

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Serving with honour and valour

Virginia Pechawis from Mistawasis First Nation is one of the oldest living First Nation women veterans in Canada. She served in the RCWAC during WWII. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield has a special place in her heart for veterans and she intends to honour each and every one that she can find in Saskatchewan.

The lieutenant-governor recently invited several veterans, military personnel and police officers who had served overseas to a ceremony in Saskatoon to person-

ally present each of them with The Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin.

The Pin symbolizes the gratitude of the Crown and the people of Saskatchewan for those who have served with honour and valour.

It is intended to be worn on civilian clothing, so people recognize those who serve when they are not in uniform.

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Neechi Gear founder Kendal Netmaker will bring home an Indspire Award to honour his company's success. - Page 6



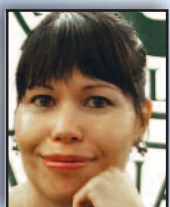
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Welcome to our
Veterans & Youth Edition

Coming In December - Newsmaker of the Year Issue

CPMA #40027204

Overwhelming display of love and sorrow

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The Walking With Our Sisters art installation is the most powerful exhibit you will see for some time. The exhibit, hosted at Wanuskewin Heritage Park, is simple. Mocassin vamps. A total of 1,808 vamps from across Canada, the United States and overseas.

And each and everyone one of them was created by a family member or friend honouring a missing or murdered Aboriginal woman.

Once you step into the gallery you feel the power. Grief and sorrow show through on many. Some are hopeful. Some are amazing in their intricacy and some are simple with pictures drawn on them. But as they lie on the red fabric beside each other, not one vamp is better than the other. They are all powerful and the vast number is overwhelming.

“There have been a variety of reactions from people who see the exhibit,” said Christi Belcourt who started this all with a Facebook invite to friends to make 600 moccasin vamps to honour missing and murdered women.

“People are generally quiet and respectful. Mostly, when people see the vamps, the sheer number of them, it hits them. The reality. You don’t have to be an indigenous person to feel that. It is an emotional reaction.”

A ceremony was held on Oct. 27 to mark the opening of the vamps to the public. A sacred fire was lit to begin preparations to honour missing and

murdered Indigenous sisters. A local group of community members have been working together for months to bring WWOS to Saskatoon.

“This commemorative art exhibit represents the lives of beautiful women who deserve to be remembered with respect and dignity,” explains local co-lead organizer Glenda Abbott.

“The vamps represent the unfinished lives of the women and girls that went missing or have been murdered.”

The process has been wrapped in ceremony and protocol. There is no videotaping or taking pictures of the exhibit. Viewers are asked to remove their shoes and walk along a winding path of red cloth, which is parallel to a grey cloth on which the vamps are placed. This is how the work is viewed and how participants will be ‘walking with our sisters’.

The exhibit also features an audio soundtrack of over 60 songs submitted by approximately 30 artists. Over 100 boxes of tissue have been donated and they will certainly be used.

“I was taught that if you were beading and not in a good mood, you were supposed to put your beading away til you felt better,” said Belcourt.

“Then I got letters with the vamps from all over saying the same thing. We impart our energy into things. And other people who see the exhibit feel that energy. When you go into the room, you feel all that energy from those vamps. You feel the love. The remembering.”



The Walking With Our Sisters exhibit has vamps all around the inside and in the centre of the room, a tepee where the vamps for the children are. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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THE NATURE OF THIS PLACE



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The national group and the local host committee got together for one final group shot in the gallery before the exhibit opened to the public.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

... one brief moment of comfort

• Continued from Page 2

One aspect that Belcourt wanted the exhibit to do was to create dialogue and bring awareness to the issue. With eight stops so far and bookings into 2019 across North America, that has certainly been accomplished.

“I already know that the amount of care and love out there for our sisters is touching everyone. This gives the families that outlet to show how much they care,” she added.

“I recognize that the grandmothers have a plan. In terms of the opportunity this is creating for dialogue is all part of it. Whatever this is going to be, it is. Our focus is always on the families.

“And if we can provide that brief moment of comfort, we have done our job.”

Volunteers are still welcome and there will be a shuttle service provided to Wanuskewin. Schedule details can be found on Facebook at “Walking with Our Sisters – Saskatoon”.

From Oct.31 to Nov.21, WWOS will be open and free for the public to attend at the Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Please visit <http://www.wanuskewin.com/> for gallery hours.

To learn more visit <http://walkingwithoursisters.ca/>, or follow Walking with Our Sisters - Saskatoon on Facebook or Twitter @WWOS Saskatoon and @WWOS1



WWOS does not take any corporate funding so they fundraise the old fashioned way. They held a blanket dance at the FSIN Powwow for them and raised almost \$2,000.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)



AFOA Canada and PotashCorp are pleased to announce the

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Hey guys, it's time to step up for our sisters

My grandfather was in the Second World War. He never talked about it. Never. As far as I knew, his experience was captured in the military portrait photo on the wall. That's all we got. I kind of figured as a kid war stories would be great to tell and hear.

And then you read about the First World War. Imagine life in the trenches surrounded by rats and water and rotting boots and humans. You see the horror in movies and can't imagine being there and living it, you just can't. And then you understand why they never talk.

Now we are much more aware of the conditions these soldiers worked under and the impact of post traumatic stress on our soldiers when they come home from working for us overseas. We ask them to do the hardest and sometimes most horrible work imaginable, then expect them to come home and get back to a regular life. You would think they would be bitter.

I recently had the chance to sit with several veterans before they were to receive their Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin. All decked out in uniform and service medals, they were an impressive bunch. All comfortable with each other, they teased and laughed and had a good time. Even when the Lieutenant-Governor was presenting them

their pins, some of the old guys were cheeky with her! Cheeky with the L-G!? Only the veterans could get away with that.

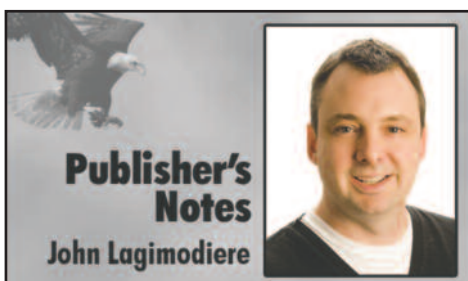
With many years passed since they served, many of these veterans now talk about the war ... or, should we say, parts of the war. Some things you just don't talk about.

But what they do talk about is being treated as equals in the military. They talk about the excellent training they received. They tell funny stories and they talk about 'young people these days'.

But you rarely hear them complain. There is no anger over what they had to do or their treatment when they returned as veterans. Mostly, they are grateful for the military experience and the skills it gave them. What perspective. We should be the ones that are grateful. Shake a soldier's hand this week.

Fire keepers needed

The Walking With Our Sisters exhibit has opened at Wanuskewin Heritage Park and it runs until Nov. 21. The exhibit is steeped in ceremony to help honour the women represented in the moccasin vamps on display. Part of the ceremoni-



al aspect is to keep a sacred fire burning 24 hours a day for the duration of the exhibit. That fire has to be tended by men.

As it is scheduled right now, Rob Innes may have to tend fire for close to a week. There is a severe lack of men volunteering even three hours to tend a fire and do their part.

It is time for men to step up and show their support for the exhibit and for women in our community. A vast majority of the missing and murdered women were killed by an Aboriginal man ... this is our problem. An Aboriginal man problem.

So, we challenge you men reading this to do your part. Stand up for our women. Stand up for your community. Stand up and show your children the right thing to do.

If you have three hours to spare, email wwossaskatoon@gmail.com they need you. It is the least you can do.

So proud

We want to send big congratulations to our columnist Winona Wheeler. Winona is the head of the Department of Native Studies at the University of

Saskatchewan and an internationally recognized academic in her field.

Her expertise and hard work has led to her being named the President of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), the premiere international and interdisciplinary professional organization for scholars, graduate students, independent researchers, and community members interested in all aspects of Indigenous Studies.

That's kind of a big deal. Fittingly she was honoured at the FSIN Powwow for her achievements. Congratulations Winona, we are so proud.

Politics

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations held elections in October. Incumbent 2nd Vice Chief Bobby Cameron got in with a landslide victory. The 4th Vice Chief position went to Heather Bear from Ochapowace. This makes her only the second woman in 40 years to be on the FSIN executive.

With FSIN Chief Perry Bellegarde on leave to run for the AFN leadership in December, the 1st Vice Chief Kim Jonathan will be leading the organization. Interesting times.

