

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Centennial baby hits another milestone

Kara ffolliott will soon turn 50 on July 1. She is Canada's first Centennial Baby girl, born at 12:18 a.m. in Regina, Saskatchewan. She currently lives in Abbotsford, B.C. (Photo courtesy of Kara ffolliott)



By K.D. Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather News

Every year, when her birthday comes around, Kara ffolliott's parents told her about the day she was born and how special it was.

"My Mom was in labour for like 38 hours and they made her hold off so that I could be the first baby girl born in Canada," she said.

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THREE DEGREES!

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National Aboriginal Day Edition

Coming In July - Graduation Issue

CPMA #40027204

Move over Pamela Anderson, Kara was number one

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"I was born at (12:18 a.m.). She could have had me sooner, she said, and I was their 15th child so it was pretty special for them."

ffolliott is the youngest child of a Métis family from Saskatchewan. She is also the first baby girl born on July 1, 1967, making her Canada's first Centennial Baby girl. She still has commemorative coins from the Royal Canadian Mint and a centennial medallion with a certificate signed by then Secretary of State Judy LaMarsh.

But when it comes to national recognition, ffolliott and her siblings are quick to point out that another woman is officially recognized as the first Centennial Baby girl. That woman is none other than Pamela Anderson, who is originally from Ladysmith, B.C.

In her bio for the Canada Walk of Fame, Anderson's birth is clocked at 4:08 a.m. a good four hours later than ffolliott's recorded time of birth. ffolliott said she's thought of writing them but has decided to let it be.

ffolliott was born Kara Marie Ott at Grey Nuns Hospital, now Pasqua Hospital, in Regina. She grew up in Fort Qu'Appelle and met her husband in high school. They married, lived in North Battleford and Saskatoon for a time, and then made the trek to Vancouver Island for his work. They now live in Abbots-

ford, B.C. and have two grown children.

When it comes to being the youngest of 15 children, ffolliott has no complaints.

"It was great," she said. "It's like you always had a friend. You always had somebody to play with. I was pretty spoiled I'd say. I had it a lot easier than the rest of them did. I spent a lot more time with my Mom, too. That was really good. I can't imagine not having all those siblings."

ffolliott wasn't the only one of her siblings to move away. Some made their way to Alberta and one is in Nova Scotia.

While her siblings continually remind her that she's a Centennial Baby, something ffolliott didn't find out about until later in life was her Métis heritage, which can be traced back to the 1700s.

ffolliott's maternal grandmother, Dora Venne, was born in 1901 in Battoche in what was then the Northwest Territories. Venne's parents, Alexandre-Marie Venne and Aldina Marcelin were born in St. Norbert, Manitoba. Two Saskatchewan towns, Aldina and Marcelin, are named after Marcelin and her father. The Marcelins are buried near Muskeg Lake Cree Nation.

According to ffolliott's older brother, James Ott, their father, George Ott, was going to become a priest and their mother, Vivian St. Laurent, a nun.

Despite their age difference of 17 years, they met and fell in love and had 15 children.

"One thing we know about our family is that we were always loved," he said. "My parents were such good people and so good with each other ... like two peas in a pod."

The significance of their Cree heritage, paired with ffolliott's Centennial birth isn't lost on Ott.

"If it wasn't for a Cree woman we would not exist here as a family," he said. "But we are part of this country. We're immigrants, but we're not immigrants. We have been here."

ffolliott would love to go to Ottawa to take in Canada 150 celebrations. Her older sister Agnes wrote a letter to Canada 150 or-

ganizers asking them if they were going to have Centennial Babies participate.

"She said, 'My sister is the first Centennial Baby and I think you should honour her and so they sent me a parcel in the mail with momentums ... and a note,'" said ffolliott.

James Ott, who lives in Last Mountain Lake, thinks Kara should be able to take in

the festivities in the nation's capital.

"They should recognize her to go out to Ottawa," he said.

But if that doesn't pan out, ffolliott suspects her husband will plan something for her 50th. Although she's a bit hesitant because she's dealing with a common annoyance at this time of year.

