



"To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation."

Volume 24 Issue 9

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More tinkering with Indian Act

First Nations citizens are once again watching from the sidelines as Canadian Parliamentarians debate what they think is best for them – this time in putting forward three legislative proposals to eliminate the 136-year-old Indian Act.

Calling the act an "international embarrassment," interim Liberal leader Bob Rae introduced a private member's bill that would eliminate and replace the law, which has long been contentious both inside and outside First Nations communities.

"We are now living under a law that was established in 1876 that is simply an expression of the colonial relationship of the time," Rae said. "It's way past time that we transform that relationship."

His announcement came less than a week after the Conservatives backed a bill by Tory MP Rob Clarke to amend the Act, which he

called outdated and racist. Clarke is a citizen of Muskeg Lake First Nation in Saskatchewan.

The Act outlines the relationship between Canada and its First Nations peoples. It restricts the power of band councils, governs land use and housing on reserves, and created a system of residential schools that historians say caused untold damage to aboriginal communities across Canada.

Rae's proposal would give the government three months to begin negotiating with individual First Nations to replace the Act with a series of new laws. Those laws would be based on historic treaty rights of each aboriginal community and standards established in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples among other conditions, he said.

And in the Senate, Conservative appointee Gerry St. Germain, a Métis from Manitoba, who

served as chairman of the Senate Aboriginal Peoples Committee, introduced a self-government bill the same week as he retired from the Upper Chamber at the mandatory age of 75.

Grand Council Chief Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee was shaking his head at the ongoing efforts of the Stephen Harper government to ignore First Nations input in dealing with their issues.

"The Conservative government continues to use policy and legislation to do an end run around our inherent, treaty and Section 35 rights," said the spokesman for 39 member communities of the Anishinabek Nation.

"The Americans hacked Indians to death. In Canada it's death by a thousand cuts. Who's the more inhumane?"

Madahbee said the Rae approach – involving negotiations with individual First Nations over a two-year period – was the preferred option.

"At first glance this plan is a more desirable process than what the Conservatives are proposing. Bob Rae says he wants to talk Nation-to-Nation and that's a good first step. I think that this process needs to be community-driven.

"In this two-year process, the Liberals need to put resources aside for community and leadership engagement. A legal analysis needs to be done as well. The Conservatives think they have all the answers, but they just don't get it. They are still talking about extinguishment. What they're proposing reeks of the '69 White Paper.

"At the same time, we haven't forgotten that things like the '69 White Paper were done while the Liberals were in power.

"All parties better realize this is a major process – like the constitutional process in 1982 – asking questions like what's federal, provincial and First Nation jurisdiction. How can we work together?"



Celebrating Christmas by giving

The Union of Ontario Indians Fort William office hosts an annual Christmas toy and food drive for non-perishable food items, toys, pajamas, puzzles, crayons, art supplies, and movie passes in Thunder Bay. Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Council Chief Glen Hare seen here with Nolanna Hardy participated in last year's event. This year, guests will participate in the Dilico Children's Foundation Christmas Wish Box Campaign. Donations can be dropped off at 300 Anemki Place, Suite A until Dec. 20. – Photo by Judy Currie

Residents evacuated due to flooding

By Marci Becking

MICHIPICOTEN FIRST NATION – Chief Joe Buckell says that his entire community was displaced for four days when high levels of water caused the road going into his community to erode away.

All 60 on-reserve residents were evacuated by helicopter to the nearby town of Wawa that had services available for the citizens of the Michipicoten First Nation.

"Everyone is now safe back in their homes," says Chief Buckell. "Some basements were flooded and

the clean-up process is underway."

Chief Buckell says that the road into Michipicoten will take a couple more weeks to get it back to its previous standard.

"We would like to thank Emergency Management Ontario and the Municipality of Wawa for helping us. Our citizens all had rooms and meals provided. It was very well organized."

Chief Buckell says that Michipicoten First Nation will be developing its own contingency plan in case any future disasters like this one occur.

In Brief



Russell Means, 72

Russell C. Means, the Oglala Sioux who was one of the key American Indian Movement (AIM) leaders of the 71-day 1973 protest at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, has died at the age of 72. AIM's guerrilla-tactic protests against the annual celebration of Columbus Day and the "Chief Wahoo" mascot symbol of the Cleveland Indians baseball team called attention to the United States' history of injustices against indigenous peoples.

Alexander passes at age 90

Lincoln Alexander, Canada's first black member of parliament, and later the 24th Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, passed away on Oct. 19, 2012.

He once said that First Nations remain the longest discriminated group in our history.



Lincoln Alexander

Kateri first indigenous Saint

Kateri Tekakwitha was the first indigenous person from North America to be canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 21.

Also known as the "Lily of the Mohawks", Kateri was born in 1656 in the Mohawk community of Ossernenon and served in a Catholic mission near present day Kahnawake.

"With the long history that some of our citizens have had with the Roman Catholic Church, it is a long-awaited recognition of the role that Kateri Tekakwitha played in being a spiritual role model and now a Saint," says Grand Council Chief Madahbee.



Nun in headdress holds image of Kateri.

A look inside...



- Anishinabek Page 3
- War of 1812 Page 10
- Remembrance Day Pages 12-13
- Education Page 14

Chippewas of the Thames artist Nancy Deleary enlarges the Tecumseh block design onto an 8 by 8 feet wood panel for others to paint in. The Tecumseh panel was the first to go up on the 119th anniversary of his death, October 5, 2012 at the corner of Jubilee Rd. and Muncey Rd. on top of hill on Chippewa's ceremonial grounds. See Barn Quilt story on Page 16.

– Photo by Leslee White-eye



Political Office

To respect the sacred laws of the Anishinabek

Canada promises to polish the chain

OTTAWA – During a ceremony to honour First Nations for their role in defending Canadian sovereignty during the War of 1812, Chief Isadore Day asked Prime Minister Stephen Harper to begin “polishing” the treaty agreement that had ensured the Anishinabek alliance for the Crown.

“He understood that our acceptance of the War of 1812 commemorative medals and banner was conditional on his government agreeing to recognize our formal request for Canada to polish the covenant chain,” said Day, a direct descendant of Genebek, who fought alongside Chief Shingwauk and other Anishinabe warriors in the 1812 campaign. Day serves as Lake Huron Regional Chief of the Anishinabek Nation, and carries the name of his grandfather Wiindawtegowinini, whose name appears on the Robinson Huron Treaty of 1850.

Chief Day displayed a replica of the Treaty of Niagara Covenant Chain Wampum Belt for Governor General David Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The belt, made of 10,076 beads from the Quahog shell, was presented backwards, with the 1764 date reversed, to demonstrate that outstanding issues in the agreement need to be addressed.

The leaders of 24 Indian Nations accepted the original Covenant Chain belt at the Treaty of Niagara Congress, pledging their loyalty to the Crown in Canada



Chief Isadore Day, Wiindawtegowinini, and Serpent River FN Elder and Veteran Art Meawasige presented the Treaty of 1764 Covenant Chain Wampum Belt to Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston during a Rideau Hall ceremony to commemorate First Nation contributions to the successful defence of Canada's sovereignty during the War of 1812.

in exchange for generous gifts, a promise to establish an exclusive Indian Territory between Upper Canada and the 13 Colonies of the United States, and a pledge from Sir William Johnston that the First Nations would never experience poverty “as long as the world shall last.”

Accompanied by Serpent River Elder and Veteran Art Meawasige, Chief Day offered the Governor General the gift of a sacred pipe and the Prime Minister a gift of cloth and tobacco while urging them both to work towards rectifying the injustices Canada had committed against its former military

allies.

“In your respective roles and authorities we seek to make, once again, the Covenant Chain a bond that shines of friendship, peace, and prosperity,” said Chief Day, “only this time that Anishinabe are treated with honour, respect and dignity so that our children can be proud of their ancestry without the pain of poverty or the confusion of betrayal.”

Speaking on behalf of the Anishinabek Nation – whose communities sent most of the 10,000 warriors who supported 1,000 British troops during the American invasions of 1812 – Day said there is

an urgent need to renew the relationship between First Nations and the Crown in Canada.

“Families and children in our communities today continue to be impacted with afflictions of poverty, addiction – and removal of children from our homes and from our people. We never gave up jurisdiction. That is not what these Wampums and our treaties were used for. Prime Minister; we look to you to help make right these terrible conditions.

Representatives of 48 First Nation and Metis communities were on hand at the Oct. 26 ceremony to receive medals and banners from

the Prime Minister, who saluted their ancestors for having made “a great and critical contribution to Canada, one in which events may well have ended very differently.

“Had Canadians, Aboriginal, French, English and others, not repelled an American invasion during the three-year struggle that we remember today as the War of 1812, our country could not have come into being,” said Harper.

Following the ceremony Chief Day said he would be seeking further direction from Anishinabek Chiefs-in-Assembly about appropriate protocol for “polishing the Covenant Chain” with Canada.



60s Scoop Rally

Ontario Regional Chief Stan Beardy walks with Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee and Batchewana Chief Dean Sayers at the October 24 60s Scoop Rally which was held at the same time as the Chiefs in Ontario Education Conference in Toronto.
– Photo by Jody Kehego

Critical of tobacco barriers

TORONTO – On Oct. 16, 2012, members of the Political Confederacy of the Chiefs of Ontario – including Anishinabek Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee – sent a joint letter to Premier Dalton McGuinty and Prime Minister Stephen Harper regarding barriers being imposed by Ontario and Canadian governments against the legitimate First Nations tobacco trade.

The letter reads:

“Your governments’ aggressive approach to taxation and regulation on First Nation territories is building significant barriers to success for our small and medium businesses. This is especially true for our tobacco industry, which has come under increased scrutiny from both levels of government. This has caused increased hardship for our businesses.

“One such company under threat from this situation is Sandhill Enterprises located on Delaware First Nation. This action will undermine our economic endeavours is the attempt by the federal gov-

ernment to make it mandatory to have provincial licenses. Sandhill has been operating a small business of moving raw leaf tobacco and tobacco products since 2008.

Moreover, Sandhill has operated its business in cooperation with federal excise licence conditions. Upon renewing for its excise license, it has been informed that a provincial license must also be attained.

“The position of the Chiefs of Ontario has been consistent and clear: Ontario’s actions are interfering with our trade and commerce. We remind the Province of Ontario that the underlying title to these lands still belongs to us. This unwarranted harassment must stop. We are prepared to meet with your respective Ministers responsible to sort out this issue on an urgent basis.

The Ontario Regional Chief will call your offices immediately to set up these meetings. We look forward to your full cooperation in resolving this interference with our trade and commerce.



ANISHINABEK



Ashley Nichols, 25, is a Muay Thai world champion.

Kickboxing her way to the top

By Maurice Switzer

CAMBRIDGE, Ont – For a slim 52-kilogram 25-year-old, Ashley Nichols has sure tossed a lot of people around.

Standing five feet, seven inches tall, the second-year Conestoga College student has won Canadian, North American and world championships in a variety of martial arts disciplines, including Muay Thai – a mixture of boxing and kickboxing – international kickboxing and Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. In October she brought three gold medals home from an Ottawa Open Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu competition, including two first places in the women's featherweight division and the women's "Absolute" – against all comers – lightweight title.

"The support Indigenous people have given me over the years has been key to me reaching my goals," says Ashley, currently enrolled in a two-year Protection/Security & Investigation pro-

gram at Conestoga's campus in Cambridge. "It has ranged from funding and fundraising support, to encouragement and motivation. All key to being determined as I am to succeed in the combat sports. The spirit and heart of our people drives me as well.

Ashley, a citizen of Chippewas of the Thames First Nation who also has Oneida heritage, plans on moving into a Community and Criminal Justice degree program that will give her the opportunity to assist in diversion and intervention programs for youth and young adults.

Her coaches were Rick Peters Level 4 Boxing Coach, Yit Phady-Grand Master in Muaythai, and Chris Kew-Muay Thai Coach.

She is grateful to the support she has received from the college's Aboriginal Services program, especially manager/counsellor Myeengun Henry. "We are able to stay connected with our First Nations community with the latest news and events."

Filmmaker on festival circuit

By Heather Campbell

SUDBURY – Atikameksheng Anishnawbek filmmaker Darlene Naponse has spent the last year taking her second feature film, Every Emotion Costs on the film festival circuit and finally was able to show it on the big screen at the Cinefest Sudbury International Film Festival.

Naponse enjoys watching the different reactions from audiences.

"I want to listen to the laughter, and catch when people get the humour. In one of the scenes only one person got it," she said

with amusement.

Naponse puts community at the center of most of her writing and this film is no different.

The film explores the relationship between two sisters, June (Roseanne Supernault) and Quilla (Michelle St. John) who left the reserve as teenagers, returning for the funeral of their mentally-ill mother.



Darlene Naponse

They reunite with their Auntie (Tantoo Cardinal) and younger sister Ella (Sage Petahtegoose), and face the buried feelings of abandonment and abuse they thought they left behind.

Again, like her first feature film, Cradlesong (2003), Naponse shot the film entirely on Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, with community and family participating.

Julian Cote, a partner in Pine Needle Productions, who also provided the original music for Cradlesong, again provided original music for this film.



Serpent River opens Lifestyle Centre

Serpent River First Nation officially opened its new 16,000-square-foot Lifestyle Centre on Oct. 25. The Lifestyle Centre includes a gymnasium, a well-equipped fitness room, an Elders room, a boardroom, a lounge area and a kitchen. The \$3-million building took nearly three years to complete. Front: Chief Isadore Day, Tony Moor - SRFN director of operations, Dorothy McLeod Tremblay, Orval Commanda, Frank Lewis, Art Meawasige, Lorraine Meawasige, Ivan Meawasige back row: Percy Owl, Isabelle Meawasige, Shirley McLeod and Bill Meawasige all assisted in cutting the ribbon to officially open the Lifestyle Centre.

–By Kevin McSheffrey/The Elliot Lake Standard

IN BRIEF



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Charity has new partner

NORTH BAY –The Anishinabek Nation 7th Generation Charity has teamed up with a North Bay car detailing business to raise money for the charity.

"It's a win-win situation," says charity manager Jason Restoule. "By mentioning the code 'AN7GC' at LiquidTech, you will get a 10% discount on all your goods and or services purchased over \$30."

A portion of all sales that used the AN7GC booking code will go directly to the charity.

LiquidTech is located at 693 Fisher Street in North Bay.



Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health, Councillor Keith Knott, Dr. Garry Humphreys former Medical Officer of Health, and Deputy Mayor Andy Sharpe, Chair of the Peterborough County-City Health Unit Board.

Keith Knott honoured

PETERBOROUGH – Keith Knott was honoured by the Peterborough County-City Health Unit Board of Health, having served 10 years of dedicated involvement and First Nation representation with the board. This recognition occurred during their regular scheduled meeting in the Council Chambers at Curve Lake. Chief Phyllis Williams, who was also present, replaces Councillor Knott on this board.

Dr. Humphreys provided a historical reflection of Keith's contributions, inclusive of being persistent and influential to bring a Family Health Team to Curve Lake Health Centre. This occurred at a time when family doctors were not easily accessed by Curve Lake citizens. Curve Lake First Nation Health & Family Services continues to enjoy the partnering relationship with the staff of the PCCHU.

Chief, Council, staff, and community extend their congratulations and appreciation to Keith for this major accomplishment.

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Editor: Maurice Switzer
Assistant Editor: Marci Becking
Media Specialist: Lisa Abel
Coordinator: Priscilla Goulais
Contributors: Joyce Atcheson, Heather Campbell, John Ferris, Karen Foster, Rick Garrick, Karl Hele, Christine McFarlane, Maureen Peltier, Greg Plain, Mary Simpson, Chad Solomon, Richard Wagamese, Tonya-Lee Watts, Leslee White-eye.

PH: 705-497-9127 ~ 1-877-702-5200
 FX: 705-497-9135
 WEB: www.anishinabek.ca
 E-MAIL: news@anishinabek.ca
 MAIL: P.O. Box 711, Nipissing First Nation, North Bay, ON, P1B 8J8

MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

Bullies benefit from speed, anonymity

By Maurice Switzer

When I was in elementary school one of the kids regarded as “tough” threatened to beat me up.

I was frightened, mainly because I hadn’t done anything to him, possibly never even spoken to or about him.

One day “after four”, as we used to say, I was walking home when my tormentor wheeled up on his bike. My short life flashed before my eyes. But, instead of knocking my little block off, he wanted to know if I wanted to make model airplanes with him. Thus began a strange acquaintanceship in which the two of us didn’t so much like each other as respect one another’s abilities – I got mostly A’s on my report cards, he was the undisputed fly-weight champion of Lakefield, Ontario.

Compared to what I see these days in news reports, I got off lightly.

Bullying has become a much more widespread phenomenon...with sometimes deadly results.

Teachers are still called on to break up schoolyard scraps, but face-to-face encounters are no longer required for bullies to wreak their havoc, so they are no longer necessarily nasty people with big fists. The only physical exertion required to intimidate victims in 2012 is the strength it takes to execute a computer keystroke.

It seems that everyone these days is walking around with a cell phone that doubles as a



Maurice Switzer

camera. That, combined with the instant gratification offered by e-mail, Facebook and Twitter platforms, provides all the ingredients required to cause a victim embarrassment, sometimes driving them to the point of suicide.

There is some irony in the fact that privacy laws can prevent the sharing of seemingly harmless information at a time when people can wake up the morning after a party and find photos of themselves half-naked on a stranger’s Facebook page.

Parental oversight of their children’s online activities is far more likely to be effective than legislation in reducing such Internet hazards as harassment or sexual predation.

Computer use has not only expanded the damage that can be caused by bullies; it has also extended their longevity. The worst culprits are no longer necessarily school-age. Police forces are responding to calls from victims of online abuse that can take the form of threats or intimidation.

Perhaps the worst sort of bullying is racism, a social blight that has benefitted from the speed and anonymity available through electronic communication channels.

Mass media organizations, presumably dedicated to promoting high standards of civil discourse, have actually contributed to the prevalence of racist commentary by providing anonymous opportunities for readers to comment on stories. At the same time as they generally refuse to publish unsigned letters in their print editions, newspapers routinely allow discussion free-for-alls on their websites.

Whether the subject of grotesque team mascots and logos or ill-informed comments about our treaty rights to fish and be exempt from certain taxes, First Nations are considered fair game to be on the receiving end of public insults.

Earlier this year the publisher of the *Globe and Mail* responded to my complaint about a website comment by admitting it was racist, but it had been removed “pretty quickly.” The editor of the *Sudbury Star* says he had to adopt a policy to ban website comments about stories on First Nations topics because they quickly deteriorated into racist remarks within minutes.

It’s a shame that we live in a world that makes it easier for bullies to do their dirty work.

At least when someone throws a punch at you in person you have a chance to duck.

Maurice Switzer is a citizen of the Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation. He serves as director of communications for the Union of Ontario Indians and editor of the Anishinabek News.



PUBLISHING CRITERIA

GOAL
 To publish a quality newspaper and related publications designed to foster pride and share knowledge about Anishinabek current affairs, culture, goals, and accomplishments.

OBJECTIVES
 To provide information that reflects the Creator’s four original gifts to the Anishinabek:

- Respect: To welcome diversity and encourage a free exchange of opinions that may differ without being disagreeable. Fair and humorous comments are welcomed, but not ridicule or personal attacks.
- Honesty: Debwewin – speaking the truth – is the cornerstone of our newspaper’s content.
- Sharing: Providing opportunities for people from the four corners of the Anishinabek Nation to tell stories and record achievements, and to keep our citizens informed about activities of the Union of Ontario Indians.
- Strength: To give a voice to the vision of the Anishinabek Nation that celebrates our history, culture and language, promotes our land, treaty, and aboriginal rights, and supports the development of healthy and prosperous communities.

The current circulation of the Anishinabek News is 10,000 copies, with 9,000 mailed and 1,000 distributed at various events. Annual subscriptions are \$25.

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For more information or inquiries to the Anishinabek News related to advertising and circulation issues please call our Toll-free number: 1-800-463-6408

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Stories come from everywhere – including Elkhorn

I’ve gotten to know Canada pretty well as a journalist. I’ve lived and worked in most of the major cities and I’ve experienced a lot of what we’ve come to know as our cultural mosaic. I’ve spent time with a lot of different cultures and it’s been an outstanding thing.

But years ago, when I was rootless and looking for a peg to hang my life on, I got to know Canada pretty well too. I guess you don’t have to have a college degree or a high paying job in order to find yourself in this country or get educated in how it works.

In the early fall of 1975 I was driving across the country. There was no work or hope of work where I’d been living and I headed out as I’d done before to test the horizon and seek my fortune somewhere else.

Well, the old car broke down outside of Elkhorn, Manitoba just as night was falling. I left it at the side of the road and walked to a service station. It was closed so I bedded down in the box of a pickup truck for the night. The RCMP woke me early the next



Richard Wagamese

morning. They didn’t like drifters or vagrants in Elkhorn so I was offered a job or jail. I took the job. I went to work as a field hand for a wheat farmer. There were about a dozen of us who shared a bunkhouse and we were from everywhere.

My new friends were from places with names like Wandering River, Snag, Come By Chance, Sissiboo Falls and Moosehorn. They were Swedes, Hungarians, Chinese, Black-foot and Cree. We worked hard all day and

shared stories around a fire at night. It was a marvelous adventure.

We got paid out after ten days and the farmer drove us to town in his stake truck. We sat in the back and smoked and laughed. We were all young and adventurous and filled with dreams. When we parted we exchanged promises to hook up somewhere again down the road. We never did but the memory has stuck with me.

See, this country we share is filled with stories. They come from every corner and they are carried by everyone from every stripe and color. Without them we are less. All of us. That’s what I learned around that fire outside that bunkhouse outside of Elkhorn, Manitoba.

Richard Wagamese is Ojibway from Wabase-mong First Nation in Northwestern Ontario. His new book, One Story, One Song is available in stores now. Hardcover \$29.95 ISBN 9781553655060.



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“We are all Treaty People” graphic novel is designed to present an Anishinabek perspective on treaty rights. Significant emphasis is placed on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Wampum Belts presented to 24 First Nations allies by the British at Treaty of Niagara in 1764.

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MAANDA NDINENDAM / OPINION

Conservatives chop programs, increase ad buys

OTTAWA – Opposition parties are crying “foul” over what they claim is the Harper government’s misuse of taxpayers’ dollars on multi-million-dollar partisan advertising campaigns.

The Conservative government has approved tens of millions of dollars in “economic action plan” ads this year even as it cites fiscal restraint to cut programs such as scientific research and environmental monitoring.

While Finance officials are refusing to disclose the budget for the current “action plan” media blitz blanketing Canadian airwaves, a Treasury Board document shows that cabinet approved \$16-million in “economic action plan” advertising in the first quarter of this year alone.

In all, the federal cabinet has already approved more than \$64-million in ad spending for 2012-13 - seemingly well on its

way to matching the \$83.3-million they spent in 2010-11, the last year for which complete numbers are available.

When the Conservatives came to office in 2006, they inherited a federal advertising budget of \$41.3-million - a total they have doubled, and in one case more than tripled, every year they have been in power to date.

The ad spending comes as Treasury Board President Tony

Clement oversees sweeping cuts to government programs in an across-the-board belt-tightening exercise.

World-renowned programs such as the Experimental Lakes Area are being axed for savings of \$2-million annually, while the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy was cut to save \$5.5-million.

Cindy Blackstock, the executive director of the First Nations

Child and Family Caring Society of Canada, called it “disturbing” that millions are being spent on government ads when first nations children go to school in mouldy classrooms.

“What I want to see is those taxpayer funds going into better health care, better education, helping children . . . not to the promotion of government agendas,” she said.

Let poor eat tainted meat: Alberta MLA

CALGARY – Wildrose Party Opposition leader Danielle Smith, MLA for Highwood, was forced to back-pedal after suggesting tainted meat from Alberta’s E. coli scandal could be used to feed the hungry.

Admitting that it was a mistake for her to tweet that properly cooked tainted meat could feed the homeless, Smith told an open line radio show that if you can’t explain your position in 140 words on Twitter, you shouldn’t try.

Smith had used the social media platform to suggest meat that had to be recalled by XL Foods in Brooks, Alta., could be cooked thoroughly to destroy E. coli bacteria and then fed to people in need of a good meal.

Twitter users said Smith should feed it to her party members instead.

Federal food inspectors have seized more than 5.5 million kilograms of beef from the beleaguered plant at the heart of a massive E. coli recall.



Give INAC school keys

Re: ‘Big numbers hide huge failures: Madahbee:

What needs to happen is the First Nations running their schools with substandard funding need to march to their district INAC offices and throw the keys back at the government. En masse. Across the board.

Followed up by First Nations refusing to sign INAC funding agreements that contain funding to operate these schools any more.

Byron Leclair
Pic River FN

Rattlesnake clarification

LETTERS

Re: article about the Species-at-Risk work that is being done in Magnetawan First Nation (October, 2012). Awesome job! The more people start thinking about these animals the more we can conserve them!

To clarify a couple of things:

1) No-one has died in over 50 years from a Massasauga rattlesnake bite in Ontario.

2) “Many of the reports of Massasauga bites are from young men who have been drinking and were not being careful!”

Myself and colleague Julia Riley have found 316 turtles, 35 lizards and 482 snakes of various species this summer, and an overwhelming number of them were killed on roads.

Winter looks like it may come

early, but the turtle don't seem to realize it – they are still moving!

James Baxter-Gilbert
Sudbury

Reader enjoys ‘quality work’

I came upon your excellent newspaper after reading an article in NationTalk.ca.

Your maanda ndinendam/opinion article “Waiting for kindness to be reciprocated” was really moving. Although my heritage is not First Nation, I am drawn to the FN teachings and wisdom that I am able to find online. A person like Merle Assance-Beedie is a treasure that my words cannot describe. Those who knew her were

so fortunate.

I was also pleased to see a short piece by Richard Wagamese, as I read his One Story One Song earlier this year.

Thank you for the fine quality work you and your staff do. The objectives of your publishing criteria speak volumes and there are so many challenges - I think your paper is very important.

Jan Hermiston
Lockhartville, NS

Ad spending at beer level

For Canadians the return of new primetime TV this fall means more than new episodes of the Big Bang Theory and Amazing Race. It also means being treated to an exhaustive barrage of taxpayer-funded ads from the Government of Canada.

That’s not to say the government only advertises on TV; far from it. But high cost advertising space on these shows seem to be favourite ad spots for the Conservatives.

Two years ago the Government of Canada’s total advertising budget was bigger than that for the entire Canadian beer industry combined. We’re not talking small change here.

And remember, because the federal government has been running large deficits since 2008, all of that ad money is borrowed. After borrowing \$416 million dollars to pay for government ads over the last five years, taxpayers are now paying about \$23,000 per day just to cover the interest costs, even with historically low interest rates.

John McCallum, MP
Liberal Party of Canada
Treasury Board Critic



Nipissing: Open for business

By Marci Becking

Spanning 40 Kilometres between North Bay and Sturgeon Falls along Highway 17 West is Nipissing First Nation. And for centuries the Nipissing people have had a healthy economy.

The Nipissing have always been traders of fish and furs harvested from their vast territory for corn, nets, tobacco and other supplies. These trade routes formed a junction on Lake Nipissing. The importance of this junction and their middle-man monopoly of the trade became their downfall, beginning at the time of European contact.

Direct trade between the Nipissing and French and the Nipissing's ideal location at the junction of the trade routes at Lake Nipissing meant that the eastern Nations became less involved with trade in the area. This direct, French contact put the Huron and the Nipissing people at odds with the Iroquois.

In 1630 the Iroquois began their assault into Huron territory. The fall of the Huron territory allowed for the Iroquoian assault into Nipissing territory. In 1647, after brutal conflicts with the Iroquois, the Nipissing were pushed westward into the Lake Nipigon area.

The Nipissing trader did not give up on their trade routes. Historical records of that period tell of the Nipissing running the gauntlet into the eastern territory from their northwestern refuge to ensure their trade routes survived. The Nipissing were documented to have returned to the Lake in the late 17th century

Today Nipissing First Nation, which is made up of Duchesnay, Yellek, Beaucage, Jocko Point, Meadowside, Mosquito Creek, Garden Village and Veterans Land Act allocations, has a strong economic base with 41 member-owned businesses.