Follow the AFN election on our website: www.eaglefeathernews.com



WINONA WHEELER



ROB INNES



BOBBY CAMERON



HEATHER BEAR

Eagle Feather NEWS

Box 924 Saskatoon, Sk S7K 3M4
306-978-8118, 1-866-323-NEWS (6397)

PUBLISHER/EDITOR: John Lagimodiere, John@eaglefeathernews.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Warren Goulding, warrengoulding@yahoo.ca

ADVERTISING & SALES: Peggy Robillard, peggyrobillard@yahoo.com

Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204 OSSN #1492-7497

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: EFN Circ., P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4

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Subscriptions: Annual Canadian subscription rate is \$25 per year, \$26.25 with GST. Bulk subscriptions are also available, call our office for details. Subscription requests can be mailed or faxed to our office. Forms are available on our website.

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This issue printed on: November 6, 2014 Next issue to be printed on: December 10, 2014



Joseph Boyden and Yann Martel gave the audience an evening to remember.

(Photo by Electric Umbrella)

Authors Martel, Boyden talk writing, Harper, politics and Indigenous issues

SASKATOON – On a fine night in October, 400 fortunate people got to take in the conversation of a lifetime between two of Canada's literary icons.

An Evening with Joseph Boyden and Yann Martel was hosted at the Remail Arts Centre and featured a 90-minute dialogue between Martel, the author of the incredible international bestseller, *Life of Pi*, interviewing the one and only Joseph Boyden, writer of *Three Day Road* and *Through Black Spruce*. Boyden was touring Canada in support of his most recent book, *The Orenda*.

The spartan stage, consisting of two leather arm chairs, a table and two historic suits let the audience focus on the real reason they were there, Boyden and Martel. The respect the men felt for each other was apparent in the way they interacted.

Martel had done his research and he made Boyden walk through his process, and his characters, in the creation of the wildly successful *The Orenda*. The fact that Boyden says that he lets a character lead him in the story drove Martel nuts as he is more of a plan from start to finish kind of writer. Both brilliant writers. Both very different.

Martel even dove into Boyden's past

and they talked about his suicide attempt at age 16. Boyden suffers from depression and at his lowest point threw himself in front of a car.

He survived, but spent weeks in the hospital. He talks openly about it now in the hopes that it helps young people to talk about the issue.

The authors talked about mutual friends, activism, politics, Stephen Harper, Canada and Indigenous issues. The conversation had the audience enthralled and once completed, the authors received a standing ovation like a couple of rock stars.

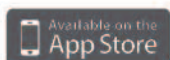
The event was hosted by The Word On The Street Saskatoon and the Office of the Treaty Commissioner with the support of PotashCorp, Tourism Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan. Any money raised from the event will be used to bring a prominent Aboriginal author to town for the Word on the Street Festival in 2015.

After the event, the writers were presented with gifts and tobacco by students who were on hand for the show. Boyden autographed books in the lobby until every single fan had their book signed and was satisfied with the selfies they took with him.

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On heroes

Heroes on the Sports Field ...

Don Marks is a Winnipeg writer with a keen interest in the accomplishments of Aboriginal sports performers.

He wrote *They Call Me Chief: Warriors on Ice*. Well, Don has done it again.

On Oct. 28 his new book, *Playing the*

White Man's Game (J. Gordon Shillingford Publishing) was launched in Winnipeg.

According to the publicity on the event, the book is about Native American athletes who overcame tremendous obstacles to dominate in the NFL, CFL, PGA, Olympic Games, NHL and professional wrestling. I bet Billy Two Rivers is in there.

I have been able to experience the keen interest of Indigenous people in sports competition, not only in Canada but also in Australia.

Bob Morgan, a Murri Elder and professor of education from New South Wales, is known to many Saskatchewan folks. Bob, who excelled in the game of 'rugby league' (not to be confused with 'rugby union') teamed up with another Aboriginal hero, Syd Jackson the Australian Rules (another 'footie' code) legend over 30 years ago to found the Aboriginal Golf Foundation which hosts a National Aboriginal Golf Championship every year in Australia.

You may have inferred from the above that I was not able to attend Don's book launch. I am nevertheless very keen to read his new book.

I shall make sure to send Don a copy of this commentary in the hope he sees fit to give me an autographed copy ... heh, heh.

... Heroes on the Battlefield

November reminds us of the heroes who served and died on the battlefield for their country.

As a young boy growing up in St. Laurent, Manitoba along Lake Manitoba, I was familiar with the presence in the community of war veterans who had returned from the Second World War and from the Korean War.

Some of them bore the physical reminders of their heroic exploits. I remember, too, the stories about the battlefield heroes and prisoners of war who did not return home.

For that reason I was a keen reader of Nathan Greenfield's *The Damned: The Canadians at the Battle of Hong Kong and the POW Experi-*

ence, 1941-4 published by Harper-Collins Publishers in 2011.

I devoured the book, searching for some corroboration of the stories I had heard about our local heroes.

Sure enough, there it was: the reference to the three Chaboyer brothers from St. Laurent. I knew the brother who had returned home.

He was a keen fan of our local baseball team in the '60s. The book deals at some length with the story of Marcel Chaboyer who was dragged away in a POW camp and "his fellow Canadians never saw him again".

One version of the event is that he punched a guard who was beating him. He was sentenced to two years hard labour but served longer than that.

In a footnote it is mentioned that Marcel died a month before the war ended. His ashes were sent to his widow and in 1973 the Manitoba government named lake 63K/16 as Chaboyer Lake.

The descriptions of the sadistic tortures the prisoners of war were made to endure does not make pleasant reading.

It is nevertheless right to learn about the heroic lives of those whose sacrifices are part of our heritage. This book adds to the many stories I have heard about the many veterans and those who died heroes on the battlefields in faraway countries.

The *Damned* records the names of all those who died in the Battle of Hong Kong and in the POW camps. From my home Metis community are listed Marcel Chaboyer, David J. Chaboyer, Ernest Lavallee and Anthony J. Sioux.

The latter and Marcel are buried in Sai Wan Cemetery in Hong Kong and David and Ernest Lavallee are listed as buried in Yokohama War Cemetery.

Men who fought, were tortured and died for Canada must never be forgotten.

To remember them we can do no better than repeat the poetic words we hear at November 11 ceremonies:

*They shall grow not old, as we that
are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the
years condemn
At the going down of the sun and
in the morning
We will remember them.*



Kendal Netmaker recognized with Indspire Youth Award

OTTAWA – You can't walk through a school or sports arena in Indian Country without seeing someone wearing Neechie Gear.

The hugely popular clothing brand was created by entrepreneur Kendal Netmaker who is originally from Little Pine First Nation, but his brand, and the success of it, has taken him around the world.

Recently, Netmaker was in Ottawa as Andrew Scheer, Speaker of the House of Commons, acknowledged this year's Indspire award recipients. Netmaker is the fitting recipient of the 2015 First Nations Youth Award.

The Little Pine businessman has built Neechi Gear into a lifestyle apparel brand that empowers youth through sports. A portion of profits help underprivileged kids to play sports. Netmaker has received both entrepreneurial and Chamber of Commerce awards. To date, his company has contributed over \$15,000 in donations and has helped over 2,500 youth across Canada take part in sports.

"Receiving an Indspire award is truly an honor and is motivating to keep doing what I do for a living!" said Netmaker over Messenger from the House of Commons.



KENDAL NETMAKER

All of that success and he is still a very humble young man. But he did note his wife was very proud of him.

The 2015 Indspire Awards gala will be held on February 27, 2015 at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium in Calgary.



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Prince Albert victim struggles to cope after vicious attack

By Larissa Burnouf
For Eagle Feather News

PRINCE ALBERT – Despite all the attention, Marlene Bird is still vulnerable

She was homeless but she was also harmless.

“What did I do so wrong to have this to happen to me?” asks Marlene Bird staring down at her permanently disfigured body, remembering the unprovoked attack that resulted in the amputation of both of her legs.

Sometime during the evening of May 31, Marlene Bird remembers walking to an area in downtown Prince Albert. She had been there before but never that late at night. She didn't want to go out with her friends so she wandered off alone. Bird recalls running into a group of aboriginal men, but she wasn't very familiar with them.

It's still hard for her to remember all of the exact details of what happened next, she says she turned her back to the group and that's when the brutal attack began.

“All of a sudden I don't know what happened but I started to get (hit) on my head. I was trying to get up to see,” recalls Bird of the moments before she lost consciousness.

Bird says she blacked out from the blows to her head but remembers waking up in pain when ambulance personnel arrived at the scene the morning of June 1. She didn't know the extent of her injuries or that she was in a battle for her life.

Bird was immediately flown to Edmonton hospital and put into a medically induced coma. Meanwhile, Prince Albert Police began their investigation.