"I keep telling him I don't want to do anything because of my allergies," she said. "I'd be happy to stay in town, but if I got a trip to Ottawa that'd be awesome. I'd deal with my allergies there," she laughed.



ffolliott at age 11 in a clipping from The Fort Qu'Appelle Times in 1978. She is the youngest of 15 children from a Métis family. (Photo courtesy of Kara ffolliott)

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U of S Powwow celebrates achievements of Aboriginal students

**By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News**

In celebration of the academic achievements of the 2017 graduating Métis, First Nation, and Inuit high school and university students across the province, the University of Saskatchewan held its ninth annual Graduation Powwow.

to be part of the powwow.

One of the attending University graduates was Dana Carriere, a Business Administration Masters student. On her third degree, Carriere had attended the Powwow in previous years and found the experience to be one of great community and support.

"As a Cree/Metis woman, I felt

the high school students.

"As an alumnus, that's one of the things I cherish most."

"It's an amazing feeling to know you've earned a diploma to take with you to the next stage of your life," said Chancellor Romanow.

"The University of Saskatchewan is a leader in Indigenous scholarships and Indigenous success. We've been at the forefront and will continue to be, with your cooperation."

Attendees were also treated to a number of Indigenous traditions and ceremonies, including a competitive drum and dancing competition featuring hundreds of participants from across Canada.

Roughly \$25,000 in prize money was awarded, and the proceedings were streamed live online via the University of Saskatchewan website.

"In addition to recognizing the graduates, it's also a cultural celebration and opportunity for all students, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to participate in the celebration and have an educational opportunity," said Joseph.

For students of all walks of life at any stage of their academic career, the Graduation Powwow continues to be an important reminder as to the history on which our province is built.

"I think specifically of those students graduating from programs like medicine, law, education. These graduates are going to take on jobs that serve not just an Aboriginal community, but the wide community as a whole," said Joseph.

"So, recognizing that and showing them who they are as Indigenous people graduating from the University is an important message for everyone."



University graduate Dana Carriere, a Business Administration Masters student danced and celebrated her third degree at the U of S Powwow. (Photo by NC Raine)

The celebration was attended by more than 1,800 children from 35 schools across Saskatchewan.

"The population of Aboriginal people in the province is growing significantly, and these youth that are going to school and getting their education, they're going to be leaders in the community," said Graeme Joseph, Team Leader of First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Success at the Aboriginal Students' Centre.

"We want to show that Aboriginal students can come here, be successful, and go on with their lives with an education behind them."

Approximately 386 Aboriginal students at the University of Saskatchewan will graduate this June, and 98 more graduated in the fall of 2016. As for high school students, 350 Grade 12 Aboriginal graduates from 28 schools across the province registered

beautiful, love, and empowered. It is special to just have a day to celebrate yourself, and to have your family and community celebrate you," said Carriere.

"Our culture is so important and to be able to incorporate First Nations and Métis culture and ceremony into our celebrations at the University, it demonstrates the strength and pride that we have as Aboriginal people."

The celebration was also attended by a number of dignitaries honouring the graduates, including Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas, University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoich-eff, and University Chancellor Roy Romanow.

"For both the children and graduates that are here, the best thing you can do for reconciliation is to come to University. And for parents, the best thing you can do is support your children," said Chief Thomas during his address to



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June! Love it!

School is starting to wind down, fishing and camping trips are on the increase and we now get to celebrate many things like elections that are over and the ever-popular graduations.

The University of Saskatchewan recently combined a couple of those elements acknowledging Earl Cook when they awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws at the U of S Spring Convocation. How fitting.

Earl was a prominent student advocate for the creation of the Department of Indigenous Studies, which was founded in 1983 at the U of S. He was also a passionate proponent for the establishment of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research, which opened in 1980. Cook went on to serve as an instructor and administrator in a number of northern education and training programs, including NORTEP.

Earl was recently acclaimed in the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan as Regional Representative in Northern Region 1 and joins the Provincial Métis Council as a strong voice. It turns out Earl was even political back in his University days.

"My fondest memory is being part of a Métis local on campus that lobbied for the establishment of a Native Studies department," he said on his time in school.

"Also, meeting top-notch professors who became lifelong friends, and remain so to this day."

...

The recent MN-S election was well run and apparently well-behaved. The forums were respectful affairs with interested community members and passionate candidates. New President Glen McCallum has been around a long time in leadership and in the field of addictions and he

promises an era of accountability and progress. And with fine folk like Dr. Earl Cook still on the team, could this be the dawn of a new era for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan?

