors, and 80 politicians.

John L: That's interesting.

Dirk: The bottom line, John: In the background of all the First Nation and Métis graduates this year, someone, somewhere made a series of decisions to break with the legacy started by the residential schools. Certain genes for success have been activated. I think that's awesome.

Dirk says, Time is what keeps everything from happening at once.



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Some more great advice for grads to ignore

Dear Graduates, you're graduating and the best part of graduating is all the free, unsolicited advice you'll be getting! Oh so much advice that you'll never follow – here's some more to ignore!

My first bit of advice: for the love of God, don't take selfies. (To the uninitiated, this is a picture you take of yourself, by yourself, usually facing a dirty bathroom mirror.)

First of all, nobody believes you look that good in real life because angles can be manipulated such that the very laws of physics are altered.

Second, if these pictures leave your phone – you have no idea where they are going. I have a picture of a hot, shirtless man on my phone. I don't know who he is. A friend sent the picture to me.

I've kept it and I employ it for my own nefarious purposes – get your mind out of the gutter – I send it to guys who ask me for “nekkid pics.”

Enjoy some rock hard dude, pervo. Finally, taking selfies is addictive and soon you'll find yourself contorting your body into unnatural positions – resulting in future chiropractic appointments.

Speaking of addiction, avoid it. When my generation was released unto the world, we were aware that alcoholism could make your life hellish or at least uncomfortable during family get-togethers when a relative would tell the same story over and over again like an iPod set on repeat.

Your generation may not be as haunted by addiction as mine was. But still, let me pass on my paralyzing fear to you.

Movies tell us that addiction is taking one hit or drinking one drink and then you're done for – ending up in some seedy hotel room having a pillow fight with David Hasselhoff.

But addiction is rarely that cut and dried; it sneaks up on you. It's like this – you know how you like to pick up an injured

person's crutches and hop around like an idiot?

Doing that isn't gonna hurt you – if you do it once in a while. But if you keep hopping around on those crutches, after a few years, your spine and muscles will fuse together until you're bent and broken.



Also, addiction is manifested in your looks and behind your back, people will call you: “bloaty drunk-face,” or “Rudolph the red-nosed drunk.” And yes, that is the most superficial rationale for a healthy lifestyle ever recorded. You're welcome.

Now, I'm not one to make blanket generalizations but everyone that you have known, everyone that you will know and everyone that you currently know – is batsh*t crazy.

People sculpt statues from used gum, teach their pet pythons how to make microwave popcorn, or watch “Two and ½ Men”...by choice!

The best you can do is hang out with the brand of insanity that complements yours.

Here's some more helpful

advice. One of the best ways to learn new skills and gain experience is by volunteering for special events.

Most events, once they get started, are like gypsy caravans careening through a crowded mall being driven by a drunk chimp. Therefore, volunteers are always appreciated.

Sure the beleaguered organizers won't remember your name, face or that you even existed after the event's wrapped, but during that event, they will love you better than their own mother “especially since that punk didn't even show up for her shift!”

Also there's always stuff that gets “left behind.” For instance, as I type this, I'm dressed entirely from clothes forgotten at a conference. (FYI: One of the owner's was definitely a smoker.)

This is my advice and chances are that you've already forgotten it – and if you ask me next week, I'll have probably forgotten it too.

The important thing is, live your life so that you can look in the mirror with pride, and, hopefully, WITHOUT a camera-phone in your hand.



Inroads to Agriculture Institute
#325-2555 Grasswood Road East
Saskatoon, SK S7T 0K1
Ph: (306) 979-8055 ext. 452 or 453

Inroads to Agriculture Institute (IAI) is funded by the Federal Skills and Partnership Fund and Gov of Sask and is geared to assist Aboriginal people to be trained and employed within the Agriculture Industry. Currently IAI is in partnership with SIIT-Welding, BATC-1A Driver Training, TATC-Tri-Trades, and various other training providers and employers, to offer 1A Driver Training, Direct to Work and Apprenticeship opportunities. We have training programs being offered now and upcoming for fall 2013.

IAI Continuous Intakes projects until March 2014

Direct to Work: IAI can provide supports to individuals seeking employment in the Agriculture Industry or Agri-Related Industry who require work gear, tools, and transportation to a work site, safety tickets and a wage subsidy to employers.