Bird was severely beaten and her face was lacerated, partially exposed from the cuts from her forehead to her neck, nearly causing her to also lose her left eye. She was also sexually assaulted and then set on fire. The burns began at her mid-waist and covered the front and back of her body down to her legs.

“They cut my face and burnt (me everywhere); my private parts are just awful,” says Bird, struggling to come to grips with the reality of the aftermath and showing the exact area of the burns that forced doctors to amputate both legs above the knee.

“The doctor said they were in such bad condition. It could have been worse. I didn't know what to think.”

Bird spent months in hospital recovering from the amputation and allowing time for her skin to heal from the severe burns and skin grafts covering her back, shoulders and sides of torso.

Although she was not awake during the beating that almost ended her life, Bird says she is still haunted by the memories of what transpired every day and night.

“I kept dreaming and having some nightmares. Waking up just scared ... shaking and scared.”

Bird says she now lives in fear, even though Prince Albert Police have arrested and charged one man in the attack. Leslie Black remains in custody as he awaits an Oct. 31 hearing for charges of attempted murder and aggravated sexual assault.

Bird still has so many questions, “Why would somebody just go and attack someone like that, alone?”

She feels that more than two people took part in the attack. However, Prince Albert Police maintain that no other charges will be laid, stating that they're confident in the investigation. Sgt. Brandon Mudry says the investigation is complete and the exact details of what happened that night will come out at Black's trial.

For Bird, adjusting to a life without her legs and

facing the same addictions that left her vulnerable and homeless is a daily struggle.

“I get pretty mad at myself, why did this have to happen to me?”

Bird is living in a temporary assisted living home and going to counselling regularly. She says her alcohol addiction, which started at an early age, and learning to deal with a lifetime of memories of the sexual and physical abuse she endured is a daily obstacle.

“I just have to learn to live like this.”

Bird is a client of the YWCA which is still taking in donations for Bird's care. They've received over \$35,000 and countless letters and cards of support for Bird. They are currently struggling to find a permanent home for Bird that is wheelchair accessible.

“I would like to be on my own, to have my own place like I used to when I was younger.”



Marlene Bird's life will never be the same after she lost both her legs and suffered horrible burns.

Oct. 31 - Nov. 21, 2014



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Heritage Park

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6:20PM - STATION 20 WEST (1120 20TH ST W)
6:40PM - LAWSON HEIGHTS MALL (TIM HORTONS)
7:00PM - WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK
BUS LEAVES WANUSKEWIN AT 8:30PM

FRIDAYS NOV 7, 14 & 21

DEPARTURES

10:00 AM - CONFEDERATION MALL (SAFEWAY)
10:20 AM - STATION 20 WEST (1120 20TH ST W)
10:40 AM - LAWSON HEIGHTS MALL (TIM HORTONS)
11:00 AM - WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK
BUS LEAVES WANUSKEWIN AT 12:30PM

SATURDAYS NOV 8 & 15

DEPARTURES

11:00 AM - CONFEDERATION MALL (SAFEWAY)
11:20 PM - STATION 20 WEST (1120 20TH ST W)
11:40 PM - LAWSON HEIGHTS MALL (TIM HORTONS)
12:00 PM - WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK
BUS LEAVES WANUSKEWIN AT 3:30 PM

WWOS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR - SHIRLEY SHUMARD - SHUMARD1320@GMAIL.COM
GROUP TOUR COORDINATOR - ASHLEY REAGAN - ASHLEY.REAGAN@WANUSKEWIN.COM

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Navigators help Aboriginal patients negotiate health system

By Judy Bird
For Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Aboriginal patients in Saskatoon hospitals have dedicated people to help them navigate the complex and often confusing health care system.

Saskatoon Health Region has implemented a First Nations and Métis Health Services program, and has two health navigators to assist Aboriginal patients.

The health navigators work with the patient, elders, cultural advisors and other health region staff to identify barriers that impact the patient's health outcome. Barriers often include language, health region staff not recognizing cultural beliefs, or the patient does not ask for assistance. Whatever the reason, the health navigators are there to help the patient and family break through those barriers and let them know they are not alone.

"Often, patients don't speak English or very little English, so we do a lot of the translation," said Delia Allberg, one of the health navigators. Allberg is fluent in Dene, and her coworker, Valerie Bradfield, speaks and understands Cree.

The navigators are located in St. Paul's Hospital, and each day, they visit new patients there to introduce themselves, and see what they can do to help. Allberg also assists patients with Dene language translation at Royal University Hospital (RUH).

They advocate for patients and families that require their support, including connecting with social workers from the different hospitals, contacting communities, First Nations bands, health clinics, and support for the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program through First Nations Inuit Health.

"They come in for program support for meals, accommodations, taxi fares back and forth to the hotels. If they qualify to be an escort then we advocate for them to NIHB," Allberg added.

As well as caring for physical needs, the program also has a cultural component to assist patients with spiritual needs.

"We have a traditional smudge every Thursday. Lots of people inquire about that for the patients, or ask about spiritual care," explained Allberg.

"We advocate for them to practice their own cultural and spiritual beliefs," said Bradfield, who is a Registered Nurse and Certified Diabetes Educator, and a traditional bundle keeper. She is not a medicine person but received four years of training on traditional medicine and protocol.

"A lot of times I work with the doctors and nurses and explain to them about the importance of culture. I explain that it's different for all our communities, and that it's not the same for everyone. I bring them to the side and just let them know in a good way, to better understand the patient's perspective. I try to bring the health care perspective as well as the traditional focus so the patient can have that voice," Bradfield said.

Bradfield has shared teachings with ICU staff at St. Paul's and RUH on traditional medicine in a presentation titled Reawakening the Memory.

"It's about allowing people to be more self aware of their own experience and how we can better support our own First Nations and Metis patients and families who practice those cultural ways," she said.

Their work has made a difference.

"It's really been beneficial to visit the patients on the ward. They're very happy to have a program like this, especially when they come through NIHB. Folks coming from so far north who maybe don't have much money, we can support and advocate for them that way and get them support. They're really grateful for that. It makes it a little bit easier," said Allberg.

It's just a little thing that we're doing for them but for the patient or family, it's a huge thing and it makes a huge difference for them just to know where to go and what service to access," said Bradfield.



Delia Allberg and her ability to speak Dene and Valerie Bradfield and her use of Cree are important players in making hospital trips in Saskatoon less frustrating for First Nation patients. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

STRONGER THAN STONE

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NOVEMBER 23-24: WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK, SASKATOON

WWW.STRONGERTHANSTONE.ORG

Indigenous cultures have maintained ties to the same lands since time immemorial. Human-made physical markers were not necessary to preserve the history of a place and people. Rather, natural places are regarded as calling forth stories, so that the landscape provides a practical and moral guide to the culture. What can the contemporary art world, urban planners, geographers and others learn from traditional Indigenous ways of memorializing and place-making? How could a re-invented approach to the memorial help us to better understand history, relationships to the land and human potential?

For further information, contact: 403-284-7632 (Calgary) or 306-975-8051 (Saskatoon)
Registration: \$60 per day & \$20 for students / low-income (includes lunch)

Produced by Alberta College of Art + Design, the University of Saskatchewan and Kenderdine Art Gallery, the Mendel Art Gallery (in conjunction with Museums 3.0), and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Royal University Hospital Foundation Thanks Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation



Members of Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation Board of Directors pose with representatives of RUH Foundation:
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Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation generously donated \$150,000 over three years to Royal University Hospital Foundation's *Campaign for RUH* in support of First Nations and Métis Health Services in the Saskatoon Health Region.

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Aboriginal soldiers made heroic sacrifices

It's been over over 90 years since troops laid down their arms to end the First World War. We join all Canadians in paying tribute to the courage of those who served in the past and those who serve today.

Many thousands of Aboriginal people saw action and endured hardship in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. They served with honour and distinction in all branches of the service and in every rank. They fought overseas to defend the sovereignty and liberty of allied nations, in addition to supporting the cause at home.

Their heroic acts earned many decorations for bravery as well as the respect and enduring friendships with their comrades in arms. Hundreds from across Canada gave fully of their lives so that all Canadians might know peace and live free.

Canadian Aboriginal Veterans have reason to be proud of their wartime contributions. More than 7,000 First Nation men and women served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War, and an unknown number of Inuit, Métis and non-status Indians also participated. One Aboriginal Veterans group estimates that 12,000 Aboriginals served in the three wars. On each occasion, Aboriginal members of the armed forces overcame

cultural challenges and made impressive sacrifices and contributions to help the nation in its efforts to restore world peace.