I can certainly celebrate that.

...

I know for sure on June 21, I will be heading down to Victoria Park in Saskatoon to participate in the Rock Your Roots celebration of culture and reconciliation.

immediately after so expect a good day of healthy activity, culture and bannock and soup for the community.

According to Facebook, though, I should not be celebrating on July 1 when communities across our Nation host picnics and firework displays to herald Canada's 150th birthday. There is a lot of judging over celebrating.

People say with 150 years of colonialism and brutal government policies that have left us on the

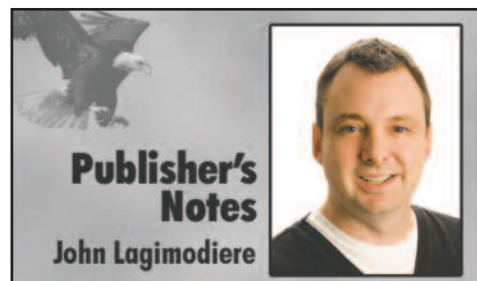


Earl Cook was recently awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws by the University of Saskatchewan. Earl was a driving force behind the creation of the U of S Department of Indigenous Studies and the Gabriel Dumont Institute. The life long educator has also been acclaimed as Regional Director For Northern Region 1 in the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. Congratulations Dr. Cook. (Photo courtesy University of Saskatchewan)

Last year 3,000 people jammed the riverbank to walk together and celebrate our own unique cultures. This year it coincides with National Aboriginal Day celebrations

margins of our own Nation, there is nothing to celebrate.

I get that. Impossible not to shudder and be ashamed and angry about it.



But man, at international events when a Canadian athlete or team wins a medal and they play our anthem or better yet at Rider games when we are honouring our veterans on the field and after we sing O Canada the fighter jets blow by overhead, I can't help but swell up with pride.

Once, at a Rider game, during the anthem, three geese flew around the corner and across the front of the upper deck. It could only have been more Canadian if someone threw a beaver at them. It made me misty.

Canada is a part of me and I am a part of Canada. Can't help it. Don't know any other place or way. Canadians have done amazing things to impact the world including fighting above our weight in multiple wars, creation of peacekeeping and inventing medicines that have saved millions. And we are so nice!

I love Tim Hortons, the CFL, hockey, fishing, wrecking my propeller on a rock on Head Lake, Winnipeg (jk), winter, my family, Back to Batoche, elephant ears, my Métis roots, farming and many other things that my fellow Canadian friends appreciate, Indigenous or not.

That being said, for the last seven years I have spent July 1 with the family at the lake. We have friends over and a fire then we go down to the beach and fight mosquitoes and watch fireworks at dusk. Come home, have more fire, then make smores and go to bed. Probably do the same this year. Pretty pleasant Canadian stuff.

So, whatever it is you do in June on National Aboriginal Day, or at your nephew's grad or even at Canada Day celebrations, enjoy yourself, or don't.

Your choice. I'm eating smores.



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True confession ... I do read those gossip magazines

I probably know more about celebrity gossip than I do about law.

Which makes sense because law school was only three years but I have been reading *Star* and the *Enquirer* since I was ten years old.

I read once that the human brain can only store so much information and that when you add new information, it pushes out other information. Well, it appears that nothing has thrown out such facts as, that Salma Hayek was 5'2 inches tall (Ha! I'm taller Shrimp!), that Angelina Jolie was once dumped by Timothy Hutton (I know, right? Like, as if Timothy Hutton.) and that Woody Allen married his ex-step-daughter (gross).

Celebrity gossip has its purposes. It's shorthand for describing what our shared values are. Back in the olden days, when we were all bigots, gossip was: "that dude hangs out with other dudes" or "that woman has had a female roommate ... for a long time."

Which nowadays is, "Oh they're gay, yawn."

But what people gossip about now, tells you what are current taboos and what is not. Cheating on your spouse – it still titillates.

But now people stop to look at the why. Is she cheating on him too? Do they have an open marriage? Is their partner ever home?

There's more to the story and picking sides isn't so black and white.