"The business services range from legal, book-keeping, photography, convenience stores, gas bar services, restaurant, fast food, catering to landscaping, trucking, concrete finishing, building construction, arts and dance," says Nipissing's Economic Development Officer Thomas Lambert. "We have excellent visibility along Highway 17 to promote present and future businesses and easy access to the businesses"

Nipissing First Nation also owns the Couchie Industrial Park and tenants include Miller Paving, Miller Waste Systems, Carlson Sports and Northern Brick and Tile.

"We are always looking at opportunities that are economically viable, sustainable, that will benefit and improve the quality of life for the Nation as a whole and that will create sustainable employment opportunities," says Lambert.

A new business centre is near completion in Garden Village and another building is planned in Yellek beside the Union of Ontario Indians head office that will house the education department and some busi-

nesses.

Dwayne Nashkawa, band manager for Nipissing, says that the fishery is still going strong as well.

"Individuals market their fish to area buyers and restaurants," says Nashkawa. "We continue to monitor the harvest and work to ensure the fishery can support the Nation in the long term.

On the political front, Chief Marianna Couchie says that Nipissing First Nation has struck up a committee of volunteers to develop their own constitution for their over 1,500 citizens – nearly 900 living on reserve.

"Input from the community is being sought on an ongoing basis," says Couchie. "We hope to wrap up the constitution within a year with a community ratification vote.

Couchie says they are also developing a Financial Administration Law through the First Nation Financial Management Board. Other initiatives include partnering with the First Nation Market Housing Fund to create new opportunities for housing.

In the spring of 2005, the First Nation signed transfer documents to end the process to repatriate CN lands to its land base. This land claim will add another 320 acres of land to the current total of 14,962.

Chief Couchie is also proud of Nipissing Secondary School located in Duchesnay, right outside of North Bay. The school delivers strong culture and language programming for its students. Students and staff moved into the building on January 10, 2000.

"Nipissing offers a wide range of secondary school courses leading to a provincial secondary school diploma," says Chief Couchie. "The small class size, coupled with emphasis on academic excellence and First Nation pride gives students the skills to succeed.

"We have strong language program staff who have become champions of culture and language in the community," says Couchie. "We also have a strong group of Elders and teachers who are very committed to assisting with the preservation of language and culture."

"We have tried to embed culture in everything we do," says Couchie. "From planning processes using the Medicine Wheel to values statements based on the Seven Grandfather Teachings to changing signage. We are trying an across-the-board approach to enhancing culture and language in our community."

The community is also excited about the 25th anniversary of Nipissing's annual Labour Day powwow in 2013.

"It will be even bigger and better than this year," says Nipissing's Cultural Coordinator Rodney Commanda who says that 2012 saw a record turnout for dancers with 3,000 people on the Saturday and 30 vendors.



Chief Couchie at wreath-laying ceremony at Nipissing First Nation's cenotaph. – Photo by Priscilla Goulais



Graduation ceremony at Nipissing Secondary School. – Photo by Priscilla Goulais



Pow-wow time is family time! Rodney, Talon, Trent and Christina Beaucage – Photo by Priscilla Goulais



Rick Stevens, owner of R&J's Meat and Fish Market.

– Photo by Priscilla Goulais



ARTS/EZHOOSGAGED

Artistic vision restored

By Maurice Switzer

Mel Madahbee raises both hands to his lips. He says his life-long affinity with Mother Earth includes practising bird calls.

"I'm always out there," he says. "I used to practise song-bird calls, ducks, loons.

"I can do a crow," the acclaimed Manitoulin Island artist says, noting that the Anishinaabemowin name of his home First Nation – Aundeck Omni Kaning – means "places where the crow lives".

A couple of his loud shrieking "caws" bring Union of Ontario Indians staff rushing into their central office hub to see how a bird got trapped indoors.

Laughing, Mel agrees that this is one way to gather a crowd of potential buyers for "Two Moose Battle" – a large acrylic painting he's brought from his collection of unsold works.

A solo exhibition of Madahbee's work was mounted two summers ago at the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng First Nation, but Mel is literally just now getting back his artistic vision.

"I had a stroke in May, 2004 on my way to work at Wabano Fish Farm," he recalls.

"It all started with an abscessed tooth," interjects Melvina, his wife of over 30 years and mother to the couple's two sons and a daughter.

"It was a good couple of years



Mel Madahbee with one of his large acrylic canvasses – 'Two Moose Battle' – from 2004

– Photo by Priscilla Goulais

after my stroke before I could paint," Mel continues. "I couldn't write, had to learn the alphabet all over again. I had to squint to paint anything, mostly with one eye. They took my driver's licence away."

Ironically, it was another health crisis that restored most of his sight.

"They had to replace one of my heart valves in 2006. Over 900 millilitres of blood escaped into my body and they had to get it all out. But I could see again after they fixed my heart in Sudbury."

Like most artists, Madahbee has always held other jobs to augment his painting income,

including southern Ontario stints picking tobacco and cherries, and skinning mink.

He's planning on producing more small canvasses to make his work accessible to buyers who can't afford the \$1700 that his 24-by-36-inch paintings can command. He produces a leaflet showing the paintings featured in his 2010 solo show in M'Chigeeng. "I have about 24 left. They used to be about \$500, but my going rate now is \$2.50 a square inch."

"We have reduced rates for 'cousins'," Melvina smiles.

Approaching 56, Mel recalls being interested in art from an early age.

"I used to paint with enamel

– model paint," he says. "I gave away my early sceneries (his word for landscapes) and sold my first painting when I was 10.

He had no teachers – "I just did it" – but did study Native art at Humber College, and did a lot of library research on Basil Johnston's books about Anishinaabe legends. "I could have been his illustrator," he says, flashing one of his frequent grins and pointing to the catalogue image of "The Necklace", a large canvas depicting how the loon got his spots from the stars.

Madahbee wants people to know he's making his artistic comeback. Some of his paintings are available at Leland Bell's stu-

dio in Wikwemikong, and inquiries about his work can be directed to him and Melvina at home: 705-368-3762.

He's also a bit awkward about some of the after-effects of his stroke.

"I want people to know I've lost a lot of memory," he says, almost apologetically. "After three days I forget everything."

He hasn't forgotten his heritage. He's been a men's traditional dancer for over 20 years, and even though he says he "can't move around much anymore", Mel donned his traditional men's regalia for two pow-wows this past summer. He's proud to have made outfits for his children.

Carl Beam's art 'for the human tribe'

THUNDER BAY – Anishinaabe artist Carl Beam has been credited with opening doors for First Nations artists by becoming the first to sell a work to the National Gallery of Canada for its contemporary collection.

Born Carl Edward Migwans on May 24, 1943, in M'Chigeeng First Nation, Beam's mother, Barbara Migwans was the daughter of Dominic Migwans who was then the Chief of the Ojibways of West Bay.

The Beam family's true name derives from miigwaans which means little feather or bird. His father Edward Cooper, was an American soldier, who died as a prisoner of war in World War II.

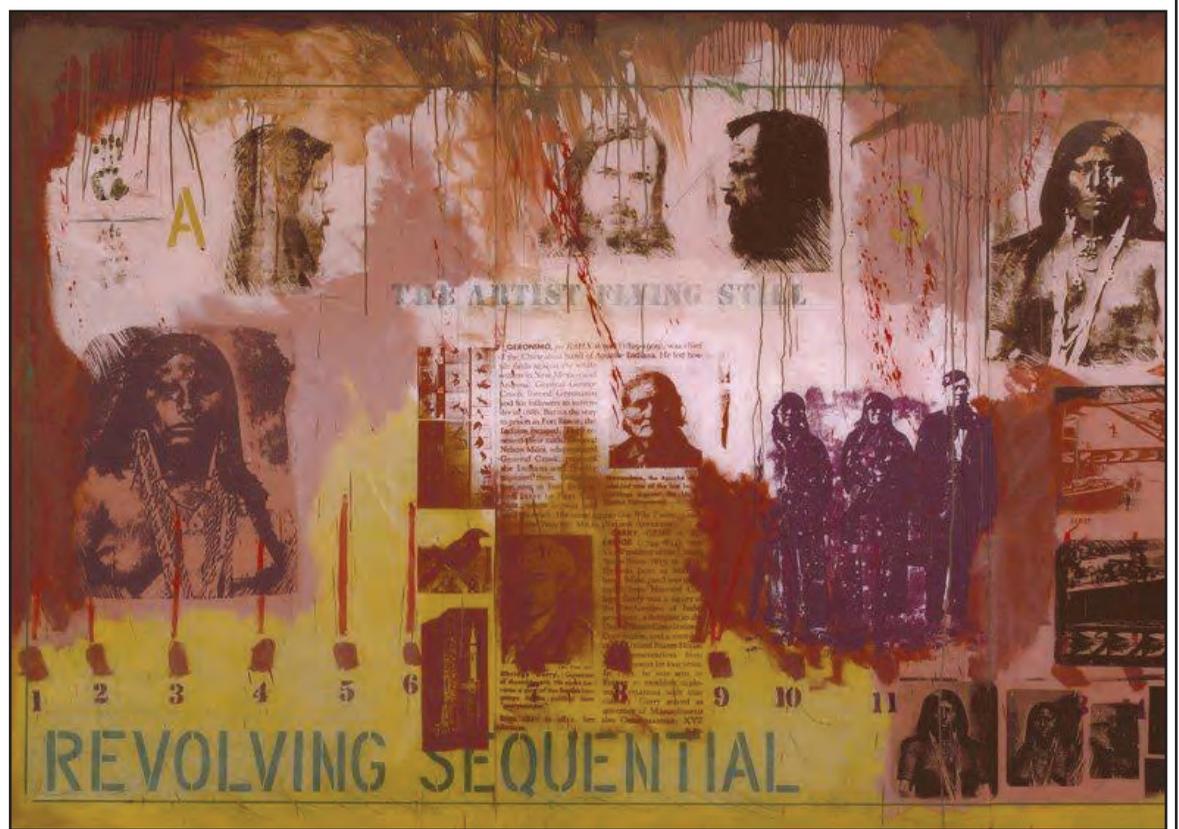
Raised by his grandparents Dominic and Annie for most of his young life, his exceptional qualities were observed by his elders at a young age, and he was given the name "Ahkideh", from aakode' meaning "one who is brave".

He was sent to Garnier Residential School, in Spanish, Ontario, from the age of ten until he left as a young man.

In January and February of 2013 the Thunder Bay Art Gallery will host the National Gallery of Canada's retrospective exhibition of works by Beam, who died in 2005 at age 62 due to complications from diabetes.

Wife Ann Beam said he was criticized for abandoning traditional First Nations traditions.

"He said 'you're all part of my tribe now'. He made his art for the human tribe."



'The North American Iceberg' by Carl Beam, first work by an Aboriginal artist purchased by the National Gallery of Canada.

Health Secretariat

Good Health for Our People



Mom Valene and Loki at North Bay Indian Friendship Centre's 'group latch'

Breastfeeding fights obesity

By Sarah Blackwell

Breastfeeding has many benefits, both physical and emotional.

It is a wonderful way for a mother and infant to bond, provide nutrients to the growing body and brain of an infant and also protect your child from various health issues like obesity and diabetes. A report by the Public Health Agency of Canada in 2004 stated that 55% of First Nation children on reserve, and 41% living off reserve were overweight or obese. Although there are other factors contributing to obesity in First Nation children, breastmilk is one way to give them an advantage to superior health as they get older.

In addition, breastfeeding also has benefits to the mother such as lower risk of breast, ovarian and endometrial cancer, decreases insulin requirements in diabetic mothers, and decreases chances of osteoporosis.

This year's "Breastfeeding Challenge" at the North Bay Indian Friendship Centre, part of a global event sponsored by the Quintessence Foundation, drew 17 registrants who participated in a "group latch".

Grandmother Lorraine Liberty says breastfeeding is something that was always done by First Nations mothers, but she does remember a time where "nurses would bind women's breasts after birth" to prevent milk from coming in and discouraging breastfeeding.

Breastmilk has many vitamins and minerals and other nutrient qualities that make it impossible to imitate with man-made products. It is nature's

way of providing just what a growing baby needs.

Some women may face challenges when breastfeeding and support is important from the partner, extended family and the community. In the North Bay area, new mothers can register for a free Breastfeeding Peer Support Program where they will have peer telephone support from a mother in her community who has fulfilled the training requirements of the program. It is a great way for mothers to stay connected, receive support and get their questions and concerns answered by a trained volunteer. The program has a specific Aboriginal component where participants can be matched with other Aboriginal mothers.

Lorraine Liberty said some women stop or don't start breastfeeding because they believe they do not have enough milk to feed their baby. Breastmilk is made through supply and demand, which means a mother's body will produce milk based on the sucking reflex of an infant; the more the baby asks for supply by sucking, the more her mother's body will produce. If the baby has a good latch, then more milk will be supplied since the hormones and reflexes will be triggered in the mother. This is why a support program is so important, so a mother can be encouraged to continue breastfeeding and be directed to health professionals to check the latch of a baby if needed.

First Nation women are seen as life-givers in communities, which not only means carrying and birthing life, but also sustaining it. Breastmilk provides a healthy foundation for children from the first moment of life on Mother Earth.

Quinoa great for gluten allergies

By Sarah Blackwell

Quinoa (pronounced Keen-wa) is an ancient grain with strong cultural and spiritual meaning among the Altiplano Indians of the Andes Mountains in Peru and Bolivia.

This seed has extremely high value to the people of the Andes and they believe it was a gift sent from the heavens and has been referred to as "the mother grain".

Quinoa is a whole food that is an excellent source of magnesium, iron, protein, calcium and contains nine essential amino acids.

It is also gluten-free making it a healthy alternative to those with wheat and gluten allergies.

Quinoa should be rinsed in water a few times prior to cooking, in order to remove saponins, a mildly toxic substance.

Breakfast Cereal: (serves 1-2)

½ cup quinoa
1 cup of water or almond milk
1 tsp cinnamon
2 tbsp chia seeds (+4 tbsp water)
1 cup of berries
1-2 apples
Dash of maple syrup to sweeten or 1 Medjool Date

Cook the quinoa on the stovetop with the almond milk or water. Once it boils lightly, cover and simmer until it becomes fluffy and the water is absorbed (about 15 minutes). While you are waiting for that to cook, chop your apples into small pieces. Make your chia gel in a separate bowl with the chia seeds and the water. Add the chopped apples to the quinoa to soften the apples if you don't like them crunchy. Once the quinoa and apples are ready sprinkle with cinnamon, add your chia gel and mix.



Quinoa breakfast porridge.