One of Canada's most decorated soldiers, Thomas George Prince, comes to mind. He was a descendant of Peguis, the Saulteaux Chief who led his band of 200 Ojibwa from the Sault Ste. Marie region to the Red River in the 1790s, and of Chief William Prince, who headed the Ojibwa-Manitoba team of Nile Voyageurs.

Prince enlisted in June 1940, at the age of 24, and began his wartime service as a sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineers. After two years with the RCE, he answered a call for paratrooper volunteers, and by late 1942, was training with the first Canadian Special Service Battalion.

Shortly after Prince joined this select battalion it merged with an elite American unit, forming a group of 1,600 men with a variety of specialist skills. Officially called the 1st Special Service Force, it would become known to German soldiers as the Devil's Brigade. Originally, this force was intended to be a parachute unit that would land behind enemy lines and



sabotage their installations. Instead, it became a versatile assault group with a reputation for specialized reconnaissance

and raiding.

Prince was called to go to Buckingham Palace on February 12, 1945 where King George VI presented him with his Military Medal. Prince would later receive his Silver Star from U.S. General Koenig on behalf of the American President on April 24, 1945. He was one of 59 Canadians to receive this award during the war, and one of only three to receive the Military Medal. In all, Tommy Prince was decorated nine times, the most of any aboriginal soldier in the war.

Like many soldiers returning from war, adjusting to civilian life was not easy for Prince, and with painfully arthritic knees as a result of the long, harsh conditions during his military service, his capabilities were limited. Coupled with the discrimination against Native people at the time, his life became increasingly difficult, his marriage ended and his children were put into foster homes.

In June 1955, Tommy Prince made

the news for his heroism in saving a man from drowning in Winnipeg. But his personal life kept spiraling downward and alcoholism overtook him resulting in his final years being spent virtually alone, living in a Salvation Army hostel. In order to support himself, he sold off his medals. What a sad ending for an honourable, decorated war hero.

Ira Haze is another Aboriginal war veteran. A Pima Indian from Arizona, who was a decorated U.S. Marine and one of 29 survivors from Iwo Jima, Johnny Cash made Ira's name famous with a song he recorded called the Ballad of Ira Haze.

Let me end on a more positive note. The Navajo Code Talkers code was never broken by the Japanese Army. Major H. Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer said, "Were it not for the Navajos the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima."

In 2002 Nicholas Cage and Adam Beach starred in a movie about the Navajo Code Talkers called Windtalkers. I recommend watching the movie. These are only a few examples of Aboriginal heroes and their contributions. Let us never forget.

You can write to me at Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 St Main Saskatoon SK S7K 3M4 or email sandstormsez@gmail.com

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Policing changed following Stonechild Inquiry

SASKATOON – A decade has passed since Justice David Wright released the monumental Neil Stonechild Report, exposing the racism against Saskatoon's aboriginal community by the very police force that was in place to protect them.

In November 1990, the body of 17-year-old Neil Stonechild was found frozen in a field in the north industrial area of Saskatoon. At the time, his death was believed to be hypothermia and one theory was that he was walking to turn himself in to the Saskatoon Correctional Center.

Stonechild's family and friend Jason Roy did not believe that was what really happened that night. Roy was with Stonechild the last night he was seen alive. They became separated but a short time later, were reunited when police stopped him. Because he and Stonechild were both on the run from group homes, Roy gave a fake name.

"He was in the back of the police car and pretty traumatized," remembers Roy who has maintained his story for over two decades.

"The police and the people in authority, what they had to say about it contradicted everything I had to say about it and it made me scared because obviously they were covering it up."

A chance run-in between Stonechild's brother and rookie First Nations police officer Const. Ernie Louttit raised red flags. Louttit remembers "he told me some stuff that got me interested in finding out more. I went to the station and I pulled a copy of the report and photocopied it."

Louttit took it to his superiors.

"I was told in pretty firm terms that it was not for me to investigate or interfere with and I didn't have the experience or knowledge of the case that I should have had."

He met with Stonechild's mother,

Stella Bignell and vented. She took that to the local newspaper, exposing racial divides in Saskatoon.

"She quoted the things I said towards the end when I realized that I really wasn't going to be able to do anything. I ranted and said that if it had been a white kid, the investigation would have been different and it wouldn't have been closed so quickly."

Expecting to be punished for interfering Louttit worried about his future with the Saskatoon Police Service, "but it just... all went away. It was gone."

And it was gone. Stonechild's name faded but rumors began circulating of Starlight Tours. Louttit says back then, aboriginal people were not equal.

"Some police didn't value the victims from the aboriginal community with the same value that they put to other victims."

That was the case until Darrel Night came forward in 2001. Night survived a Starlight Tour. He was picked up by officers and taken out of the city in freezing temperatures, and forced to walk home. Other aboriginal men before him, weren't so lucky.

"I felt terrible that it had to take the lives of some other young men for people in this city to actually take notice of what is actually going wrong between the police and the native people" says Roy.

Two city police officers were charged with unlawful confinement and sent to jail for Night's experience.

Days after Night's near-death encounter, the bodies of two more First Nations men, Lawrence Wegner and Rodney Naistus, were located in the same area where Night had been dropped off. Several inquiries began and protests filled the streets of the city. It led to the reopening of the Stonechild investigation and exhumation of his remains.

In 2003, the Neil Stonechild Inquiry

began. Because the original report on his death was destroyed, the very photocopy Louttit took and saved in 1990 was used as the preverbal nail in the Saskatoon Police Service's coffin. On Oct. 26, 2004 Justice Wright released the final report, its findings and the recommendations, leading Saskatchewan's Justice Minister Frank Quenell to apologize to Stonechild's family.

"I am sorry that she and her family had to wait 14 years for the investigation they deserved from the onset," said Quenell during a highly publicized press conference.

Although Wright could not assign blame in the inquiry, he did find that Stonechild was in the custody of the two constables the night he died.

"I felt vindicated," said Roy. However, his relief was tempered with the reality of Stonechild's untimely death.

"He didn't get the justice that he rightly deserved. He was murdered."

No one has ever been charged in Stonechild's death. Two officers involved lost their jobs and the recommendations were swiftly enacted by the Saskatoon Police Service. Today, Saskatoon Police Chief Clive Weighill says every recommendation that came out of the inquiry has been completed by the Service.

"(There's) more diversity training, more First Nations and Métis (recruits), GPS in the all of our cars and it's archived," says Weighill.

He adds that they also incorporated forward and rear facing video and audio in every car that can't be tampered with. They also have cameras at all doors and cells.

"We've tried to take as many safeguards as possible to protect our officers in case anyone comes forth with an allegation, we can prove it or disprove it right away."

Although much progress has been made by the police, including annual meetings with local chiefs, tribal councils and organizations, some in the aboriginal community feel there is still



JASON ROY

room for improvement.

"There's still a lot of different things that are going on in the streets of Saskatoon," says Roy. "There is still profiling going on with the police. They're still doing things that they shouldn't be doing and they're finding many ways to get around it."

Because of the media coverage following the Inquiry, Roy says he gets stopped in public by aboriginal people alleging that police abuse is still happening in Saskatoon. However, several public reports and surveys by the Saskatoon Police Service focusing on the relationship and trust with the aboriginal community contradict Roy's words once again.

For Roy, seeing a lot of change since his friend's death over 24 years ago is something positive.

"Neil's death, as tragic as it is, it saved a lot of lives," Louttit agrees. "In the end, his legacy is that he made a whole province and law enforcement right across Canada, examine the way they did things and the way they valued victims."

For Weighill, he says the Saskatoon Police Service will continue improving a once shattered relationship.

"We're not where we want to be yet, absolutely not. Are we perfect? Absolutely not. But I think we've made a lot of headway and I think we are showing that we want to make a difference."

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Veterans that make this country great: Lt.-Gov. Schofield

• Continued from Page 1

“We owe the courageous people who have served our deep thanks every day,” said Lt.-Gov. Schofield. “I intend to give a Pin to every veteran in the province and we have over 6,000 nominations so far.”

Seven veterans from the First Nations Veterans Association were on hand to get their Pins on this evening. They posed for a photo with the lieutenant-governor and kidded and teased each other before the presentations. Some, in true veteran fashion, even had fun with the lieutenant-governor when they received their medals.



Phillip Ledoux, Mistawasis First Nation served in NATO Europe, Frank Tompkins, Poundmaker First Nation, WWII, George Benson, Red Pheasant First Nation U.S .Army Korea, sitting Virginia Pechawis, Mistawasis First Nation, WWII, Lieutenant-Governor Vaughn Schofield, Philip Favel, Sweetgrass First Nation, WWII, Ray Sanderson, James Smith First Nation, Grand Chief of the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association, Black Watch Special Forces and James McArthur, Pheasant Rump First Nation, Korea posed for a group shot before they received The Lieutenant-Governor’s Military Service Pin. Missing Henry Beaudry. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



Lt.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield presents a pin to Virginia Pechawis.