Even my mom, a conservative who has used the word "homewrecker" on occasion, refused to apply it to Angelina Jolie. She believed that Brad Pitt left his wife, Jennifer Aniston, because Aniston didn't want kids. Her proof is that Pitt and Jolie had six kids together – or what my prolific cousin Beaver would call, "a decent start."

Celebrity gossip has another layer because most of these people have chosen to have their lives exposed. By letting people into their lives, it builds a relationship with the general public which can then be parlayed into a bigger audience for their movies, TV shows, book projects, blogs about their pet French bulldogs, etc.



The downside is, of course, that complete strangers feel comfortable weighing in on the minutiae of their lives. Have they gained weight? Are they too thin? What parts of their bodies are real and which parts are not – and when do they qualify for cyborg status?

The weird part is that by watching these people most of my life I actually feel like I know them. Like I could sit down with Britney Spears and I know that we would end up talking about being working moms and I would delicately avoid mentioning her shaved-head incident.

Or I could sit down with Angelina Jolie and we could discuss the refugee crisis around the world and also parenting. We could also talk about who she's gonna date now that her and Brad are done – I'll put in a good word for Cree guys.

Or I could hang out with Jennifer Aniston and we could talk about why Angelina is such a "B" (although I wouldn't say it because I adore Angelina but I'd listen to Jennifer and then tell Angelina later.)

Even when you have unlimited resources at your disposal, celebrity gossip has taught me that bad stuff still happens to everyone. No matter how rich and famous you are – you will have problems.

Brooke Shields wrote a book about her experience with post-partum depression.

Brad Pitt recently said he was boozing it up too much and his wife took the kids and left him.

Charlie Sheen disclosed his HIV status and now talks about the different medical options with his same ornery openness.

Gossip also levels the playing field, in a superficial way. Like the closest I'll ever get to private jet is a security guard telling me to stay away from it – but I can feel slightly superior to Lil Wayne who was once thrown off a private jet for being too high.

I do have my limits when it comes to gossip. I have no interest in looking at pictures of celebrity kids – they didn't ask to be exposed so I won't participate in that.

I don't look at nudie pics of celebrities from their hacked phones either. Although regarding this issue – I do have two points to make.

First of all, don't send naked pictures of yourself to anyone. I've seen enough people's phones to know that those pictures are always shared beyond the person they were intended for (both guys and girls are guilty of that).

But if you do and they end up on the Internet, don't freak out – it's just a body at the end of the day. And it's probably yours at its peak so why not immortalize it?

The best part of celebrity gossip is that I always have something to discuss with my parents. When we run out of gossip about my siblings, it's always nice to sip a steeped tea while weighing in on Tiger Wood's DUI arrest video.

I hope to see you at this year's

National Aboriginal Day Celebrations

and the

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There are good men who know how to treat women

A few months back I wrote a column that upset a number of people, particularly women. Because I never learn, I'm about to do it again!

In that column, I wondered aloud how our men treated our women prior to contact with the European world and its churches.

And in that column, I stated that some First Nation husbands or boyfriends are responsible for the violence in those homes. Sure, that was an overstatement. I admit it.

Domestic violence occurs in any household, at the hands of alleged men who are of European descent, Asian, African, hell, they may even be Antartican, too.

But let me make this bluntly, blazingly and astonishingly clear: there are some homes where violence does not occur, where the men and boys in them know never to raise their hands or voices in violence.

We should be looking into this.

More to the point, the inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls should be looking into this.

Why are some men able to honour the women in their lives, to lift them up, and create an environment where they

both can thrive and flourish?

There is a problem in Canada, and I dare say, on the planet. Some men carry darkness and pain in their hearts, and they inflict damage on those they claim to love.

Getting to the heart of the matter means getting to the origins of this affliction, this curse, this madness. And while we're digging for clues, let's examine the equally interesting story, "What was it like before the genocide? What makes the First Nation, and perhaps Metis, story unique?"

How did our ancestors make love and relationships work before the churches and governments burned those truths and practices from our hearts? Are those kinds of connections relevant today?

If that is too interesting, then let's stick to the fundamentals.

Why are some men, and not others, able to treat our women right?

What is it about the real man that enables him to be his woman's rock when all around the storm rages? What is it about the punk that enables him to

fly into a blinding rage to silence his woman?

What is it about the real man who can nurture, protect and provide for his

loved ones? Why does the punk try keep his loved ones from the things that they love?