LITTLE SPIRIT MOON

Union of Ontario Indians

ANNUAL HIV/AIDS CONFERENCE

December 4-5, 2012

Ramada Plaza, 300 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario

Workshop is for Health Directors, CHR's, CHN'S, Youth interested in HIV/AIDS and wanting to make a difference in the community and First Nations people living with HIV/AIDS.

DAY ONE: Harm Reduction
Community Readiness Training

DAY TWO: Aboriginal AIDS Awareness
Week event.

Think Global – Act Local: Indigenous
people and HIV and AIDS

Registration Deadline: November 16th 2012

CONTACT

Jody Cotter, AIDS Program Coordinator
E-mail: jody.cotter@anishinabek.ca
Phone: 705-497-9127 ext.2231
Fax: 705-497-9135



www.anishinabek.ca

Lands and Resources

Ensuring access to natural resources



Prospectors unhappy to need permission

By Liezel Hill
Bloomberg News

Changes to century-old mining rules in Ontario could mean delays and added costs for hundreds of explorers in a \$1 billion industry that provides a crucial source of new deposits for global metal producers.

Prospectors such as Northern Shield Resources Inc. and Mistango River Resources Inc., which are accustomed to drilling their mining claims without per-

mission in the Canadian province, will need to submit details of almost every stage of their exploration plans and consult with native groups under rules published last week that become mandatory April 1.

Ontario says the changes will provide certainty for exploration companies and will help pre-empt disputes with First Nations. Prospectors say the delays and expense resulting from the new rules will be an added burden in an industry

that relies on hard-to-come-by financing from investors.

Ontario's Mining Act, which dates back to the 19th century, was largely unchanged until the province approved an amendment in October 2009 that introduced the requirement for explorers to consult with aboriginal groups. The new rules "will definitely slow things down," said Jessica Bjorkman, a contract prospector in Ontario and director of the Northwestern Ontario Prospectors

Association.

The Ontario rules haven't been well received by the Anishinabek Nation.

"Anishinabek leaders recommended that First Nations be involved in the process from the outset and that they be provided with the opportunity for free, informed consent and the ability to reject a development that may have an adverse impact on their territory," said Lake Huron Regional Chief Isadore Day of Serpent River.

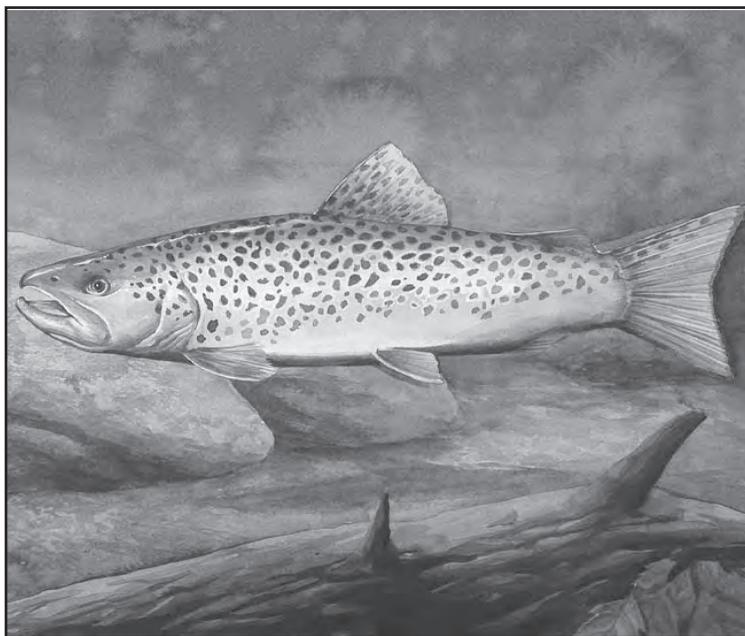
Fishing for MNR prizes

TORONTO –The Kids' Fish Art Contest sponsored by the Ministry of Natural Resources is a great way for young people to show off their artistic talent and win some exciting prizes.

Now in its 10th year, the contest encourages students currently attending elementary or secondary school and who are Ontario residents to enter their fish-related artwork. Participants should submit their original, hand-drawn creation to the Ministry of Natural Resources before the contest closes on November 30, 2012. Only one entry per student will be accepted.

Every year, the ministry picks two species that represent the rich biodiversity found in the province. This year, the contest focuses on Chinook salmon and longnose gar. All artwork should depict one of these two species in its natural habitat. The artwork will be judged on its quality and attention to detail.

Three winners will be chosen – one each for grades four to six,



'Brown trout' by Yoo Bin Kang, Ottawa

seven to nine and ten to twelve – as well as an overall winner.

In addition to a number of exciting prizes, all three winning designs will appear on the 2013 Young Angler's Licence. The winning entries will also be entered in the international division of the State-Fish Art Contest sponsored by Wildlife Forever in the United States.

"The Ministry of Natural Resources is pleased to promote this contest as a way of encouraging students to learn more about the outdoors and to develop their artistic skills," said Natural Re-

sources Minister Michael Gravelle. "We hope that it leads to a lifelong interest in enjoying nature and protecting our environment."

Learning more about nature can help young people appreciate the connections between the tremendous variety of living things on earth. It can also lead to a commitment to getting involved in protecting nature in our communities. We all need clean air to breathe, safe water to drink and natural areas to enjoy.

More information is available at ontario.ca/fishartcontest.

Fisheries tax-exempt

By Alexandra Paul

The Free Press

WINNIPEG – A Supreme Court of Canada decision Oct. 25 handed a group of Manitoba aboriginal fishers a tax victory that could allow First Nations across Canada to claim tax-free status for commercial ventures.

Canada's highest court rejected an appeal request from the Canada Revenue Agency, forcing Ottawa to forgo taxes on the annual commercial fishing catch by Norway House fishers.

"It's always good not to pay taxes, right?" chuckled Langford Saunders, a spokesman for the Norway House Fishermen Co-op, a group of 52 fishers with total revenue of about \$1 million a year from selling pickerel, sauger and whitefish caught in Lake Winnipeg.

"Commercial fishing is a traditional way of life and I'm glad it is recognized by the courts," Saunders said.

An earlier ruling called on the federal government to repay taxes on the fishers' catch retroactively. The Norway House tax victory puts the weight of the courts behind treaty rights for other native commercial ventures.

Thames shopping for more land

LONDON, Ont. – The Chippewas of the Thames First Nation southwest of London are to receive up to 5120 acres of land as settlement in part for an 1822 treaty violation.

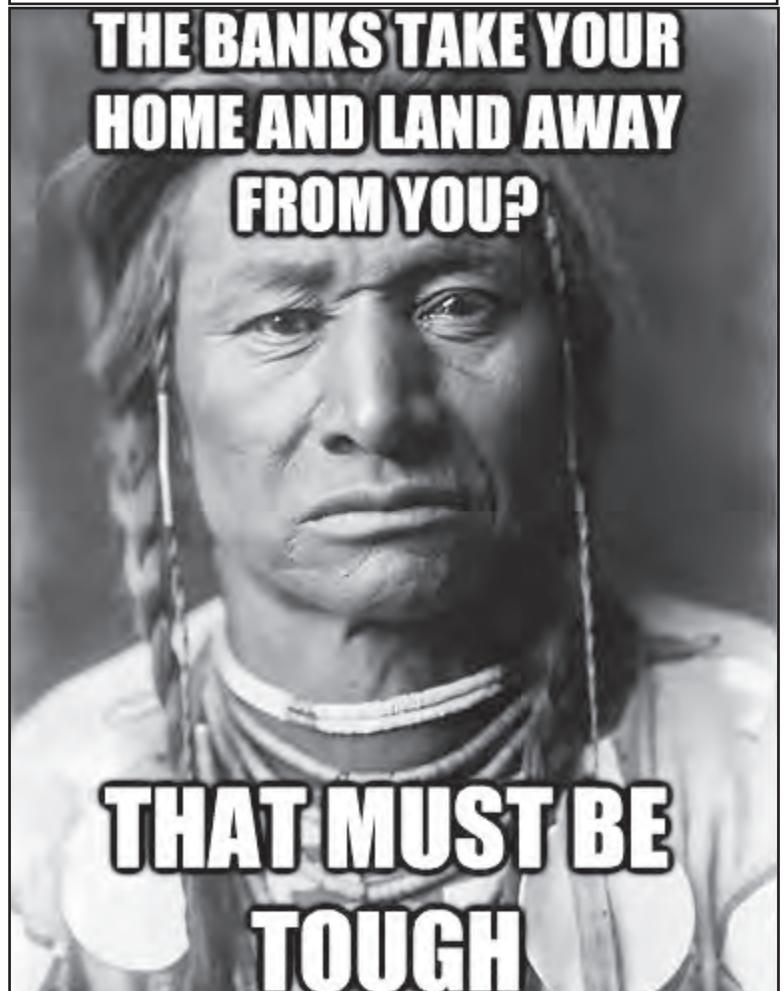
News of the agreement comes in a communique from the federal negotiator, and wraps up Specific Claims negotiations ongoing since August 2008.

The 190-year-old dispute involves lands sold from the Big Bear Creek Reserve without

formal surrender, contrary to the Longwoods Treaty.

The First Nation may acquire the five-thousand-plus additional acres of territory on a willing-seller, willing-buyer basis.

The Chippewas of the Thames will be shopping for new real estate in an area that includes portions of Huron, Perth and Oxford Counties, and the entirety of Essex, Kent, Lambton and Middlesex.



STAFF

Jason Laronde
Director
larjas@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2263

Rhonda Gagnon
Water Resources Policy Analyst
bucrho@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2318

Sarah Louis
Water Resources Assistant
sarah.louis@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2245

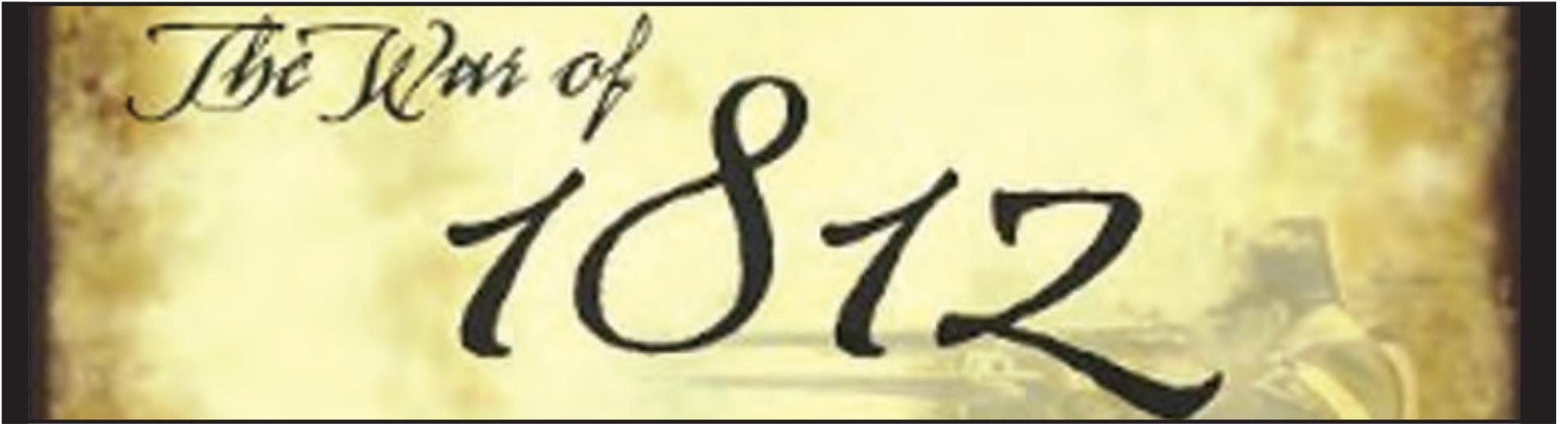
Arnya Assance
AORMC Coordinator
assancea@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2340

Marlene Bilous
L&R Policy Analyst
marlene.bilous@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2183

MISSION

The mission of the Lands and Resources department is to foster a better quality of life by ensuring access to natural resources in support of the goals, principles and values of the Anishinabek Nation.





British alliance ‘only option’ for First Nations

By James Careless
Postmedia News

On the outbreak of the War of 1812, the British were tied down in Europe fighting Napoleon, and had fewer than 1,000 regular soldiers defending Canada. The volunteer Canadian militias in the colonies were no substitute for professional troops.

But there were also the First Nations warriors to consider, and historians say they were vital to the defence of British North America.

Some 10,000 Native warriors led by such heroic figures as Shawnee Chief Tecumseh fought the Americans.

Native leaders were fighting to protect their homelands, not British settlements. They hoped to unite the First Nations into a confederacy capable of resisting U.S. expansion into Native territories.

“The annihilation of our race is at hand unless we unite in one common cause against the common foe,” Tecumseh warned in 1811, addressing a council of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.



An engraving depicting U.S. troops battling the British and their Indian allies along the Thames River in Ontario during the War of 1812. The Shawnee chief Tecumseh was killed in the Battle of the Thames, which took place on October 5, 1813. —The Granger Collection, New York

“The British since Governor Simcoe had been selling the idea of an independent Indian Country,” says Alan Corbiere, First Nation historian and Anishinaabemowin revitalization coordinator at Lakeview School, M’Chigeeng First Nation. “They believed a buffer state between

the United States and the Mississippi would slow American expansion and protect Canada.

The ‘Indian Country’ would include vast areas already overrun by U.S. settlers.”

In exchange for their support, the British promised First Nations “they would get their old

boundaries back and their hunting grounds would be preserved and restored,” Corbiere says.

As allies, though, the British had not proved a good bet. In 1763, the British “acknowledged that the aboriginal people owned the land from the Gulf of Mexico to the Great Lakes, saving the

Thirteen Colonies,” Corbiere says.

This promise was forgotten when the British and U.S. negotiated the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which recognized American independence. In fact, the First Nations were excluded from the negotiations.

Why, then, would the Natives risk siding with the British during the War of 1812?

“I believe it was the only option for them,” says Corbiere. “The nations saw that the Americans were a greater threat and that they wanted the land at a more rapacious rate than the British.”

As negotiations continued, the British were concerned that prolonging the war might cause civil unrest at home.

They dropped the demand for a Native buffer state between Canada and the United States and accepted a return to prewar borders as part of the 1814 Treaty of Ghent.