Standing out from the crowd of veterans was the diminutive Virginia Pechawis. Tiny, but bright with life, she has a smile that lights up the room. The 88-year-old from Mistawasis First Nation is the oldest First Nation woman veteran in Saskatchewan.

She was 18 years old when she enlisted in the army in Prince Albert late during the Second World War. Being an 18-year-old woman in 1944 Saskatchewan wasn’t easy.

“Long time ago people looked down on us. We were poor. Dirty poor. I figured I’ll show them,” said Virginia.

She was in the Canadian Women’s Army Corps and spent most of her time in Quebec City. When asked, she is humble about her contribution.

“I didn’t do too much,” she said. “First they were going to put me in an office, then I told them I had never worked in an office. So they put me in the kitchen and I did dishes all the time,” she laughed.

In total, Virginia served 13 months. The army was good to her except for one person.

“When you were over there you sit with anybody.

One day there was this girl. She was Irish and she didn’t like me. She made comments about me being native.

“So I went and sat by myself. At first I got mad, then I figured we are all the same anyways. She not any better. I’m not any better.”

Now Virginia enjoys spending time with her family and going to powwows or the event with the lieutenant-governor.

“I really enjoyed the army. Getting to know people. I showed I’m just as good as anybody.”

And when it comes to hanging out with the veterans? “I don’t say much,” she laughs.

Virginia will proudly display her Lieutenant-Governor’s Military Service Pin alongside her poppy. It is a simple pin that according to the lieutenant-governor means much.

“The Pin is simple but has an image of a crown on it,” said Lt.-Gov. Schofield.

“It encompasses the principals of peace, freedom and justice. And it is the veterans that make this country great.”

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Video captures veterans' experience during Second World War

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – A fascinating series of videos has been released that presents the oral histories of 17 Saskatchewan residents who served during the Second World War.

Stories of Courage: Saskatchewan Second World War Veterans Remember, comprehensively covers stories from enlisting to coming home in eight different videos. The videos include the stories of First Nation veterans Henry Beaudry, who speaks of being a prisoner of war, and Philip Favel, who talks about the experience of Aboriginal soldiers.

The project started when community advocates asked the Government of Saskatchewan to help preserve the province's military heritage before it was lost.

Philip Favel was more than happy to tell his story for the record. Favel was in the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps and he gave some prime years of his life to the army, but he has no regrets.

"I stayed with my wife for three months, then I didn't see her again for four years," said Favel in an interview before he received his Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin.

"When I joined I knew what was going on. I knew there was going to be killing and all that. When there was an order given to me during the war, well I got to do it regardless of what happened to me.

"I might succeed, I might not. But I am still here. I went through everything."

Favel signed up for one sole purpose.

"I'll say one thing. This is our country here. We have to protect our country regardless of who we are. We have to live together," said Favel.

"And I don't like to see anything happen to our country. Like what happened recently in Ottawa. I hope we never see that again."

Henry Beaudry was a scout in the Princess Louise Dragoon Guards and he recalls his experiences after getting captured. In a fierce battle, where he used all of his ammunition, he received a head injury and couldn't hear for two days. While



Veteran Philip Favel shows off his Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin as Lieutenant-Governor Vaughn Schofield looks on.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

captured, he insisted to his captors that he could not speak English.

His lowest time in captivity came on a four day train ride packed into a box car with no food or water.

"I prayed to the Creator to take me that day or to give me water," said Beaudry in the video.

"When we woke up in the morning, the open windows were covered in icicles and we broke them off and drank them."

After three months he and a Mongolian prisoner escaped. Because of the starvation he faced in capture, to this day he can't gain weight or eat a big meal.

"These oral histories will help future generations gain a sense of what life was like in Saskatchewan during the war, the values that led our country to join in the fight, and why the veterans who shared their stories so readily volunteered to serve," said Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Mark Docherty when they released the videos.

"You can draw a direct line from that generation's valour to the spirit of the Canadian military today as we honour the lives of the two soldiers killed last week defending our freedoms."

Favel now spends time talking at schools and he tells young people about the war and he has a strong message for them.

"When I came out of the war I came out as a qualified motor mechanic. I learned a lot. I only have a Grade 2 education. But I learned a lot when I was in the army," said Favel.

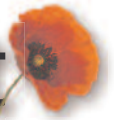
"I was the only Indian in that group. They were all white. We got along together.

Young people today should get military training for three months. Regardless of who they are they should get trained so they have an idea what war is like.

"I would like to see the young people get trained like that Bold Eagle. My people should get it. They have no idea about what's what."

To hear more stories, the videos can be viewed online at www.saskatchewan.ca/storiesofcourage/

Lest We Forget



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Service taught soldier value of life

By Jeanelle Mandes
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Marcel Heichert, a 30-year-old veteran soldier from Whitebear First Nation fought in Afghanistan in 50 degree heat. Heichert joined the army because the military life required a lot of discipline and he wanted to build upon that. Now he is currently studying administration and majoring in accounting at the First Nations University of Canada with hopes of some day working as an accountant.

“The military life seemed like an adventure and it seemed like a job where it mattered to be physically fit because I liked to exercise,” Heichert explains.

“The job seemed like something that I like, to have stories to be proud of to tell later on in life. It required a lot of skill and discipline.”

Heichert started his training as a youth in taekwondo which was taught at his school in his reserve in the evenings.

He was living in Moose Jaw in Grade 12 and he was a part of a class where his teacher had the students do an obstacle course in the base armories. They were taught what military training was like.

“We had a couple of soldiers that showed us what it’s like to be yelled at and doing some push-ups and doing an obstacle course. Those kinds of things appealed to me, it seemed like fun.”

In 2003, Heichert moved to Regina to take some evening science classes and it was then he submitted his application to the military.

“I met a guy who was in the military reserve and he asked me if I was interested in joining the

Canadian Forces Reserve.”

Heichert had already submitted his application for a different trade as a signal operator but once he met the guy, he changed trades for the military. The following year, he started the basic training and started working while still attending school.

Heichert says the qualifications a person needs to join the military is passing a physical fitness evaluation including completing a certain amount of pushups and hitting a certain time in a 2.3 kilometre run. Also a person needs to have at least a Grade 10 education with high school transcripts and must be of 16 years with a copy of a birth certificate.

Heichert describes what he experienced in the army as being dangerous and hot.

“You’re fighting in 50 degree weather, it was like a jungle. It was bearable but yet easy to burn out.”

Heichert says he has seen how the military experience changed the soldiers when they returned home. A lot turned towards alcohol. But Heichert didn’t allow that to happen to him. His experience in the army helped him view how precious life is and he notices how people in the world take advantage of it.

Heichert believes life is very valuable after serving his country. His advice to those wanting to pursue a future in the army is to maintain your health and don’t get caught up in the drinking.

“When it comes to life and death situations, you’d think people would take life seriously and they wouldn’t take it for granted. War is definitely not a good thing, a lot of people die and there are families that are destroyed,” Heichert stresses.



Marcel Heichert is working on a degree at First Nations University of Canada after serving in the military.

Honouring our Veterans
and their legacy of leadership for our people

MUSKEG LAKE CREE NATION

Legacy of Aboriginal soldiers continues to benefit First Nation and Métis communities

Frustrated with living conditions at home and with a desire to protect the country, First Nation and Métis people enlisted in droves during First and Second World Wars and the Korea War.

Not only did Aboriginal people give their lives, they also donated over \$67,000 in the Second World War to relief funds and the Red Cross and also shared reserve lands for defence posts, airports and rifle ranges. Their impact on Canadian history is impressive.

In the army, these once forgotten and alienated people were treated as peers and received the same training as everyone else. The legacy of that training has been paying benefits to our communities for generations.

The fortunes of First Nation and Métis people started to change after the Second World War. The veterans came back and assumed leadership roles. The friendships and respect they earned in the service earned them allies with their former army buddies. This leadership and influence saw the creation of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians and Métis organizations that today form the Métis National Council.

It is estimated over 12,000 Aboriginal people fought in the three wars. Sadly there are not many veterans left but they have passed on their legacy to a whole new generation to lead. When you see a veteran, shake their hand and acknowledge their contribution.



Veteran James McArthur receives his Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin.



Veteran Frank Tomkins receives his Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin.



Veteran Philip Ledoux receives his Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin.