How can some men, and not others, find

the resources within themselves and around them to find a way to a life of joy when "circumstances" try to beat them down?

Sure. I can be a jackass.

In being a jackass my core message was missed in my original column.

But in my defense, I was pissed off. I am a man with a mother, daughters, sister, aunts, nieces, grandmothers, and I have several, gorgeous female friends. And when I see or hear any one of them being mistreated emotionally, mentally, and yes, physically, I will get pissed off.

It just so happens that many of their significant others are or were First Nation men. That remains true.

At other times, they were being

mistreated by men of European, Asian, or African descent. I concede that point as valid too. I am unaware of any Antartican punks at this time.

I have also seen the women of my life encounter absolutely fantastic, honourable men. And some of them were of First Nation, European, Asian, or African descent. Again, no Antarticans as far as I know, but there could be some good ones there too.

I'm sure I've angered some of the same women again for these off the cuff, foolish and reckless wonderings, and for that I cannot apologize. These are not merely interesting, academic questions.

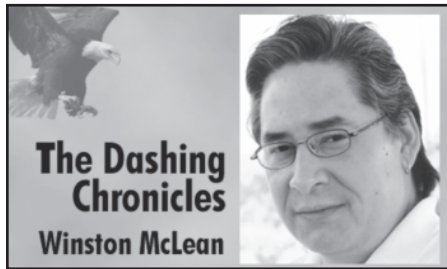
And so far, we've only been discussing domestic violence and haven't even touched on the troubling world of date rape and stranger danger.

So, lets get on with the issue.

Some men are leading lives worth modelling. Our men, First Nation men, could learn a thing or two from them.

I include myself in this, obviously. Granted, I consider myself ahead of the curve but I can always learn more. Of that, I'm sure all my exes will grudgingly agree.

Dirk says, Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.



The Dashing Chronicles
Winston McLean

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Indspire's Youth Laureate thrives on hard work

**By Julie Ann Wriston
For Eagle Feather News**

Josh Butcher considers himself among greatness as an Indspire Youth Laureate.

He was able to speak about his journey and dreams as a panel member in a seven-city tour to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary.

The Indspire Awards are hosted annually in cities across the country to honour extraordinary First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals, including three youth recipients. The Laureates for this tour were chosen from a list of remarkable young people who have received Indspire Awards in the youth categories.

A Cree Métis born and raised in Edmonton, Butcher began his education at the University of Alberta. The love of football led him to take a chance and try out for the University of Saskatchewan Huskies team.

"I had zero expectations that I would receive an offer, but to my surprise I was offered an opportunity and jumped at the chance."

Enrolled initially in the college of Kinesiology, he maintained a 4.0 GPA while volunteering with organizations like SWITCH (Student Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health), a medical clinic that serves mostly Indigenous people, ABLED (Advocates for Bringing Light to and Education on Disabilities), and created 'Athlete Allies', a group within Huskie Athletics with the goal of promoting respect and inclusivity for LGBTQ2 athletes. He is now enrolled in the U of S College of Medicine.

"As Indigenous youth, we partake in a great journey to learn about our culture when there is often no teacher to be found. It's a journey to prosper when we don't know the path we must take.

"It will be hard work, a refusal to quit, and a relentless dedication to accept nothing but the highest standard that will show the world our true potential as Indigenous youth."

He believes that this opportunity has altered his life in significant ways.

"It's changed my sense of identity, of being Métis. Because of this I have been moved to do my homework and know more about my culture. I have been able to reclaim some of this history."

Along the way Butcher has had the opportunity to address some of the personal challenges that come with the process of discovering his roots.

"I have had this incredible feeling of guilt, of not being 'indigenous enough' but I have found that I am not alone in that journey and there are others who understand and feel the same."

He continues to learn as much as he can about his family's background and community.

Butcher eagerly anticipates becoming a physician. He hopes to advocate for Indigenous people and push for the rights to equal access to health care resources.

"I would encourage youth to dream big. They need to know that they are more than capable of creating big changes in our society. I believe they will breathe life into the future of our Indigenous culture and traditions."

The tour began in Ottawa in March, and has visited Winnipeg, Saskatoon. It is scheduled to stop in Yellowknife, Calgary, Vancouver and will wrap up in Montreal in November of this year.