“Natives won the battles in the War of 1812,” says Corbiere. “But we then lost the peace.”

Quilts contain history lessons

By Marci Becking
and Greg Plain

CHIPPEWAS OF THE THAMES – Mary Simpson and friends are encouraging people to get off the 401 to enjoy some beautiful art and learn about important history.

“The Native women’s trail of tears quilt is amazing,” says Mary Simpson, administration for Creative Communities. “The women had the idea of asking people what the quilts mean to them. Each quilt needs a story.”

A Barn Quilt is a large decorative mural painted on large pieces of signboard that are either mounted on a barn or other building or can be a free-standing frame.

The Trail of Tears quilt is made up of 31 blocks and 15, 8x8 Barn Quilts will be installed in

the art corridor that spans Middlesex to Chatham Kent counties (between London and Chatham) along 65 Kilometres of the Longwoods Trail to commemorate the War of 1812. The blocks tell the story of the women during the War of 1812 and how they were affected on the home front.

The quilt block entitled Cedar Tree made by Leona Hendrick, Chippewas of the Thames citizen, depicts one of the four sacred medicines of the Anishinaabe.

Cedar protected families from disease and resembles the traditional indigenous knowledge grandmothers handed down to mothers to protect their families.

The forest was their shelter and protector and women knew the gifts of medicine it provided during this time of great need. Not always far from the skirmishes taking place during the war, the women tended to the injured and recovered the dead. Villages were being plummeted and burned and families were in jeopardy of overexposure to the elements.

The women had to work quickly in times of great strife to provide care and comfort to those in need. The cedar tree represents

this story on the Chippewa Barn Quilt Trail.

Members of the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge held their fall ceremonies in Chippewas of the Thames in early October, and held their first formal meeting in hundreds of years with members of the Onyota’a:ka Longhouse directly across the Thames River on the Oneida settlement.

The Midewiwin ceremonies, attended by Anishinabek Nation Deputy Grand Chief Glen Hare, and Lodge members visited the Barn Quilt of the Shawnee Chief on Oct. 5.

Nancy Deleary, local artist and council member says that she is pleased to see Tecumseh’s image on the territory he fought for.

“It is an inspiration and solemn reminder for today’s warriors to recognize what our ancestors sacrificed for us to remain on our lands,” says Deleary. “A lot of work has happened in the past year here on Chippewa with the Heroes of Our Time Conference, the Mount Elgin Indian Industrial School memorial, the Chippewa Homecoming Week and Pow-Wow, the Midewiwin Ceremo-



Alfreda Henry, Chippewas of the Thames citizen and quilter, gathered other quilters together over the span of a year to design one to four blocks each to represent their culture, a historic event of the time period or a First Nation women’s view of the world at that time. — Photo by Mary Simpson

nies, and now this War of 1812 Quilt Project. It has created a stir of resurgence and pride in being Anishinaabeg which I am fortunate and proud to be a part of.”

The Barn Quilt of Shawnee Chief Tecumseh was erected at the crossroads of Muncey and Jubilee Road at exactly at 3 pm on October 5. It was exactly 199 years to the date and time that

Tecumseh fell at the Battle of the Thames.

Tecumseh's Parkway which is part of the larger historical parkway called is called Route 1812.

The locations will be placed on a Barn Quilt Trail website – www.barnquilttrails.ca. It includes the meaning and location via GPS accessible through a Smartphone.



Intergovernmental Affairs

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Ensuring access to natural resources



UN submission accuses Canada of double standard

OTTAWA – A joint submission to the periodic review process of the United Nations Human Rights Council says the Canadian government demonstrates "a double standard on democracy, human rights, security and rule of law."

The submission is on behalf of the following organizations: Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee); First Nations Summit; Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs; Chiefs of Ontario; Native Women's Association of Canada; Canadian Friends Service Committee (Quakers); Treaty Four First Nations; Assembly of First Nations of Québec and Labrador/Assemblée des Premières Nations du Québec et du Labrador; Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat; Hul'qumi'num Treaty Group; KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives; First Peoples Human Rights Coalition.

This includes implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples. The Declaration is a consensus international human rights instrument - no State in the world formally opposes it. The global consensus in support of the Declaration reinforces its weight as a universal instrument.

• The Declaration has diverse legal effects and commands "utmost respect". UN treaty bodies

are increasingly using it to interpret Indigenous rights and State obligations in existing human rights treaties, as well as encouraging its implementation.

• A central concern in this Submission is the Canadian government's double standard on democracy, human rights, security and rule of law. Canada purport-

edly champions these fundamental principles and values, as well as their interrelationships. Yet the government repeatedly violates them when addressing Indigenous peoples' rights.

• Since its election in 2006, the Canadian government has refused to acknowledge that Indigenous peoples' collective rights are

human rights. This is inconsistent with the position of its own Canadian Human Rights Commission, as well as the practice within the UN system for the past 30 years.

• Canada's ongoing failure to affirm and address Indigenous peoples' collective rights as human rights constitutes racial discrimination.

Crown offers thanks to Native warriors

OTTAWA – Governor General David Johnston says Aboriginal people were essential to the defence of Canada in the War of 1812.

He made the comment in a speech Oct. 25 in welcoming representatives of 48 First Nations and Metis communities to his official residence at Rideau Hall for a ceremony honouring Aboriginal contributions to the defence of Canada against American invaders 200 years ago.

Johnston presented participants with War of 1812 commemorative banners and medals.

"On behalf of Her Majesty The Queen and all Canadians, I offer my thanks to the First Nations and Métis peoples of this land for your assistance in our time of need."

The Governor General referred to the gift of a wampum belt he accepted during January's Crown-First Nations Gathering in Ottawa.

"I was deeply honoured to be presented with a sacred gift of friendship and diplomacy in the form of a wampum belt. I want you to know that this wampum belt occupies a central place here at Rideau Hall, as a reminder of the covenant that binds us and of my responsibilities as a representative of the Crown. In recognition of the wampum belt's great significance to our relationship we have brought it with us to the ballroom today.

"The history of the War of



Governor General David Johnston presents Serpent River FN Elder and Veteran Art Meawasige with a War of 1812 commemorative medal during a special ceremony at Rideau Hall. Prime Minister Stephen Harper looks on.

1812 offers us an example of that which remains true today: that despite our differences, Canada is our common ground, and we are stronger when we work together.

"As with our past and our present, our future in this country will be shared.

"As governor general, I have been calling on Canadians to imagine ways to build a smarter, more caring society. One way we do this is by understanding and by honouring the essential contributions of first peoples to Canada."

Franklin Waddilove and family would like to acknowledge and extend a chi-migwetch to the **Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation** for their financial contribution towards purchasing an assisted device.

Franklin is now able to converse with family and friends on a daily basis.

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STAFF

Mike Sawyer
Treaty Research Clerk
michael.sawyer@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2237

Allan Dokis
Director
dokall@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2251

Theresa Stevens
Administrative Assistant
theresa.stevens@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2327

Alicia McLeod
Treaty Research Coordinator
mclali@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2264

Kevin Restoule
Policy Analyst
kevin.restoule@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2304

Meriza George
Relations Coordinator
meriza.george@anishinabek.ca
Ext. 2320

PST Hotline to report a retailer

1-866-668-8297

The Ontario Ministry of Revenue currently has a tax hotline in operation. This hotline can be used for a variety of purposes ranging from fielding questions regarding Ontario taxation to dealing with issues concerning the point-of-sale provincial tax exemption for Status First Nations.

First Nation citizens have the right to tax exemption. This was recognized in an agreement between the provincial government and the Chiefs of Ontario at the time the HST was being introduced.

MISSION

The Union of Ontario Indians Intergovernmental Affairs department is committed to the protection of aboriginal and treaty rights, ensuring access to land and resources, and supporting the political goals, values and aspirations of the Anishinabek Nation.

Patrick joined the Navy, now seeing the world

By Lisa Abel

CFB HALIFAX –A decade after attending a Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program, a Nipissing First Nation citizen has established a solid career in the Canadian Navy.

Master Seaman Patrick Stevens, 30, has served for over eight years on the HMCS Halifax.

Stevens attended the Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program (CFAEP) at the age of 18. The CFAEP was a bit of a culture shock for Stevens, who was not only embarking on his first taste of military life, but also meeting other First Nations pre-recruits, some from remote communities.

“I originally didn’t live on the reserve,” Stevens says. “When we moved to Garden Village, it was a bit of a challenge – I was the new kid on the block.” He was impressed by other candidates on the CFAEP who spoke Cree as their first language. “They were so much into their culture.”

Following the CFAEP, Stevens opted to join the Algonquin Regiment of the Infantry Reserve – the same regiment his grandfather Eddie Stevens had served in, during World War II. Three years later Stevens applied and successfully transitioned to the Navy Regular Forces. His Sonar Operator training took him to Victoria, B.C.. From there, he was posted to Halifax, N.S., where he has worked his way up to the rank of Master Seaman.

“I’ve been to many ports throughout the eastern seaboard of Canada and the United States,” Stevens says about his Navy travels. “I’ve also gone to 18 different countries in Europe.” He is most proud of his participation in the Canadian Forces’ earthquake relief efforts in Haiti in 2010.

“We pretty much landed ashore with several small crafts, and for all intents and purposes, dug our way through the city,” Stevens says. “The further and further we got through the city, the UN trucks and humanitarian aid was able to get further to other people.”

It gave Stevens “a real sense of pride in my career” to see first-hand how his job was helping people.

Stevens has also participated in a four-day march called the “Walk of the World” in Nijmegen, Holland earlier this year. The marchers walk 40 kilometers a day, and the route enabled them to pay their respects at Groesbeek, the largest Canadian cemetery on foreign soil. Canadian soldiers liberated the area around Nijmegen during World War II and Groesbeek serves as the final resting place for over 2000 Canadian Forces members.

“Groesbeek is immaculate, taken care of by the people of Holland,” Stevens recalls. “To be there and see that the people remember what happened... makes me proud to wear a Canadian uniform.”

Stevens has returned to the CFAEP as a mentor and as an instructor. “Teaching candidates about what I have learned over many years as a sailor gives them insight into the world of the Canadian Forces from an Aboriginal point of view,” Stevens says. “Because of my experiences and successes, I hope to inspire some of these individuals to carry on in a career and give them the confidence in themselves and show them what a person can achieve in the Canadian Forces.”

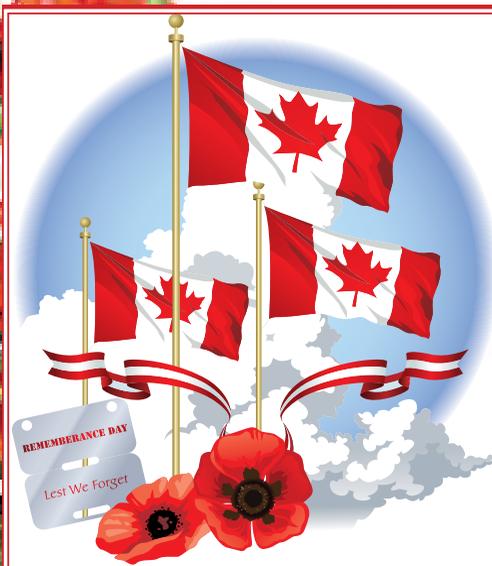
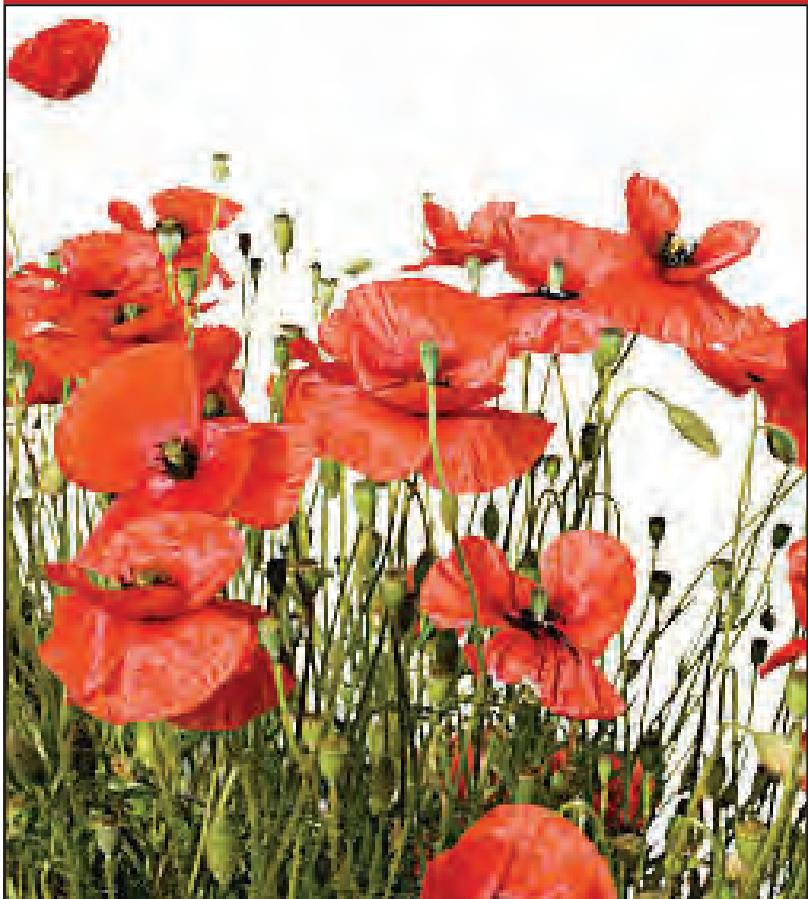
“This is a lifestyle that’s not for everybody. If you have the fortitude and you want to take this opportunity, it’s an excellent opportunity.”

Stevens returns home as often as he can and speaks to youth at the grade school and high school levels. “I try to encourage younger people I meet. The reserve is a great place, but sometimes you have to reach a little further to get a better experience in life and bring something back to home,” he says.

Stevens would eventually like to return to civilian life and apply his hard-earned skills as a police officer. “I’m hoping to take the experience and the knowledge the military has given me and hopefully come back and better my home community.”



Master Seaman Patrick Stevens




Cameco

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EDUCATION

Kinoomaagewin



Algonquin College expanding space for Native students

OTTAWA – Algonquin College has officially opened its expanded Mamidosewin Aboriginal Student Centre, the College's support centre for Aboriginal students. The centre received a brand new space inside the Robert C. Gillett Student Commons, which was also officially opened On Oct. 18.