Apprenticeship: IAI will pay the tuition costs and provide a training allowance for any level of Apprenticeship training for those individuals that are employed within an Agriculture related industry.

1A Driver Training: IAI will provide tuition costs and living allowance during training for class 1A trainees. Once employed trainees will receive work boots and gloves. Contact IAI staff for more information; Murall Bird @ 306.979.8055 ext 453 or mbird@inroadstoagriculture.com or Sheila Gordon @ 306.979.8055 ext 452 or sgordon@inroadstoagriculture.com.

IAI Partnership Projects Fall 2013

Touchwood Agency Tribal Council (TATC): Inroads to Agriculture is working in partnership with TATC and Carleton Trail College to offer 12 seats for the 22 week SIAT Tri-trades program in the TATC area in September 2013. The Tri-Trades program prepares graduates for entry level positions to service and repair vehicles, agricultural and heavy equipment. **Start Date September 16, 2013-February 14, 2014. Minimum grade 10 or Special Admissions. Class 5 driver license preferred. Contact Crystal Longman at TATC LFD 306.835.2937.**

SIIT Welding: IAI has partnered with SIIT to purchase seats for 12 dedicated and determined individuals in the communities of Saskatoon, North Battleford and Regina for fall 2013. Please contact SIIT for the 22 week Welding program start dates at these locations. Individuals must be first accepted by SIIT and then IAI is prepared to cover the cost of tuition, materials and living allowance during the duration of training. **Minimum grade 10 and class 5 preferred. Contact SIIT @ 306.244.4460**

Battleford Agency Tribal Council (BATC): Inroads and BATC will be partnering to deliver Class 1A Driver training to 25 individuals in the BATC area starting September 2013. The program is 4 weeks in duration and individuals need to have a clean Driver's Abstract and CPIC along with the commitment to complete a 4 week training program and determination to find long term employment once completed. **Contact Lee Gardiply at BATC 306.446.8218 for further information.**



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Tribe trumps technology

The technology today is mesmerizing. In my lifetime we have gone from the typewriter to the tablet in what seems an incredibly short time. I couldn't have imagined being able to acquire an entire book in less than a minute.

But I do when I put another one on my Kindle to read when I travel. We even buy telephones in order to read. That's how much it's changed.

I watch young people. They are virtual wizards with computers and gadgets. Six-year-olds know more far about technology than I do and you can't go anywhere nowadays without seeing people connected by some sort of gadget. The days of robots and artificial intelligence can't be that far away. You get the idea that anybody can build anything to accomplish anything at any time.

There's so much techno stuff around that most of it I haven't even heard of or seen. I thought we were doing great when my wife got a new cell phone that she could send text messages with. But the sheer magnitude of technological marvels is mind boggling. It seems that every week I see another adapted, faster, bolder way of doing things. Science just keeps inventing.

But I've discovered that the one thing they can't do is build a tribe. As much as science is able to accomplish, they can't do that. They can't bring people together in a common purpose. They can't tie people together in emotion, in spirit, in faith that we were created to be in community – or the desire to be there. They can't create harmony or cooperation.

That takes a different kind of technology. To bring complete strangers together in unity, equality, harmony and purpose takes a technology of the heart. We watched it happen recently. We were part of it and it changed us and made us more. We were honored by it. We came away from that experience understanding completely that some things will always require human spirit to accomplish.

We were part of a writers group I was hosting. It was held on the campus of Royal Roads University in Victoria. The writers who registered were all 30 years old and older and were compelled to attend because of a love of words. We all carried the desire to become better writers. We all shared a dream and a yearning. When we met for the first time

we could feel that. We sensed it in the people in that circle.

Over the course of five days, we focused only on that energy. We used it to bring us closer together. Nothing else mattered but paying attention to the flow of it, to sharing it, to allowing it to enter us. What

happened was magical. We became a tribe of people bound by something bigger than ourselves. We were part of one singular creative energy and it caused us to feel connected in a way none of us expected.