Veteran George Benson receives his Lieutenant-Governor's Military Service Pin.

Lest We Forget.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
By: John Moore

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from falling hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high;
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Pedersen learned from military mentors

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Joel Pedersen is a multi-faceted individual. He runs training programs for First Nation and Métis communities across Saskatchewan and in Saskatoon. He writes a monthly exercise and health column for the Eagle Feather News website. He is a police officer with the Saskatoon Police Service.

On top of all that he is also kind of a big deal in the military reserves.

Last year he was appointed the Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Regina Rifles and the North Saskatchewan Regiment which are both primary reserve Infantry units, and he was promoted to the rank of Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) in the Canadian Army. That is the most senior Non-Commission Officer rank in the Canadian Armed Forces.

This high posting makes Pedersen the first First Nation Regimental Sergeant Major of both units which have history dating back to 1885 through to Afghanistan. Out of approximately 87,000 members of the forces, currently there are only two First Nation CWOs in the Canadian Armed Forces and Pedersen is one of them.

“I did not do this on my own. I owe to those who came before me, the aboriginal men and women who volunteered and served with honour, dignity, and courage,” said Pedersen of his rise through the ranks.

“I owe a lot to my family, colleagues and even the ones that said I could not do it. Those NCOs who offered opportunity, leadership, guidance and mentorship, so that I would mature and succeed, I am forever grateful to.”

Pedersen’s mom’s family is from Fond du Lac First Nation and his dad is Mikisew Cree from Alberta. He

credits many First Nation role models in the service going back to Sgt. Tommy Prince and Sgt. Alex Wuttunee to a mentor in Sgt. Grant Greyeyes and even a fellow he worked with at the Saskatoon Police Service.

“Master Corporal Ernie Loutit, who was proud to be an Indian and the army culture that treated him with respect and responsibility. These are some of the men who set the example and were role models for me,” said Pedersen.

He intends to take what he has learned and pass it on.

“Now is a time during the next three years I intend to mentor, guide, and lead the next generation of soldiers and future leaders. I will not ask any of them to do a task or a job that I am not willing to do, or that I have not done or experienced.”

Pedersen’s experience in the Army has taken him to see a lot of the world including Europe, Scandinavia, the Middle East and much of North America and he directly credits his training with allowing him to start his fitness business and become a Saskatoon Police Officer. And he recommends the military as a great starting point for any young person.

“The military trained me to do more than what is expected. To appreciate my own strengths and limitations and pursue self-improvement, seek and accept responsibility, know your people and promote their welfare and develop the leadership potential of your people.

“These are some of the principles I try to use to the best of my ability each day.” said Pedersen.

“In the military it does not matter what color of skin you are, that is not what separates you from others.

“It is about being a soldier and putting others first, respecting yourself so that you can respect others.”



Joel Pedersen’s military background has helped him succeed in many facets of life.

(Department of National Defense photo)



*A legacy
of honour*

Métis artist's performance will honour story of Louis Riel

By Mika Lafond
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – The creative process began years ago and continues to develop for a performative piece that Métis artist David Garneau has prepared.

On Nov. 16, at 3 p.m., The Dunlop Gallery will be presenting Garneau's performance in Regina's Victoria Park. The performance will be a representation of dialogue between Garneau, dressed as a statue of Louis Riel, and the statue of J.A. MacDonald that currently stands in Victoria Park. On the anniversary of Riel's hanging, Garneau will use his artistic talent to bring Métis history to life and to give Louis Riel a voice for the public to hear.



David Garneau has created a play that features himself as Louis Riel and he talks to a statue of John A. MacDonald in a park in Regina. He is going to do the play with another statue of John A. MacDonald again in Ontario in January.



Prime Minister John A. MacDonald was the man who sentenced Louis Riel to be hanged.

Garneau is Department Head and Associate Professor of Visual Arts at the University of Regina. His work focuses on painting, drawing, curation and critical writing. He has an extensive exhibition record and his paintings are in collections including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, The Canadian Parliament, and the Indian and Inuit Art Centre. He has curated several large group exhibitions, contributed texts to numerous catalogues and journals, and has presented talks and lectures internationally. Garneau is currently working on curatorial and writing projects featuring contemporary Aboriginal art exchanges between Canada and Australia.

Why has the City of Regina never honored Louis Riel? This is a question that Garneau, as a Métis artist, has contemplated since he moved to Regina 16 years ago.

Garneau is the great-great grandson of Laurent Garneau – a soldier in Riel's Red River Resistance in Manitoba in 1869-70. Laurent Garneau moved to the Edmonton area where his homestead overlooked Fort Edmonton.

He was arrested for his role in the Resistance, almost hanged, but later released.

Garneau was raised in Edmonton, listening and learning Métis history, and was taught the many

roles that Métis leaders, such as his ancestor, played in the formation of the western provinces. When he moved to Regina as an adult he was aware of the statue of John A. MacDonald in Victoria Park, but often wondered why there was no statue of Louis Riel – a defining leader who played an important role in the formation of the province of Saskatchewan.

For many years, Garneau considered how to raise awareness about Métis history and advocate for recognition of Louis Riel in Regina. He brainstormed ideas about how to use the statue of MacDonald in a performance piece.

He thought about how to tell the story of Louis Riel in a short, concise, meaningful way. He visited the statue of MacDonald and imagined what the two men would say to each other. Garneau also read through Louis Riel's letters and poems to better understand the Métis hero.

Garneau says that he is still developing the final plans for the performance, but it will be a representation of both Métis and Colonial cultures. The presentation will include Garneau's acting, a military drummer, a hand drummer, and will be about 20 minutes long.

Garneau hopes to create public awareness of the role of Métis in Canada's history, and more so focus on Louis Riel's role in the province of Saskatchewan.

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Some timely winter survival tips

When I was kid we got kicked out of the house on Saturday afternoons to go “play outside.”

We would bundle up in our snow-pants, jackets, boots and then just before heading into the great outdoors, we’d carefully place socks on our hands because mittens were for rich kids and wimps. My siblings and cousins would head right into the middle of the yard to make snow angels, craft forts and dare each other to eat yellow snow.

But not me. I would huddle near the porch and sing songs like “Swing Low Sweet Chariot,” until the sun went down and Mom mercifully called us in for supper. The cold is my natural enemy (and, also this crazy chick who orders like three lattes at 8:30 in the morning – we all have to get to work, bitch!)

However, winter is the curse of this particular climate so even if you hate winter with the fire of a thousand suns (ironically) you gotta suck it up and be a good sport. So this is why I smile and pretend that my hands aren’t curled into gnarled stumps from December to March.

And for those of you who are like me (i.e. not descended from polar bears), here are some tips for winterizing your life.

Tip number one is: Be Winter-Rude. Us-freezing-cold-people can’t stand still in the cold, that’s like asking a fire not to burn or a hot gay guy not to steal your boyfriend. It can’t be done and there’s no use begging, cajoling or pleading to a sense of propriety.

I will not and cannot stand outside just to shoot the shit. Thus I am winter-rude. When I pass by the smokers outside of work, enjoying their twenty-fifth smoke of the day, I hurry past and do not engage in conversation. I won’t smile because that expands the surface area of my



lips and I won’t say hi because that will allow cold air into my mouth.

I will nod but only because that movement creates extra heat. So, I am being rude but it’s only cold-temperature-specific. Say hi to me again in May.

Tip two is: Say No to Fakes. Our ancestors knew a good thing when they killed and skinned it. Animal skins and furs are warmer than a Jehovah Witness’ smile before you shut the door in their face. There’s plenty of dead animals to clothe oneself in, but sometimes I like to treat myself to the warmth of a live animal.

Cuz there’s nothing like the heat of a fat house-cat draped around my neck. By the way, am I the only person who looks at a Shih Tzu and thinks, “damn, you would make a really cute pair of boots?”

Tip three is: Never underestimate the heating power of rage or fear. In minus 20 weather, the only reason you should be outside is because you are running from an axe-murderer or you are an axe-murderer. If you must be outside and neither of these two options is at your disposal, I recommend crafting a ball from snow and throwing it at the nearest person – hard enough to make them really mad. The ensuing chase will keep you toasty warm.

Tip number four is a sad truth: You can look thin or

you can be warm. Not both. This was a hard lesson to learn. Like all of you, I dreamt that someday I could be like Angelina Jolie in one of those Lara Croft movies where she’s on the frozen tundra driving a team of husky dogs clad only in a hooded cape that billows behind her (because the damned fool is wearing it wide open to the elements.)