"I would like to congratulate our partners in the Algonquin Students' Association on this momentous day in the history of both their organization and the College", says Algonquin College President Kent MacDonald. "Student space and the social element of postsecondary education are very important to student success and, thanks to this new heart of the Woodroffe campus, our Aboriginal students can access all of their support services in a brand new, expanded space with numerous improvements that we added to the design based on their feedback. We eagerly look forward to the learning and social interaction that will take place in this building!"

The event began with a greeting from Elder Jim Albert and a traditional Honour Song by Bear

Nation.

The 11,000 square foot, \$52 million Student Commons building was funded through a partnership between the Algonquin Students' Association and the College, and will serve as the heart of the Woodroffe campus. "The new Student Commons is the product of Visionaries and Collaborators over several years," explains Algonquin Students' Association President David Corson. "The persistence of creating the reality from the vision shows the determination and commitment of everyone involved. For those of us who now inherit this new student heart, we thank you all."

Ground was officially broken for the Student Commons building on April 5, 2011 with a goal of creating non-academic student space on campus. Included in that vision was a newly redesigned Mamidosewin Aboriginal Student Centre. Many recommendations from staff and students were incorporated into the new space including a medicine wheel, a drumming circle, a ceremonial grove, and a new layout which



Bear Nation singers from the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan sang an Honour Song at the official opening of Algonquin College's expanded Mamidosewin Student Centre.

brings all Aboriginal student support services together under one roof. Mamidosewin means "a place of welcome". The new building is named in honour of past College President Robert C. Gillett in recognition of his commitment to student success and enhancing student services.

"I would like to sincerely thank the Algonquin Students' Association and the Algonquin College Board of Governors for this tremendous honour", says Gillett. "Through the feedback of our students, we knew that ad-

ditional social space was needed at our Ottawa campus. We broke ground on the Student Commons building with a goal of creating a new heart of the Woodroffe campus, and I want to thank former Vice President, Student Services Deborah Rowan-Legg and the amazing support of the Algonquin Students' Association for their help in making this dream a reality."

The Student Commons has been built to the exacting standards of the Canada Green Building Council's LEED-Gold certifi-

cation.

The multi-storey design of this new facility capitalizes on natural lighting and 'greening' of the adjacent landscape to "bring the outdoors in." The prime contractor behind the building was PCL Construction, while IBI Group Architects and Teeple Architects were the main consultants and architects. Adjeleian Allen Rubeli were hired as structural engineering consultants, while Crossey Engineering provided the mechanical and electrical engineering consultants.

Native students now 20%

By Lisa Abel

NORTH BAY – First Nations, Métis and Inuit students have a newly-designed First Peoples' Centre to call their own at Canadore College, where they now account for one in five of on-campus students.

"At Canadore, we pride ourselves on being welcoming, supportive and inclusive to all of our students," said Mary Wabano, First Peoples' Centre Director, at the Sept. 14 grand opening. "This Centre is truly a home away from home for our Indigenous students and is reflective of our cultures, values and traditional teachings."

Elder Lorraine Liberty offered an opening prayer and the



Participants at the Sept. 14 grand opening of the First Peoples' Centre at Canadore College in North Bay included, from left: George Burton, President, Canadore College; Mary Wabano, Director, First Peoples' Centre; Chett Monague, Nipissing University student; Elder Lorraine Liberty; Annette Chiblow, Canadore College student; Female Head Dancer Tasheena Sarazin; Laurie McLaren, Executive Director, Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, Nipissing University; Harley d'Entremont, Vice-President Academic and Research, Nipissing University; Male Head Dancer Lindsay Sarazin.

Iron Drum Singers sang an honour song as Elder Peter Beaucage conducted a blessing and smudging of the new Centre. Students, staff, faculty, Aboriginal Circle on Education members and local dignitaries then toured the redesigned space, which incorporates the four directions of the Medicine wheel and many natural

stone, wood and plant elements. Guests also included students from Nipissing High School bussed in for the occasion.

Over 350 First Nation, Inuit and Métis students on campus have access to an Elder in Residence, an Aboriginal Student Association, counseling, peer tutoring and mentorship over the

course of their academic experiences. Wabano credits Canadore's 80.6 per cent Aboriginal student retention rate to the support provided by these services and resources. College enrolment figures indicate that Indigenous students account for almost 20 per cent of the campus total.

"As a mature student and par-

ent, this Centre has been a real support for me," said Annette Chiblow, who is in her second year of the Mental Health and Addictions Worker program.

The grand opening was followed by the seventh annual Welcome Pow Wow, co-hosted by Canadore College and Nipissing University.



Education / Anishinabek Education Institute

Forever to the Seventh Generation



AEI business grads show off their ideas in 'Business Den'



Helen Knapaysweet from the Fort Albany First Nation is one of the ten proud graduates of the two-year Business Diploma program.

By Christine Babinski

NIPISSING CAMPUS – Fall is a busy time for the Anishinabek Educational Institute.

Along with welcoming new and returning students, ten business students graduated on September 22.

A new part of the graduation was announcing the winners of the AEI Business Den – a new incentive for students to show off their business ideas.

Business Education Development Officer Vikas Poni encouraged the students to present their business ideas in the most creative way possible.

“Three students participated and there were awards and recognition for each one of them,” says Poni.

First place went to Denise Debassige for her business named “Sacred Groundz Cafe”.

“Denise had the most details for her business – it’s like she’d been sitting on this idea for years,” says Poni. “She even had the floor plans and job descriptions for her staff. The research was incredible and the idea was very creative. The judges were impressed also because it was a needs-based busi-

ness in her community. I can’t wait to eat there.”

Second place went to Marlene Essex for her business “Red Sky Creations” and third place went to Priscilla Nakochee for her business named “Cree Ink”.

Judges consisted of the AEI Education Director Murray Maracle, Dean of Business at Canadore College David Himmelman, and Associate Account Manager, RBC Tuula Lehtela.

Graduates were Bonnie John-George, Jennifer Owl, Denise Debassige, Helen Knapaysweet, Priscilla Nakochee, Marlene Essex, Pauline Constant, Joslyn Nakogee, Miranda Pelletier and Leona Spence

The Anishinabek Educational Institute business program operates in partnership with Canadore College.

Other diploma-granting programs offered for the winter session include Early Childhood Education, Registered Practical Nursing, Native Community Worker and Traditional Aboriginal Healing Methods.

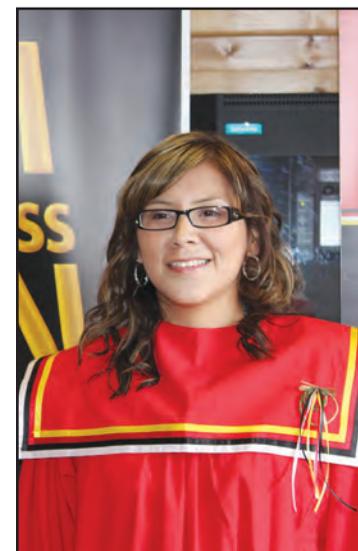
For more information visit www.aeipostsecondary.ca or call 1-800-334-3330.



AEI Business Den first place winner Denise Debassige for her business ‘Sacred Groundz Cafe’.



Second place winner Marlene Essex for ‘Red Sky Creations’.



Third place winner Priscilla Nakochee for ‘Cree Ink’.



National Chief Atleo meets with the children of Shawanosowe School in Whitefish River First Nation, Monday October 15, 2012

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Museum wants opinions

OTTAWA – This fall, the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum are asking: What would you put in your national history museum? What stories would you tell? How would you reach Canadians across the country?

The Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa will be rebranded as the Canadian Museum of History to reflect a focus on the country’s social and political history. They have created a site called My History Museum to gather feedback from Canadians on ‘what is the Canadian story,’ objects, perspectives to be used, etc. The Museum will also host 9 consultations across Canada, including Toronto in December and Gatineau in January 2012.

For details, visit: <http://www.civilization.ca/myhistorymuseum/>

Rights knowledge needed

VANCOUVER – The Federation of Law Societies of Canada is recommending in its first-ever set of national standards for admission to the bar that all new Canadian lawyers possess knowledge of aboriginal rights. The move by the federation – co-ordinating body for Canada’s 14 provincial and territorial law societies – is part of a push to ensure Canada’s lawyers are knowledgeable in aboriginal law, an area that some legal experts say is becoming more important and plays into everything from natural resources development to drafting or changing government policies. Aboriginal law is the law relating to the content and application of the constitutional protection of aboriginal and treaty rights.

Dare to dream

TORONTO – Canadian Lawyers Abroad has launched the pilot of its “Dare to Dream” program, in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal law students and lawyers will take part in justice education and mentoring activities with Aboriginal students at the First Nations School of Toronto and the Mnjikaning Kendaaswin Elementary School in Chipewas of Rama First Nation. Volunteers should contact coordinator, Karen R. Restoule karen.restoule@gmail.com or 416-371-7350.



Restoration of Jurisdiction

..... Implementing the Anishinabek Declaration of 1980




Restoration of Jurisdiction Director Mike Restoule (centre) and UOI Legal Counsel Fred Bellefeuille and Tracey O'Donnell sit with officials from the Nisga'a Lisims Government at a recent meeting in the Nisga'a Nation territory. As the Anishinabek Nation prepares to move into self-governance in the coming years, the Union of Ontario Indians met with the Nisga'a government to learn about its own jurisdictional processes and experiences. See story in December Anishinabek News.

CONSULTATION NOTICE

The Anishinabek Nation will be hosting a series of two-day consultation sessions in the five educational regions of the Anishinabek territory.

The goal of the consultations is to share information on the proposed Anishinabek Education System, the Kinomaadswin Education Body, and the Regional Education Councils with Anishinabek First Nations.

The regional sessions will also provide an opportunity for First Nations leaders, educators, and community members to seek answers to questions they may have of the proposed Anishinabek Education System.

SCHEDULE

November 28 & 29—GARDEN RIVER FIRST NATION
Regional Education Council #2 (North Shore)

December 5 & 6—NIPISSING FIRST NATION—Hosted by Dokis FN
Regional Education Council #4 (Highway 69 Corridor)

January 9 & 10—CHIPPEWAS OF RAMA FIRST NATION
Regional Education Council #5 (Southeast/Southwest)



January 22-23-24—FORT WILLIAM FIRST NATION
Regional Education Council #1 (Northern Superior)

February 5 & 6—M'CHIGEENG FIRST NATION
Regional Education Council #3 (Manitoulin Island)

For more information please contact Robert Beaudin—Education Consultant, by phone at (705) 377-4428 or by email at rjbeaudin@hotmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

EDUCATION AND GOVERNANCE WORKING GROUPS

The Education and Governance Working Groups were established to support the negotiation processes of the Education and Governance Agreements with Canada, which have been ongoing for more than 10 years. The main goal of the Working Groups is to provide grass roots input to the self-government negotiations and to be champions of the self-governance process in their own First Nation communities.

The Working Groups are made up of Anishinabek First Nation citizens with specific knowledge, education and experience in the education and governance sectors. In addition to their dedication and support for the negotiation processes, working group members also contribute to other initiatives every year, such as the Community Engagement Strategy, various conferences, workshops and Grand Council Assemblies.

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group was established in 2002, with the primary goal of designing and developing the Anishinabek Education System (AES), which served as the parameter for the negotiation of the Education Final Agreement.

While the Agreement was completed in September 2010, its supporting documents have yet to be finalized. These include the Education Fiscal Transfer Agreement, the Participating First Nations Fiscal Contribution Agreement and the Implementation Plan.

Moving forward, the primary responsibilities of the EWG will be to support the completion of the remaining documents and to advise on the ratification of the Education Final Agreement, as well as the implementation of the Anishinabek Education System at the First Nation level.

Governance Working Group

Developed in 2008, the Governance Working Group has the main function of providing grassroots input and direction to the Anishinabek Nation negotiators to ensure First Nations issues and needs are addressed within the Governance Final Agreement.

As the Governance Final Agreement is still under negotiation, members of the GWG meet several times a year to advance in their work plan deliverables. After each meeting takes place, GWG members are responsible for reporting back to their Chiefs and Councils on the status of the Governance Final Agreement.

Major contributions of the Governance Working Group include the development and proclamation of the Anishinabek Chi-Naaknigewin as well as the development of the Anishinabek Nation Government structure and implementation plan.

Schedule of Working Group meetings for 2012-2013

Education Working Group:

September 18-19-20, 2012
October 16-17-18, 2012
January 15-16-17, 2013
March 19-20-21, 2013

Governance Working Group:

September 11-12, 2012
October 23-24, 2012
February 12-13, 2013
March 6-7, 2013

Anishinaabe Chi-Naaknigewin



Restoration of Jurisdiction

Fort William leads way in development of community constitution

**By Faye Sabourin –
Special Projects Coordinator**

The Restoration of Jurisdiction Department has committed full support to the First Nation Constitution Development project this year, which is well under way. Five communities have received assistance in First Nation Constitution Development to date, and all of the communities are at varying stages of the development process. The most recent community visit took place in Fort William First Nation on October 17.

Tim Bannon, Fort William's Governance Coordinator, has committed to two very important initiatives along with the Governance Networking Committee (GNC). As part of the community's Governance Strategic Plan and Framework, the Fort William First Nation Constitution and the Fort William First Nation Membership Code will be priority developments for the committee over the coming months.

In 2010, Union of Ontario Indians legal counsel Tracey O'Donnell assisted Fort William First Nation with the development of its constitution and in 1988 the Fort William First Nation Membership Code was received at the Office of the Indian Registrar for which Ministerial approval was granted in May 1990.

On October 17, Restoration of Jurisdiction staff returned to Fort William First Nation to support the continued development of the community's constitution and its membership code. Bannon and

the committee members showed great appreciation of the Union of Ontario Indians' support for their ongoing initiatives and excitement for the community's future in restoring governmental jurisdiction. Several topics were discussed at the meeting, some of which included The Indian Act Membership Code; Four approaches to developing a membership code; Elements of a Membership Code; Inherent Jurisdiction and Indian Status; Constitution Development; Evidence of First Nation Jurisdiction; Exercise of Inherent Jurisdiction.

The committee demonstrated an awareness of the importance of inherent rights and jurisdiction, and of the need for the two governance initiatives to complement one another in order to work hand-in-hand. This understanding was demonstrated through the GNC's mission statement, "To establish a cultural, social, economic and political self sufficient community through the development of good and accepted governance practices that demonstrate our inherent right to self-determination through self-government."