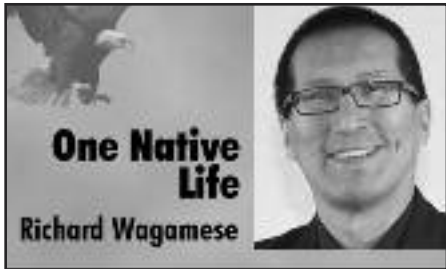
I've been leading writing workshops, seminars and classes for a few years and I have experience leading other groups. But this was the first time that I actually felt led, borne forward, perhaps. There was something far more powerful than my limited understanding guiding us together as we shared.

We became bound by the desire to be heard. We grew closer because each of us carried a story and we wanted that story to be recognized and validated. We wanted our voice to matter. We wanted to be included. We wanted to be part of something. That's a desire as old as our species itself. Sometimes in our busy technology-driven lives, we forget that.

One woman shared a story about how her love of writing had been shamed by the nuns at a residential school. She spoke through tears of how that had hurt her and crippled her ability to trust herself with the words she felt inside of her. Another woman shared her trouble with her academic career and how it had robbed her of her ability to express herself freely. She let the anger over that out in the group.

One by one we shared human moments. One by one we brought ourselves closer to the others. One by one we let ourselves be completely human. We let ourselves be seen, warts and all and felt accepted. We were Ojibway, Cree, Irish, Métis, Scot and French. We were people. We were brothers and sisters. We were equals.

That's how you build a tribe. You don't need to be bound by race or culture. You don't even have to have known each other before. What matters is equality. What matters is recognizing that we all carry the same yearnings, desires, wishes. You build a tribe by heart – the only technology capable of changing the world.



One Native Life
Richard Wagamese

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Aboriginal Engagement

Q. Why is the Nuclear Waste Management Organization working to engage Aboriginal peoples at this early point in the siting process?

A. Listening to and addressing the interests and concerns of Aboriginal peoples are integral to the development and implementation of Canada's plan for the long-term management of used nuclear fuel. Since its inception, the NWMO has been committed to the meaningful involvement of Aboriginal peoples in all aspects of its planning. One thing we were told early on by Aboriginal peoples was that we should engage with them from the very beginning and not wait until it was time to make decisions. The NWMO's site selection process, initiated in May 2010, is intended to identify an informed and willing community to host a safe and secure deep geological repository for the long-term management of Canada's used nuclear fuel. The process the NWMO is following commits us to involving surrounding communities, regions and other jurisdictional levels, including First Nations, Métis and Inuit who might be potentially affected by the project.

Our goal in working together with potentially affected Aboriginal communities is to foster meaningful involvement and informed decision-making. We believe that this collaboration can succeed only if it is built on a foundation of trust, knowledge and vision. The long-term well-being of the community is of primary importance.

The NWMO acknowledges, respects and honours that Aboriginal peoples have a unique status and have rights as recognized by section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982). We are committed to respecting the Aboriginal rights and treaties of Aboriginal peoples potentially affected by our work.

Q. How has the NWMO been engaging Aboriginal communities and organizations in its work?

A. Following our establishment under the Nuclear Fuel Waste Act of 2002, the NWMO undertook a three-year national dialogue and study to evaluate options and recommend a management approach for used nuclear fuel. Among the Canadians participating in the dialogue were 2,500 Aboriginal people. We have worked with communities, provincial and national organizations, and Elders to develop long-term engagement and dialogue processes that respect traditional Aboriginal practices, culture, protocols and approaches to decision-making.

The NWMO has had an Elders Forum in place since 2005. The Elders Forum, now called the Council of Elders, includes Elders from many parts of the country who have assisted in the development of the NWMO's Aboriginal Policy, our engagement approach with Aboriginal communities, and our approach to important matters such as Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge and how it should be applied to the project.

We have also made sure Aboriginal communities are invited to open houses held in neighbouring communities involved in the NWMO's Learn More process. This year we continue to reach out to local Aboriginal communities and organizations, and ensure communities have resources to engage with us. This engagement will provide us with the opportunity to hear directly from those who might be affected, increase our understanding of the concerns expressed, and answer questions that are raised.

As well, the NWMO has established agreements with many Aboriginal organizations to learn from one another and to support Aboriginal involvement in the site selection process.

Q. Are any Aboriginal communities involved in the site selection process?

A. Yes. Currently, there are two Aboriginal communities in Saskatchewan that have indicated they want to learn more about the NWMO site selection process and Canada's plan for the safe, long-term storage of used nuclear fuel. The two communities are English River First Nation and the Northern Village of Pinehouse.