While filming Fish Out of Water in Churchill Manitoba, I spent the entire shoot wearing two pairs of pants, two shirts, a wool sweater, a parka, mukluks, and three pairs of socks. AND I was stuffing hotshots into my boots and down my shirt and pants to keep me warm. (Despite these precautions, I spent most of the shoot driving the director crazy by running into buildings in between shots.)

So even though I looked like the Michelin Man’s chubby, older sister, I was still freezing my ass off. Sometimes you can’t win.

Tip number five of winterizing your soul is: Talking about the weather makes it worse. Because not only am I cold, I’m also bored listening to you compare this winter to the winter before to the winter a few years before that. Clearly, information about previous winters only has relevance if you also have a time machine. But you don’t. Because if you did, I would have gone back in time to give you a face-wash before you began your grisly winter weather conversation. Also, the only good use for a Farmer’s Almanac is for burning in a fireplace.

So those are my tips for surviving winter and until I discover a way to induce human-hibernation, I’ll be living by them.

See you on the other side.

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Whitecap school welcomed into Saskatoon school division

SASKATOON – After a more than 20-year partnership, Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Saskatoon Public Schools signed a historic education agreement in October.

Through the partnership, the school division welcomes Whitecap Dakota Elementary School as an alliance school, making it the first on-reserve school to be a part of a Saskatchewan school division.

The goal of the agreement is to enhance educational opportunities and supports for all Whitecap students. The four-year agreement will see federal funding for the education of Whitecap students flow to Saskatoon Public Schools. All Whitecap Dakota Elementary School teachers are now employed by Saskatoon Public Schools.

“Our community and our children have certainly enjoyed the benefits of our partnerships with Saskatoon Public Schools to date and we look to build on that,” said Chief Darcy Bear of Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

“The agreement we are signing today is a product of our recent efforts, with the support and involvement of the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, to ensure Whitecap children have access to the same range of services as kids in Saskatoon, while continuing to receive Dakota language and cultural teachings.”

The agreement recognizes and respects Whitecap’s inherent jurisdiction over education of its members and



Chief Darcy Bear and Saskatoon Board of Education Chair Ray Morrison sign historic agreement.

“This agreement solidifies our many years of collaboration and cooperation with Whitecap Dakota First Nation, all of which has been focussed on doing what is best for students.”
 – Ray Morrison

establishes a co-governance mechanism to oversee school operations.

“This agreement solidifies our many years of collaboration and cooperation with Whitecap Dakota First Nation, all of which has been focussed on doing what is best for students,” said Saskatoon Board of Education Chair Ray Morrison.

“While this agreement formally welcomes Whitecap Dakota Elementary School into our

division, it will lead to enriching opportunities for all our students and staff members. Public education is about being open to all and I am proud to lead our division as we take this historic step forward in that regard.”

An important aspect of the agreement is the smooth transition of Whitecap students who attend school in Saskatoon. Whitecap School offers classes from Prekindergarten through Grade 4, after which students will be transported to Saskatoon to complete their elementary and secondary education.

“I commend Whitecap Dakota First Nation and Saskatoon Public School Division for making Whitecap the first on-reserve school to benefit from an alliance with a provincial school division,” said Education Minister Don Morgan.

“This partnership allows Whitecap students to benefit from the same supports available in Saskatoon schools, right from Prekindergarten to Grade 12.

“By working together, these expanded learning opportunities will help prepare students for their future, which is what putting the student first all is about.”

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Dawn Dumont continuing to follow her bliss

Dawn Dumont is a one of a kind comedian, playwright, writer and one of our most popular columnists. Her 700 words of hilarity a month always has our readers asking for more Dawn. Fear not, dear readers, now you can enjoy Dawn and her storytelling in a book that is exactly 297 pages long and will take you a lot longer to read.

Rose's Run (not to be confused with her first book, Nobody Cries at Bingo which is only 289 pages long) is a story about Rose Okanese, a single mother with two kids who has been pushed into a corner by Rez citizens to claim some self-respect, and decides that the fastest way to do that is to run the reserve's annual marathon.

Though Rose hasn't run in 20 years, smokes, and initially has little motivation, she announces her intention to run the race. Next thing you know, an old demon that feeds on the strength of women is called forth by her teen daughter and mayhem ensues on the Rez.

The story is funny and eerie and about mothers' love, friendships, lust and, of course, Rez humour. Since Dawn and I have communicated almost exclusively by email for most of the almost two years she has been writing for us, we figured we would just email her some questions about being a famous writer and other things that pain her, cause really, why start talking now?

We strongly encourage you to buy her book at McNally Robinson or at bookstores everywhere or even on the web. It is a great story and will make a great Christmas present after you read it (just remember not to crack the spine, works like a charm).

EFN: You have a law degree, yet you are not a lawyer. Why did you choose the poverty of being a writer when you could have taken on the world ... or at least made

good money?

Dawn: I swallowed the Oprah, "follow your bliss" Kool-Aid. Oprah also said that if you followed your bliss, you would get everything you ever wanted. But there is some fine print that the brown goddess did not mention – you better hope your ass is lucky as hell or

and then change it later. But Rose was Rose the whole way through.

EFN: What does your family say to you about using them as fodder for comedy?

Dawn: It would be foolish of me to ask.
EFN: How long did it take you to write the book?

Dawn: No idea. I remember writing the

of Water on APTN, writing alone in your basement, or doing stand up comedy in a remote northern community?

Dawn: Probably being on a trampoline with my nieces and double-jumping to make them fall.

EFN: If an aspiring writer came to you for advice, what would you tell them?

Dawn: Pick a story and write all the way through until you are done. Share your work often (open mics, readings with friends, etc.) but keep writing until it is done. Even if it feels like it's crap (and it probably is) you should finish because you can fix a lot in the edit. Finishing things gives you confidence and gives you energy for the next project. One completed draft is better than a hundred half finished stories.

EFN: Who is your favourite writer and why?

Dawn: Richard Van Camp because his writing is sweet, hopeful, and hilarious.

EFN: Give us your three favourite books.

Dawn: The Lesser Blessed, Naked (David Sedaris), and The Bingo Palace (Louise Erdrich)

EFN: Where is the oddest place you have ever signed someone's "book"?

Dawn: In the bathroom of a bookstore – they were stealing it. Which I guess makes me an accessory.

EFN: Ever get tired of being a famous writer?

Dawn: Here is my idea of fame: When I was performing comedy at Yuk Yuk's in Edmonton there was always a sign outside the club that said, "Comedians and half-price prime rib." I'd watch people look at the sign and say, "wow half price prime rib." Someday I would like to be more of a draw than half price prime rib. Hell I'd even take being a bigger draw than free popcorn. Although maybe that's setting the bar too high? Help me, oh dear Oprah!



Dawn Dumont's second book takes an eerie and funny look at Rez life.

you will be eating a lot of noodles. And have you ever read the ingredients on those packages? I think it would be healthier to boil and eat your dog's fur.

EFN: When you write your columns, your family seems to be your favourite topic and characters. Does this mean Rose Okanese is fashioned after a family member? Mom perhaps?

Dawn: Nope Rose Okanese is her own person. I don't think I've ever written a character that was more herself than Rose. Sometimes I write a character and I will base it on someone I know – I even use their name in the first draft

first 45 pages when I was living in Edmonton and I called one of my friends and said, "hey I wrote 45 pages this weekend" and he was like, "oh do you know where the cheapest place is to get my oil changed?" Then after that I think it slowed quite a bit. Also the cheapest oil changes are the ones you do yourself.

EFN: How is Rose's Run different from Nobody Cries at Bingo?

Dawn: It's a novel. It's supernatural. It's scary. I'm not in it. All of these are my favourite things.

EFN: What is more fun, doing Fish Out



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TCU Place, 35 22nd Street East

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. & 6 to 9 p.m. (Presentations at 10:15 a.m. & 6:15 p.m.)

Revolving workshops every half hour. Choose to participate in one or all of the topics being discussed.

Information Sessions

Monday, December 1, 2014

Cliff Wright Branch Library
1635 McKercher Drive

6 to 8 p.m. (Presentation at 6:15 p.m.)

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Cosmo Civic Centre
3130 Laurier Drive

6 to 8 p.m. (Presentation at 6:15 p.m.)

Learn more and get involved at www.growingfwd.ca

Yellow Quill creates another urban reserve first in Saskatoon

Big commitment as First Nation unveils plans for downtown office building

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Yellow Quill First Nation has announced it is committed to building a commercial office building in downtown Saskatoon on its urban reserve. The project will be located at 240 - 4th and will be the first urban reserve in downtown Saskatoon.

“We wanted to replicate the success we have had with the First Nations Bank Building,” says Chief Larry Cachene.