After a successful session in Fort William, the Restoration of Jurisdiction staff received another invitation to visit with community members and continue to assist in the development and promotion of the First Nation's constitution and membership code. Fort William First Nation is a fine example of many First Nations that are well on their way to self-determination.

COMMUNICATIONS CONFERENCE

"Creative Communications for First Nations"

**December 12 & 13, 2012
Holiday Inn, Sudbury**

The Anishinabek Nation is hosting a two-day training conference that will concentrate on the application of best communications practices in First Nation settings.

The purpose of conference is to provide First Nations with the training and tools required to increase and maximize their communications capacity in preparation for the ratification of the Education and Governance Agreements.

Workshop and presentation topics will include:

- Internal and external communications
- Traditional and modern communications
- Using social media to your advantage
- Communications and strategic planning
- Communicating with your citizens

Who should attend?

**Chiefs & Councillors
Band Managers/Executive Directors
Communications Staff**

To register for this event please contact:

Andrea Crawford—ROJ Communications Officer
Union of Ontario Indians
705-497-9127 | andrea.crawford@anishinabek.ca



ANISHINABEK EDUCATION CONFERENCE

JANUARY 30 & 31, 2013

DELTA HOTEL—SAULT STE. MARIE



Conference Goal:

The focus of the two-day conference is to bring together Anishinabek Nation leaders, education professionals and citizens in an open forum that will create dialogue and promote the Anishinabek Education System and the Strategic Plan for moving forward.

Conference Objectives:

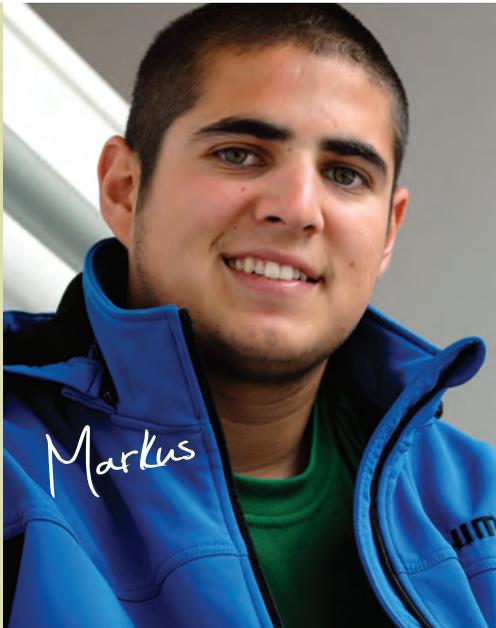
- To highlight the benefits of the Anishinabek Education System for First Nations with schools and those without schools.
- To continue to define the strategic plan for the implementation of the Anishinabek Education System.
- To review the discussions and results from each of the five Regional Education Council meetings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT:

**ROBERT BEAUDIN
EDUCATION CONSULTANT
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Check our website for upcoming events at www.nipissingu.ca/aboriginal/UpcomingEvents.asp

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Aboriginal Services

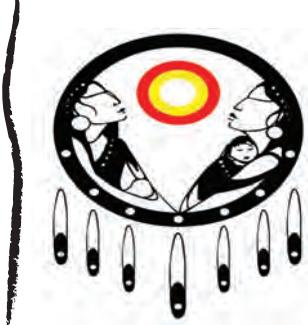
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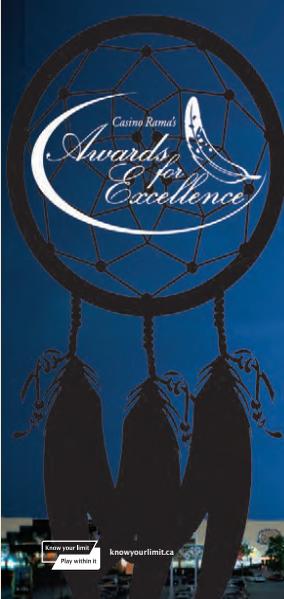
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GEORGIAN COLLEGE



BOOKS/MASINAIGAN

Writer's advice: 'Recycle!'

By Christine McFarlane

TORONTO – Author Lee Maracle says writers should always be good recyclers.

"Never throw away anything you write," said the poet, novelist, scriptwriter, actor and Stó:lō storyteller. "If you trim from a story, keep that in a separate file because you can always go back to it," Maracle told participants in the Fifth Annual Indigenous Writers Gathering.

Conference organizer Cherie Dimaline, writer-in-residence at First Nations House at the University of Toronto, agreed with her mentor's advice, a practice she followed by producing a second book of short stories while editing her novel.

She also stressed the importance of reading what you're producing along with reading diversely and dynamically and not forgetting your specialty.

"If you are writing fiction, read fiction. If you're writing poetry, read poetry; you can only get out what you put in."

Dimaline was delighted with the continued growth of the writers' gathering.

"It's an annual event that has quickly become one of the jewels in the crown for Toronto's literary community. This year we moved

from early spring to fall and we still had a full house."

In addition to Maracle, one of the founders of the En'owkin International School of Writing in Penticton, British Columbia and the cultural director of the Centre for Indigenous Theatre in Toronto, participants included Daniel Heath-Justice, Richard Wagamese and award-winning Metis poet Marilyn Dumont, and Richard Wagamese, recent winner of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

Author of 13 books with two more on the way, Wagamese discussed the value of reading in his fiction workshop.



Richard Wagamese: Writers need comfortable space.

"Stories live in everything. It's important to immerse yourself in the culture of books. Read them, consume them, and live in them. Don't limit yourself to your own niche – read everything!"

Wagamese shared his introspective writing process.

"If you don't have a place in your home that helps you to feel comfortable when you are writing, put it there. Make your space into something that is just for you, whether that is putting up pictures of loved ones or having your Medicines around you. You need to go into that place for you and allot yourself a certain amount of time each day. If you build it, it will come."

The Writer's Gathering ended with a gala evening event at the Capitol Theatre where Muskrat Magazine (www.muskratmagazine.com) also launched its 3rd issue featuring work from some of the authors. CBC's Sidd Bobb and Wab Kinew hosted the gala, which featured a special reading by author and former Lieutenant Governor of Ontario James K. Bartleman. Readings were interspersed with a performance by Cree cellist sensation Cris Derkson and a hoop-dancing demonstration by Canada's Got Talent Finalist Lisa Odjig of Wikwemikong.



Cherie Dimaline: Novel leftovers became short stories

Book Reviews

KI continues commitment

By Joyce Atcheson

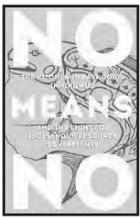
No Means No, The Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and the Fight for Indigenous Sovereignty is a stamped book identifying the injustice of Canada's consultation law and that First Nations have no rights under the laws except to administer their own misery with resource companies and ON.

David Peerla, KI's political advisor, is the author of this remarkable summary of a First Nation's valiant effort to bring First Nation laws into visibility.

With the size of this book and its cost under a dollar, there is no excuse for people with money not reading it. Consultation needs to mean more than managing resource developers and ON's desires.

This book is a wise strategy and hopefully it works better than jail time did.

No Means No, The Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and the Fight for Indigenous Sovereignty – David Peerla; Cognitariat Publishing 2012; ASIN B008X-MW8BG; 29 pages, \$0.99



APTN makes good story

By Joyce Atcheson

Awe-inspiring, proud, determined, capable, gifted – they're all words that describe the First Peoples of Turtle Island and describes the origins of APTN.

Launch day dawned, clouds threatened rain but the spirits didn't cry with joy until the performers were finished and the fireworks had blown.

Jennifer David, the author of Original People. Original Television: The Launching of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network, is a gifted writer. Her words make you part of the excitement, the gut-clenching stress of working against all odds, the beauty of laughter in shared dilemmas, the pits of despair, the challenges of diversity in attitudes, ideas, and behaviours, and the pride of success.

Original People. Original Television: The Launching of the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network – Jennifer David (Debwe Communications Inc. Ottawa, ON; 2012; ISBN 978-0-9864901-0-1; 222 pages, \$24.95)



Drums call animals

By Joyce Atcheson

Porcupine, who you met in the story, Porc and Beans, is led into a new adventure by his nose.

The story of what he smells and sees is told in words and illustrations done by two cousins from Walpole Island First Nation who wanted to provide more First Peoples' context for young children.

Designed for 4-9 year olds the creatures are shown as having lives similar to children's and learning as children learn.

The book is colourful and delights the eyes with its beauty.

The author and illustrator donate one dollar from each sale to, True North Aid, the charity that delivers food, clothing, medical supplies, books and toys to Ontario's fly-in communities.

Porcupine and the Powwow: An English/Ojibwe Story -- Emilie Corbiere and illustrated by Cynthia Ciesielski (Red Road Publishing, Tottenham, ON; 2012; ISBN 978-0-9780633-3-7, 8 pages, \$7.00)

'Losers' make good team

By Joyce Atcheson

Cole Matthews and his friend, Peter Driscoll, confront new demons when they return to the school where both are now losers. Cole who was a bully is disabled so he is known as a gimp, Peter is known as a retard because he stutters.

Bullying is commonplace resulting in suicide, a death of a student, and a near death of a bully when the victim steps aside and he runs headlong into a cement wall.

That's when reality hits home and the two boys find new solutions and develop a persona they didn't expect -- leaders.

Their unusual friendship born of survival finds hope for a school under siege from within.

This sequel to Touching Spirit Bear is worth every page in the story. It is heart-warming to see youth find their own solutions and call the adults to task for failing their responsibility to the students in the school.

Ghost of Spirit Bear -- Ben Mikaelson (HarperCollins Publisher, New York, NY; 2008; ISBN 978-0-06-009009-8; 154 pages, \$6.99)



Shannen speaking

By Karen Foster

Author Janet Wilson, with the help of Shannen's family and friends, brings to life Shannen's movement to better her First Nation's school and to make the government accountable to promises made to the Attawapiskat community.

This book brings to life the conditions endured by these children every day, trying to learn, while sitting in substandard portables.

This was a most deserving winner of the 2012-2013 First Nations Communities Read selection by a jury of librarians from First Nation public libraries in Ontario. Jury members cited "extremely impactful reading, sharing, and inspirational experience", as well as the book's pertinence to Aboriginal people, truthfulness about ongoing atrocities in Aboriginal communities, celebration of youth activism, and appeal across generations.

Shannen and the Dream for a School- Janet Wilson (Second Story Press, Toronto, ISBN: 978-1-926920-30-6 \$14.95 Paperback-Ages 9 and up. Karen Foster is a Librarian in Chippewas of Georgina Island.



ANOKIWIN/CAREERS

Young Anishinabek sold on Canadian Forces

By Lisa Abel

CFB HALIFAX – Two young Anishinabek Nation citizens are sold on Canadian Forces careers.

Tammy Madsen, 22, a citizen of Beausoleil First Nation, and Whitefish River First Nation citizen Matthew Recollet, 19, had been working in the private sector after completing high school and some college courses.

"I've had friends and family talk about the Canadian Forces and they've said positive things about it, so I've always been interested," said Madsen. Looking for better job security and new challenges, Madsen applied to the Canadian Forces at her local recruiting office in Barrie, Ont.

Recollet, also a Barrie resident, applied online. "I never thought of the Canadian Forces as something I'd eventually want to go into, but the more I researched it, the more it intrigued me," said Recollet. "It seemed like the type of thing I'd want to do."

Both were selected, along with just over 30 other First Nations, Métis and Inuit applicants from across Canada, for the Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program (CFAEP).

A number of "CF Experience" programs are geared to Aboriginal people, such as the Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year (ALOY), the Bold Eagle, Raven

and Black Bear Summer Training Programs, and the CFAEP.

These programs allow interested applicants to experience what it's like to work and train with the Forces for a specific period of time without the commitment to joining the Canadian Forces.

The CFAEP program starts with a three-week Pre-Recruit Training Course (PRTC) at CFB Borden or CFB Halifax that offers participants hands-on experience with military training, careers, and lifestyle.

Participants are paid \$1200 for completing the course and are awarded a certificate of military achievement. At the end of the program, participants may choose to apply to the Canadian Forces.

At the most recent PRTC at CFB Halifax, Recollet and Madsen hit the ground running. Course days started with a 5:00 a.m. wake-up call and room inspections – improperly made beds were flipped – followed by a packed schedule that saw the recruits introduced to the Army, Air Force and Navy environments.

"My favourite activity was at Aldershot Training Centre," said Madsen. "We did three different levels of rappelling. The last level we got to do was a simulated helicopter jump. Stalking exercises were a lot of fun as well."

"We also learned about naviga-



Mathew Recollet and Tammy Madsen: bound for Air Force careers

tion, and were shown how to reload guns and do proper inspection for them," said Recollet. Neither had fired a gun before but reported that they did "okay" at the shooting range.

The group also toured the army base and a ship to see personnel at work and ask questions about the different trades available. "It was really interesting to see their experience firsthand," said Madsen.

Two Aboriginal counsellors participated alongside with the recruits; workshops on Aboriginal military history, Aboriginal sports and sharing circles ensured culturally appropriate support and reinforcement throughout the experi-

ence.

Madsen, who plans to join the Air Force as a Medical Technician, was confident that she would be able to maintain her connection to her culture once she was a member of the Regular Forces. "The spiritual side is offered," she said. "I feel like they try to accommodate every religious or spiritual background."

"I always embrace my Aboriginal side," Recollet agreed. "I'll always have that spiritual part of me and I'll never forget who I am." And while Recollet chose to trim his hair "army-style," Aboriginal members of the Canadian Forces are able to grow their hair

for braiding.

By the end of the three-week program, Recollet had also applied to join the Air Force as an Aircraft Structures Technician. "I'm looking forward to seeing the world. I'm looking forward to all the people I will meet, and the camaraderie. And I love doing physical activities and the military is big on that."

Madsen's long term goal is to work towards qualification as a Search and Rescue Technician – part of an elite group highly trained rescue specialists who provide on-scene medical aid and extraction from some of the harshest and most remote areas of Canada.

Native training key to labour shortage

OTTAWA – When it comes to confronting Canada's skills and labour shortages, there are four key priorities, according to a Canadian Chamber of Commerce report.

Upskilling, immigration, education and Aboriginal Peoples should be the focus, said Canada's Skills Crisis: What We Heard, based on roundtable discussions in 14 locations across the country as part of a Top 10 Barriers to Canadian Competitiveness initiative.