Q. What are some of the benefits of working together?

A. Elders have told us of the genius and wisdom that reside in Indigenous peoples and have stressed the importance of working together. NWMO specialists have already incorporated knowledge derived from looking at how Nature herself protects the environment and us from potentially dangerous substances. Together, we have an opportunity to set new standards in Indigenous-Corporate relations.

In addition, this is a major national infrastructure project that will bring with it the opportunity for large job creation, training and economic development for a host community and its neighbours.

Moving Forward Together: Overview of Canada's Plan for the Long-Term Management of Used Nuclear Fuel is available online in nine different Aboriginal languages at www.nwmo.ca/sitingprocess_overview1.

Various videos on the NWMO and Adaptive Phased Management are available in the nine Aboriginal languages at www.nwmo.ca/aboriginal_dvds.



Bob Watts is the Director of Aboriginal Community Relations at the Nuclear Waste Management Organization. He has worked on a broad range of Aboriginal issues at the regional and national levels for many years, including working to establish the historic Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mr. Watts is also an adjunct professor at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

"Ask the NWMO" is an advertising feature published regularly in this and other community newspapers to respond to readers' questions about Canada's plan for managing used nuclear fuel over the long term and its implementation. The Nuclear Waste Management Organization welcomes your questions. Please forward your questions to askthenwmo@nwmo.ca.



www.nwmo.ca

Outstanding entertainment lineup for Summer Games

The 2013 Saskatchewan First Nations Summer Games will soon be underway in Prince Albert, Muskoday and Birch Hills.

From July 15-19, coaches, chaperones, families and spectators will gather to cheer on thousands of young athletes from around the province, competing in events like canoeing, archery, golf, softball, soccer and athletics.

"We already broke a record. I believe we have the most registered athletes ever, throughout the history of the summer games ... 3,900," said Danny Mirasty, the Special Events Coordinator.

In addition to the sporting events, the Summer Games Committee has invited a roster of incredible artists and entertainers to showcase some of the talent in Indian country.

At the opening ceremonies on July 16, expect to see stars like: Eekwol, Constant Reminder, Black Rain, and Redd Nation and the headliner Crystal Shawanda. The opening ceremonies will be from 7 - 10:45 p.m. at the Max Clunie Field, Prime Minister's Park, behind the Art Hauser Centre in Prince Albert.

On the following two days, July 17-18, you will find another group of fantastic performers in the cultural village, at Kinsmen Park in Prince Albert, from 1 - 8 p.m. each day.

"The first hour and fifteen minutes we're going to be doing traditional stuff like powwow music and powwow dancers, jigging and square dancing. Howard Walker is going to MC the traditional part of the showcase," said Mirasty.

"From 1 - 2:30 we're just going to have traditional stuff. First we're going to have interaction with the crowd - crowd participation like a rounddance.

"Then Howard Walker is going to

explain the drum and what it means, and he'll explain about the games, like the spirituality of the games, as well as information about powwow - that kind of traditional stuff.

"I think he's also going to talk about the jigging and square dancing - how they originated," said Mirasty.

"After that, Larissa Burnouf and Cal 'Crazy Legz' Arcand will MC for the performers and bands the rest of the day. We have all original performers, they're all youth and family-oriented. And we're showcasing a majority of performers from Muskoday because they're the host community," said Mirasty.

Entertainers from 2:30 - 8 on July 17-18 include Councilor Dolores Sand, Ironswing Drummers from Muskoday, Turgeon Troupers from Turgeon School, New Dawn Drum Group

from Lac la Ronge, Moise Canada Memorial Square Dancers from Peter Ballantyne, Blue Thunder Square Dancers

from Muskoday, Northern Prairie Dancers from St. Mary High School in PA, Harvey Gardipy from Beardy's & Okemasis, LJ Tyson from Big River First Nation,

Kolton Mike from Beardy's & Okemasis, Sheritta Kahpeaysewat from Moosomin, Knight Switch from Muskody, Blu from

Whitefish, Leonard Adam & Sons from Fond du Lac, Eekwol from Muskoday, Chester Knight & the Wind from Muskoday, and Constant Reminder from James Smith.