“We did thorough research and determined the best use was to invest in another commercial office space. We presented our research and reports to our members and they voted overwhelmingly in favour of the project.”

According to Chief Cachene, the band has invested \$1 million and three years in the project and is looking for more tenants and the announcement was to show people they are serious about the venture.

The office building will be environmentally designed with LEED gold certification targeted. Its high-profile downtown location near the river makes it an appealing choice for businesses and the project plans are scalable so additional floors can be added if demand exists. Plans for construction will move forward once sufficient leasing commitments are in place and the First Nations Bank of Canada has already signed on to be the first tenant.

Harry Lafond, Executive Director of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner knows urban reserves well. He was a councillor for Chief of Muskeg Lake Cree Nation when they created the first urban reserve in Saskatoon’s Sutherland neighbourhood.

“This future building is the result of the hard work of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner since 1989 and the TLE agreement,” said Lafond at the announcement.

“It also shows that the Treaty 6 people are willing to share with Treaty 4 people, even the prime real estate in downtown Saskatoon,” he joked.

The goal of the project is to generate long-term revenue streams for Yellow Quill First Nation to reinvest into its community and membership, particularly in the areas of education and housing, as well as contribute to a more vibrant downtown Saskatoon.

“Now that we have achieved reserve status with this property, we have enhanced our attractiveness to businesses including First Nation businesses or by those businesses who want to build strong partnerships with First Nations,” said Chief Cachene.

“The business community wants to attract and engage First Nations people into the workforce. This office building will provide an excellent vehicle for those partnerships and will contribute to the growing Saskatchewan economy.”



Yellow Quill First Nation Chief Larry Cachene presented Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison with a gift at the announcement of their urban reserve development. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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READ Saskatoon
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On behalf of READ Saskatoon staff and the PGI Planning Committee, I want to thank the sponsors, volunteers, and golfers who have helped make our 8th annual READ Saskatoon PGI Golf Tournament for Literacy a tremendous success.

Brad Kuan
PGI Chair, 2014

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Football star's disclosure breathes life into Lung Month fundraiser

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Don Narcisse is a Saskatchewan Roughrider legend. He has a Grey Cup ring. He has membership in three Halls of Fame. He has the best damn touchdown dance of any Rider in history. And he also has asthma, something he never told the Riders about in his 13-year career with the team.

"I was not up front with the Riders with my asthma because I didn't want to make it an excuse," explains Narcisse.

"And when you make an excuse and you are not on the football field, somebody else gets to play your spot and take your job. I was able to keep my secret for 13 years," said Narcisse.

With his mix of skill, stardom and personal experience dealing with lung disease, Don Narcisse is the perfect Ambassador for Lung Month. The Lung Association of Saskatchewan wants to raise awareness and money so it can continue to assist in providing ground breaking lung health research, lung health education and services, and support work that advocates for better lung health.

In an innovative social media campaign, the Lung Association is inviting people to play Truth or Dare. They challenge you, through social media, to tell a true story about lung disease and health. Or, on the dare, do the famous Don Narcisse touchdown dance and post it online for the entire world to see. It is guaranteed to raise awareness and also to be fun.

"The touchdown dance is easy to do. Walk away and just make sure you bounce back. It is fun, but it is for a good cause," said Narcisse.

"We have to get the story out there about lung disease so people can talk about how it affects them, and social media is a great way to promote it."

Narcisse has some help promoting the month. He is joined by fellow ambassadors Brett Stovin of the Saskatoon Blades, Kevin Stanfield from Global Saskatoon, Aiden May, Lori Kleiboer, radio host Stacie Cooper, quarterback Candace Bloomquist and Neechie Gear founder Kendal Netmaker. Anyone who makes a



Lung Month Ambassador and Rider legend Don Narcisse has Leon Masa show his Grey Cup and Hall of Fame rings and the \$40 Narcisse's mom gave him for gas when he went to try out for the Riders. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

video gets entered into a draw for WestJet flights or a trip for two to the Grey Cup in 2015 with Don Narcisse. You also get entered in the draw for donating money.

Narcisse always had trouble getting air running as a child but it wasn't until he had a serious attack that he got scared.

"I remember being rushed to the hospital because I couldn't breathe and I remember the look of fear on my mom's face when they put the mask over me. I didn't know what was going on," he said.

Because of his asthma, his mother refused to put him in sports until he was in Grade 7 and he wanted to be a receiver. His mom was proud when he was named MVP in Grade 12. He eventually received a college scholarship and his mom dutifully sent him \$20 a month to live on. When he told her had a tryout with the Riders, she gave him \$40.

"Twenty dollars extra for gas," he says.

Well, the asthmatic kid from Texas made those Riders and then went on to a hall of fame career and to this day he carries around something to remind him of where he came from.

"I still have that \$40 my mom gave me and I show people and tell them that that \$40 bought all four of these here rings," said Narcisse as he showed his Grey Cup and Hall of Fame rings.

His mom passed away five days before he was inducted into the CFL Hall of Fame. She was his biggest fan and she liked his dance.

"I came up with that dance by myself. I used to practice in the mirror and then I got to a point where I could just turn and look back at the defensive back and then turn back around and walk some more then turn back again.

"It got to a point that it was real good. Now that it is going to go viral, that's awesome. This is a great day to be here. If you can't breathe nothing else matters.

"This is a battle I've been fighting my whole life and I know my mom is proud."

To participate in Truth or Dare go to www.td4lungs.ca





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The Creighton Kodiaks beat defending Northern Football League Champions Pinehouse Lakers 67-41 in front of 400 wild fans to claim the League Championship.

Northern Football league concludes successful season

PRINCE ALBERT – The Creighton Kodiaks led by Evan Linnick are the 2014 Northern Saskatchewan Football champions after a 67-41 victory over the Pinehouse Lakers on Nov. 1 at the Max Clunie Field in Prince Albert.

An estimated crowd of 400 fans from the communities of Creighton and Pinehouse attended the game which was played under a beautiful, sunny fall day.

On the game's first possession, Evan Linnick ran for the first of his five touchdowns on the day. The Kodiaks

never looked back, leading 24-13 at the end of the first quarter and 32-13 at half time. Adding to his performance, Linnick kicked eight out of eight conversions (2 pts each in 6-aside) and added a field goal to score 49 of the Kodiak points.

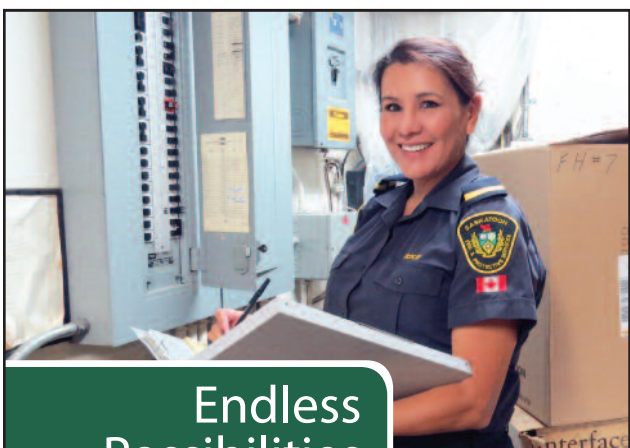
Chris Reynolds, Brennan Van Meer and Randy Nowlin each scored a touchdown to round out the scoring for the Kodiaks.

The Pinehouse Lakers, who were the 2013 defending champions, played hard to the very end of the game.

Quarterback Tanner Tinker had three touchdowns, while Johnny Tinker had two and Dray Tinker had one of his own.

The Lakers had a few bad breaks in the game including a goal line fumble caused by Kodiak defender in the second quarter.

Northern Saskatchewan Football wishes to thank all of the coaches, officials, volunteers, parents and players that have worked so hard to make this a successful season.



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On behalf of the Saskatoon Tribal Council, we would sincerely like to extend a heartfelt thank you and our deepest appreciation for the sponsorship and support provided to the 2014 Vampire Gala event held on October 30, 2014.

Thanks to your generous sponsorship, the Vampire Gala was a phenomenal success! We were able to raise funds to support White Buffalo Youth Lodge and the STC Home Fires Foundation thus creating opportunities to support our children, youth and families in achieving a better quality of life!

With the support and shared vision of our sponsors, contributors and network of partners, we can improve outcomes in health, safety, education and economics. Let's keep the momentum going in helping to change people's lives. Together we can raise our community to reach its full potential and realize our vision for the future!

Respectfully,

Wilma Isbister
Chair, 2014 Vampire Gala Committee



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A sincere thank you to the Committee and all of the volunteers whose dedication and enthusiasm made the 2014 Vampire Gala a memorable event!