2012 has been the tipping point for Canadian business confronting skills and labour shortages, according to the organization, and a crisis that had been hidden by the recession is now fully apparent.

As it moves from the consultation phase to action, the Canadian

Chamber identified four key priorities:

•Upskilling: Upgrading the skills of the existing labour force and better employing under-utilized groups.

•Immigration: Ensuring immigration policy is aligned with local labour markets and employers' needs.

•Education: Improving the connections between educators and employers to balance supply with demand for skilled trades and highly skilled occupations.

•Aboriginal peoples: Focusing on education and workforce development, especially in the West and the territories where the economic and social opportunities and risks are greatest for this population.

"Getting a handle on the issues and suggestions which emerged from our consultations isn't easy. One size does not fit all," said Perrin Beatty, president and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. "Issues were raised wherever we met: upgrading the skills of existing Canadian workers, improving connections between educators and employers, and getting the right approach to immigration."

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AAMJIWNAANG FIRST NATION EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY Band Administrator

The Band Administrator is responsible for the overall efficient and effective administrative and financial management of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation Band government, its infrastructure, program areas and services, and for keeping Chief and Council informed on all matters relating to the business of the First Nation.

JOB DUTIES:

- Provide leadership, supervision and direction to all Program Coordinators for the effective and efficient administration of the programs and services of the First Nation, to ensure achievement of annual goals and objectives and compliance with program budgets
- Maintain direct verbal and written contact with Chief and Council. Provide monthly written reports and financial statements to Chief and Council on Band operations, programs and services
- Communicate effectively with Chief and Council, Program Coordinators, Council Committees and community members to identify, plan and provide for the current and future needs of the Aamjiwnaang First Nation
- Ensure that adequate financial controls, policies and procedures are in place and followed to enable reliable and accurate financial reporting and effective and secure management of Band funds and resources.
- Oversee and direct the infrastructure resources and systems of the First Nation. Ensure the annual preparation of a five-year capital plan and budget for review and approval by Chief and Council.
- Be informed and able to communicate regarding the First Nation's programs and services, government policies and regulations
- Implement Council decisions and policy; ensure Council motions, directions and resolutions are carried out in a timely, efficient and professional manner. Provide follow up reports to Council.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- University degree or college diploma in public administration, business administration or a related field.
- Minimum of five year's work experience in administration at a senior management level, with leadership experience.
- Experience working for a First Nation government or organization.

APPLICATION TO INCLUDE:

1. Cover letter with contact information.
2. Resume listing education and work experience.
3. At least two letters of reference with contact information.

Please forward applications to:

Aamjiwnaang First Nation
105 Christina St., S
PO Box 2712
Sarnia, On. N7T 7V9

Complete job description is available at the Band Office reception desk. Deadline for applications is November 16, 2012. The successful candidate must provide an acceptable Police Record Check. (C.P.I.C.)



ESHKI-BMAADZIIG/YOUTH

Be Safer game educates youth about HIV/AIDS

By Marci Becking and Jody Cotter

SOUTH RIVER – No need for a banker – all you need are a few friends, some coins or buttons game markers, and dice.

The Be Safer game is a fun way to learn about HIV and AIDS without having an educator lecturing in a classroom. Roll a three and you land on a “Free Tip” space and learn about what it means to test positive for HIV. Roll a four and you land on an “Oops” space where you found a needle in a school yard and touched it. Move back two spaces because you should have told an adult.

The Union of Ontario Indians HIV/AIDS Program created the Be Safer game and had help from Maddison Cotter with artwork and Mackenzie Couchie who developed questions for the game.

Youth who participated in the Ontario First Nation HIV/AIDS Education Circle Nov. 2-4 were able to test out the new game which will be sent out to all First Nations in time for Aboriginal AIDS Awareness Week December 1-5.

Participant Crystal Heidbrick said that she learned interesting facts by playing the game and Alysa McLeod said that it was very educational. Tyson Kelly said, “It teaches you different information about being safe.”

The youth worked on revising the HIV Youth manual that the Education Circle teaches in our communities. Scenarios, role plays, and artwork were added to the manual.

Union of Ontario Indians HIV/AIDS coordinator Jody Cotter says that the youth had no cell phone service at this event held at the Spirit Point Lodge.

“We were deep in the woods so we had a captive audience of youth who put their hearts into this work and I am very proud of them,” said Cotter.

“I have learned more about HIV/AIDS and the consequences of doing risky things,” said Maddison Cotter of Nipissing First Nation.

Alysa McLeod, of Nipissing First Nation, said that she was touched by the stories of the First Nations people living with HIV.

Check out www.ofnhaec.ca and www.anishinabek.ca.



Kramer Vincent from Lac Seul First Nation and Justice Doxtator from Southwold First Nation play the UOI Be Safer game at the Ontario First Nations HIV/AIDS Education Circle held Nov. 2-4 at the Spirit Point Lodge in South River, Ontario. – Photo by Jody Cotter



Project Presented by UOI/Anishinabek HIV/AIDS Program
www.anishinabek.ca

Web of Life educates

By Chochi Knott

LAKEFIELD – The Web of Life FASD workshop is presented by the Union of Ontario Indians Health Unit to First Nations children before they encounter peer pressure to party and drink alcohol.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder educators delivered an Oct. 17 workshop to nine First Nations students, Grades 6-8, at St. Paul’s Catholic School. Two teachers, a parent and even the St. Paul’s principal made time to sit in on the workshop and show the students the importance of FASD education, as well as learning about First Nations culture.

It is heavily admirable of the teachers to address the issue of FASD and make sure we are teaching proactively before students start dealing with peer pressure in partying and possibly experimenting with drugs and alcohol which can result in unprotected sex or even unplanned pregnancy.

This workshop was formulated from a prior FASD worker and is a great teaching tool on educating youth and even adults on FASD awareness and traditional teachings. Participants were able to make a dream catcher during the workshop. Study and research still indicates numbers are very high in and out of our communities. The ability of FASD professionals to ensure this information is being taught continues to be a must.

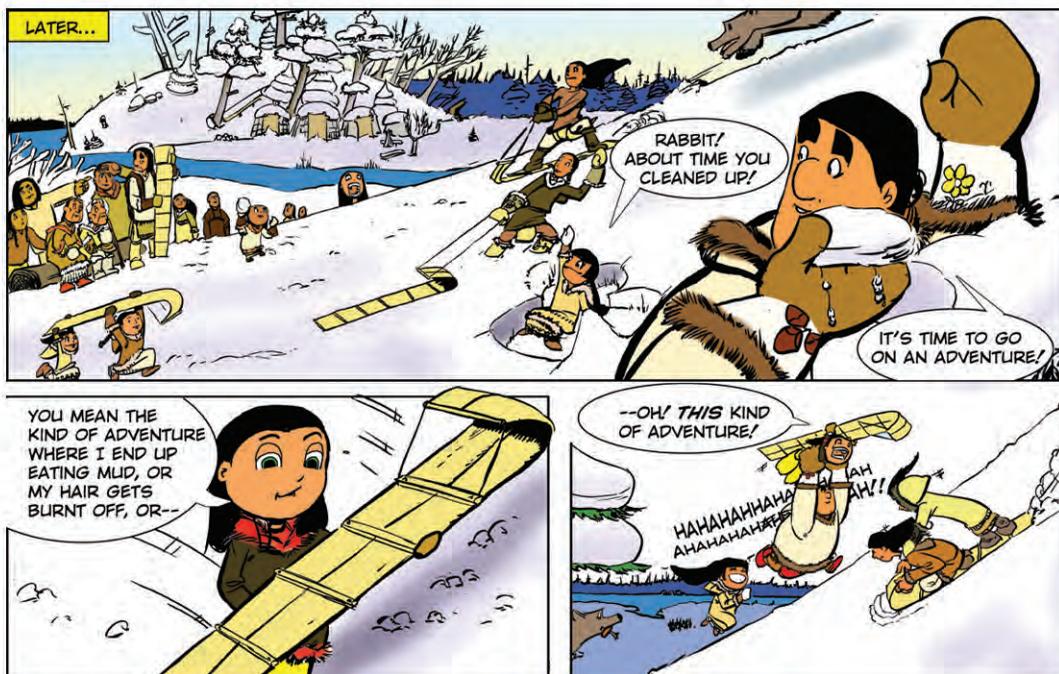
If you would like to book this workshop with your class or for your children please contact the Union of Ontario Indians FASD Program at 1-877-702-5200 or visit www.anishinabek.ca for the regional worker in your area.

Anishnaabemwin Word Search

A M I N S K G D E I D A G A N K I P B M	K O S M A A N E G I W A A B M I N S I N O M G A D A O N S K I D B D Y P O S G I A A W S I I G N D E B A A T E D I E I I G M D W E A I W D E M I N A N K G I A G A N P I K D I P K O O A D W I I B M	NGIISWAA – I’m cooking MDAAMIN – Corn DEBAATE – Pie KOSMAAN – Pumpkin PIDAK – Potato WAAAMIN – Apple DEMINAN – Strawberries KAADAK – Carrot GIIGON – Fish WIIYAAS – Meat
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Created in Nipissing Dialect by: Muriel Sawyer
 Submitted by the Intergovernmental Affairs Dept.

Rabbit and Bearpaws



© CHAD SOLOMON AND LITTLE SPIRIT BEAR PRODUCTIONS, 2012



Garden River First Nation

The Creator's Garden

History

Karl Hele is an Associate Professor, Director, First Peoples Studies, School of Community and Public Affairs at Concordia University. He is a citizen of Garden River First Nation.



Fall fair project ended up promoting community spirit

By Karl Hele

GARDEN RIVER FN – Begun in 1917 by Indian Agent McNabb as a way to encourage “assimilation” through the adoption of agricultural practices and prevent further land loss, Garden River First Nation’s Fall Fairs ran until the 1950s.

The Anishinaabe however had other ideas. Sensing an opportunity to generate income, community spirit, and promote our culture, the leadership of Garden River and Batchawana readily agreed to support the idea. Separate band council resolutions were quickly passed to use \$50 from each band’s funds as prize money. The Department of Indian Affairs reluctantly matched the \$100 from the two bands. Additional prizes were donated by various Sault merchants over the course of the fair, including cash, flour, clothing, pocket knives, and cigars, and by the Province of Ontario.

Every fair saw droves of Sault residents and other settlers from across the region attend the spectacle where they were treated with the best the community had to offer. All speeches given by the Agricultural Society’s presidents, from Albert Wabanosa (1917-28) to Peter Boissineau (1945-?), long-serving secretary Thomas

Thibeault (1920 - 1945), as well as by the Chiefs, were in Anishinaabemowin. A translation was provided for the Euro-Canadians.

There were prizes for best horses, cattle, and chickens, various crops – including potatoes, beets, carrots, onions, tomatoes, cauliflower, rhubarb, corn, pumpkins, citron, squash – and household manufacture, such as baking, canning, and sewing. For instance, in the 1930 handiwork section of prizes, the Sault Star reported that “there is besides sewing and knitting, basketry work, quill and sweet grass work, moccasins, leggings, mats of rush, basswood and cedar bark.”

The 1930 Sault Star printed a complete list of prize winners, informing its readers that John E. Pine won first prizes for his short-horn team, Early Rose potatoes, and mammoth pumpkins, Angeline Solomon won 14 prizes, including firsts for her wool socks, layer cake, and baby quilt, and that “Johnny Thibeault appeared on the ground with his dog for a cart race, and found no-one to compete with him, so was declared winner.”

Visitors who ventured to the Community Hall’s second floor saw objects celebrating First Nation history and culture. In 1936, the Sault Star reported that a



Laura Drayer and Angeline (Payment Bell) in front of corn destined for display at the Fall Fair – circa 1937. –Photo from Hele Family Collection

100-year-old Union Jack given to “chiefs of the Garden River Reserve, Shingwauk and his brothers for their great service to the British Crown, together with medicine drums and masks, war clubs and peace pipes that make a museum collection without equal” would

be on display.

Ball games were sometimes organized between the First Nations community and Sault residents. In 1933, through innovation and experimentation, the Agricultural Society’s members developed oil-soaked balls of rags that

would burn for about 45 minutes, which gave “Garden River its first taste of night softball games with the modern touch of flood lighting.” The entire fair ended with a community dance, to which all were welcome provided they paid the 50 or 25 cent admission fee. Participants were treated to classical, big band, jazz, ‘Indian jazz’, fiddle, and country music.

Other events at the fairs over the years included beauty contests – Liza Whabunosa was the first winner in 1923, a baby show – won by Lawrence Boissoneau in 1932 – oldest man – John Belleau, 65, in 1930 – and woman – Mrs. J. Savoir, 91, in 1932 -- tugs-of-war, a boxing match between Walter Williams and Roy Boyer, storytelling, traditional dancing, and an “Indian village” display.

The fair reached its height in the 1930s and early 1940s, gradually declining until disappearing in the 1950s. The youth were more interested in jobs in the city and the band office.

While Indian Affairs never achieved its aim with the Fall Fairs, the community did. Over four decades the fairs provided people with income and pride, and demonstrated to Euro-Canadians that Garden River remained a distinct creative society.



Fall Fair participants dressed in the 'Plains Indian' style which the Canadian and American publics saw as the 'true' Indian dress. Costumes were a blend of the public's stereotype and traditional Anishinaabe design, featuring buck or moose skin with quill, moose hair and bead decoration done in a variety of styles – geometric, floral, and plains. In this early 1930s photo community members – including Tom Thibeault, standing immediately behind child in foreground, wore their outfits to educate and entertain non-Native visitors to the recreated 'Indian Village' on the fairgrounds. – Photo courtesy Sault Ste. Marie Museum

Anishinabek Educational Institute



JANUARY 2013

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

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- Impact policy development
- Design and implement effective prevention and intervention strategies
- Facilitate the development, administration, and provision of services and care with respect, compassion, cultural competence, and safety.

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- ▶ Registered Practical Nursing (RPN)
- ▶ Native Community Worker
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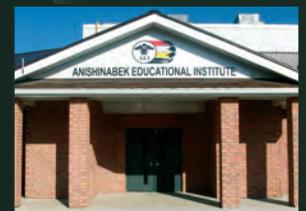
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Ph: 705-497-9127; Fax: 705-497-9135
Email: jan.mcleod@anishinabek.ca

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