Also in the cultural village, at Kinsmen Park in P.A., expect to find six teepees with artists who will be teaching the public about

First Nations activities and traditions. In teepee #1, Adam Charles will be teaching about hides, in teepee #2, Robin Longjohn will be teaching drum-making, in teepee #3, Sherri Smith will be teaching Indian jewelry making, in teepee #4 Gabriel Ermine will be teaching moccasin-making, in teepee #5 Tim Bear will be teaching about traps, furs & preparation, and in teepee #6, Mrs. Adam Charles will be teaching traditional cooking.

There will also be artisan's tables you can book at the cultural village, near the amphitheater from 1:00 - 8 p.m. for July 17-18.

And don't forget to take in the Mosaic Trade Show at the Art Hauser Center July 17-18 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. With over 20 booths, participants can learn about the many opportunities they have after completing high school.

Mirasty is confident the games will be a memorable success.

"I have a hundred percent faith in our committee. Everyone knows what's happening."

You can find information booklets all over Prince Albert and in the North, which provide event maps so you can easily find all the venues.

They are also looking for more volunteers. To volunteer, please call Brooke Bear at: 981-9200 or email her at: brookie_bear09@hotmail.com.

For more information on the entertainment or cultural village, please phone Danny Mirasty at: 961-1668 or email: danmirasty@hotmail.com.

If there's an artist, entertainer or event that you think should be featured in Eagle Feather News, give me a shout at:

snazzyjess@hotmail.com.

See you next month!



Lindsay 'Eekwol' Knight joins an all star lineup that will be performing at the 2013 First Nation Summer Games.






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Oakes running in honour of her murdered friend

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Laryn Oakes never considered herself pageant material. That was before the issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women affected her personally.

“In 2012, one of my close friends was found murdered in Edmonton. She would have graduated high school and had so many exciting plans for her future,” recalls Oakes. “I decided to compete in her honour and in her memory.”

Oakes, a Grade 11 student at Oskayak High School from the Nekaneet Cree Nation, competed in the Manito Ahbee princess pageant, and was crowned Miss Manito Ahbee Travelling Princess 2013, a title she holds until August.

The pageant honours the memory of missing and murdered Aboriginal women. Every four years, a family is honoured by the festival, and this year the family of Cherisse Houle is honoured. Houle went missing from Winnipeg and was found murdered in July 2009, just shy of her eighteenth birthday.

While Oakes has spoken at youth forums and other celebrations, she wanted to continue bringing attention to the serious issue of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, so she planned the first annual “Honouring Our Sisters” Awareness Run/Walk help last month at



Laryn Oakes on the far right, coordinated the first annual “Honouring our Sisters” Awareness Run/Walk at Wanuskewin to help raise funds for Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik. (Photo by Darla Read)

Wanuskewin. Proceeds from the event (around \$1,400) were given to Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik, a group that raises awareness and provides support to families whose family members are missing. Oakes is also a youth member of the organization.

“Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik was happy to partner with Ms. Oakes on the “Honouring our Sisters” Awareness Walk/Run,” says Myrna LaPlante, a member of Iskwewuk E-wichiwitochik who also has two family members missing.

“When IE has the opportunity to partner with youth,

we will seize that opportunity.”

LaPlante says any event that raises the awareness of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls is important.

“It is also important that youth participate and begin to assist and lead events on this topic. I have encouraged youth in our family to speak about our missing Aunt Emily and to participate in events such as the annual Oct. 4 walk.”

The plan is for this Run/Walk to become an annual event.

Making a difference



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Hockey mom's hard work pays off

“A lot of work.” It's the first thing that comes to mind when Karen Roy is asked what it's like to raise a hockey player.

“We used to drive an hour and a half each way just to get him to practice in Meadow Lake (from Beauval). We usually did that twice a week. And then we travelled for games on the weekend.”

The ‘him’ Roy is talking about is her son Eric, a standout fourth year defenseman with the WHL's Brandon Wheat Kings who recently attended the NHL's Entry Draft at Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.



“Back in April, the final (North American) draft rankings came out and Eric was ranked 41st. That's when he decided he wanted to go to Jersey for the draft. He said it didn't matter what number he goes overall, it just matters that he gets drafted.”

What happened next proved the old saying ‘it takes a village to raise a hockey player’ is false. It takes most of Northern Saskatchewan.

“All the different communities helped us out so we could go. Ile-la-crosse, Pinehouse, Buffalo Narrows. The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan even hosted a steak night for us.”

And their generosity was more than appreciated. Cherished even. Karen got to see her boy get picked in the fifth round, 135th overall by the Calgary Flames.

“Right after the draft Eric had to do pictures and interviews. Then we went up to Calgary's suite at the hotel and met everyone.”

“It was real fun.”

But the fact her son just got drafted into the NHL never sunk in until the next day.

“I was at the NHL store in New York trying to buy Calgary Flames stuff but they didn't have much. The guy was wondering why I wanted to get so much.”

“I told him it was because my son just got drafted by them.”

And Karen Roy knew all her hard work paid off.

Profile:

Name: Karen Roy

Son: Eric Roy.

Team: Brandon Wheat Kings

Position: Defense

Shoots: Left

1. Favourite hockey memory prior to the NHL draft:

WHL Bantam Draft. Eric went 18th overall to the Brandon Wheat Kings.

2. Favourite hockey movie:

Goon.

3. Besides Eric, who's your favourite hockey player all time?

My husband.

4. Favourite NHL team:

Calgary Flames.

5. Ever attended an NHL game?

Yes. An Oilers exhibition game in Saskatoon.

6. Any superstitions before watching Eric play?

None.

7. Favourite rink food:

Burger and Fries.

8. Best rink:

Servus Sports Center in Lloydminster

9. Favourite hobby:

Right now, a foster child who just turned three.

10. City most wants to travel to:

Calgary for a Flames game.



Beauval's Eric Roy was selected in the fifth round of the recent NHL draft.



Bill, Eric, Kelcey, Karen and Kaycee celebrate Eric's selection by the Flames.

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Canadian Heritage
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Northern youth given a chance to learn from Aboriginal golf pro

By Fraser Needham
For Eagle Feather News

Notah Begay III hopes to inspire the same love of golf in northern Saskatchewan youth that eventually led him to the PGA Tour.

Begay, the only Native American to play on the pro tour, is a four-time PGA Tour winner and also works as a golf analyst on NBC Sports and the Golf Channel.

He was in the Saskatoon area the first week of July as a special guest at the Dakota Dunes Open. The golf pro not only took part in the tournament but in a number of community events including a special Aboriginal youth golf clinic for kids from northern Saskatchewan on Saturday, July 6.

The PGA player is fully aware of some of the challenges Indigenous youth face and this is one of the reasons why he has his own foundation, which seeks to reduce childhood obesity and diabetes by assisting Native American young people to get involved in sports programming.

He says regardless of the sport a young person chooses to get involved in, it can be a positive outlet while helping many to avoid negative influences such as drugs and alcohol.

“What sport can do for people and recreational activities like that whether it’s basketball, hockey, golf, soccer – any



Carlos McKenzie of La Ronge got some tips from golf pro Notah Begay III.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

of those sports can provide a young kid who is having issues personally with a positive outlet to blow of steam, to blow

of stress and give them something positive to look forward to in their lives,” said Begay.

The golf clinic was sponsored by Cameco and included 20 kids from the Lac La Ronge Indian Band between the ages of 12 to 16.

The kids were from the communities of La Ronge and Stanley Mission.

Eric Gardiner, a teacher at Rhoda Hardlotte Memorial Keethanow School in Stanley Mission and one of the trip chaperones, says the kids don’t have much exposure to golf up in northern Saskatchewan and this was a good opportunity for them to learn.

“Most of them, this is their first time golfing or maybe one or two of them have golfed before,” he says.

Fifteen-year-old Drace Sanderson was one of the clinic participants and he says Begay helped him with learning how to grip the golf club in a better way to improve his swing.

Sanderson adds it was a big thrill to learn tips from a golf icon.

“It was really nice because you get to meet someone that you see on TV but you never get to see them before,” he says. “It’s just like there’s someone behind the screen.”

Begay missed the cut in the Dakota Dunes Open on Friday by one stroke.

Will Collins of Albuquerque, New Mexico – the same place Begay is originally from – was the eventual tournament winner.

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