For more information about Indspire Youth Laureates visit <http://indspire.ca/canada150/cities-and-dates/>



Youth Laureates Indspire Recipient Josh Butcher.

(Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)

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4 ways businesses based on the co-op model are better for remote and rural communities

The CO-OP store is a familiar institution across the prairies. While best known for gas stations and grocery stores, what is not widely understood about the brand is that it's not a franchise or chain of stores. Each store belongs to an independent community-based co-operative business, and that co-operative is a member of a federation of co-operative businesses.

This federation manages the CO-OP brand, provides wholesale, manufacturing and logistical support, operates an oil refinery and is the largest business by revenue in Saskatchewan (\$8-10 billion per year). By forming Federated Co-operatives Limited, these independent co-operative businesses have been able to survive in small markets and compete with large corporations.

Why should I care?

A CO-OP grocery store is not like Sobeys. Despite similarities in product and service delivery, the economic, social and community benefits of the co-operative business model are generally much greater for rural and remote communities than a typical investor-driven corporation from out east.

What's the difference?

1. Owned and controlled by members of the community
2. More profits and wealth stay in the community
3. Services and products reflect community opportunities and interests
4. Operate where government and large investor-driven corporations often can't or won't



Okay, but how?

A co-op is a different – and sometimes better – business model. Community members who choose to become shareholders in the business own and control it, and profits from the business remain local, benefiting the community beyond the jobs created and service or product delivered. In fact, profits are often used to support things like university scholarships, local sports or play structures at community schools.

Give me an example.

Not long ago, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon, an isolated northern community of about 300, had one grocery store, which was run by The Northern Store (The Northwest Company). Profits from the store went to the company's head office in Winnipeg, service was poor and prices high. In 2014, Northern Store left. To replace this vital service, a group of commu-

nity members decided to start their own business. And, in 2015, with the support of the Nation and Arctic Co-op, a growing federation of 32 co-operative businesses in the Arctic, they did.

Today, Old Crow Co-op does over \$2 million in sales in a year; the business serves the community as a store, hotel, post office and bank; and a local community member manages the business. Plus, profits from the store can be used to support local initiatives, like a scholarship fund or much needed infrastructure.



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From Truth to Reconciliation
SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGIES



Shirley Isbister (left) and Bridge Naming Committee tour the new bridge construction site.
(Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)

Naming of new bridge a community project

By Julie Ann Wriston
For Eagle Feather News

A new bridge comes with a flurry of activities, most of which involve large equipment, coordination of plans and schedules and lots of detailed processes.

The idea is to connect two areas of land, making transportation smoother as Saskatoon continues to grow.

Naming a new bridge is the kind of thing that connects more than land. It can be an opportunity to connect cultures. That is the exciting reality for the North Commuter Bridge project. A naming committee recently toured the project to put their feet on the land and spark the creativity that will go into choosing a name fitting of Saskatoon's newest transportation corridor.

That is not to say that the naming activity itself doesn't require tremendous planning and process as well. Spearheaded by City of Saskatoon Director of Aboriginal Relations Gilles Dorval, a Bridge Naming Engagement Process was developed in consideration of the Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) Calls to Action, specifically #79 'Participate in a strategy to commemorate Aboriginal peoples' history and contributions to Canada.'

City administration undertook an initial meeting with key community members, including representatives from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC), Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC), Central Urban Métis Federation Incorporated (CUMFI) and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) to discuss a process for engaging the community to name the North Commuter Parkway Bridge and the scope of the project.

At the meeting, it was expressed that the bridge naming process should be community driven and that this is an opportunity to open doors for people to have a dialogue and build community through the reconciliation process.

Gilles Dorval is working hard to engage a number of community stakeholders to ensure that an inclusive process unfolds.

"We have been following traditional protocol with guidance from our Elders as well as honoring the Indian Residential school survivors throughout our reconciliation Journey as a community," said Dorval.

During a tour of the bridge construction site, archaeologist Dr. Ernie Walker addressed the committee to talk about the area and shed some light on things to consider when deciding on a name.

"This is an opportunity to celebrate the northern plains people."

He offered an example of how Tipperary Creek was renamed at Wanuskewin.

"Hilliard McNab was from George Gordon First Nation. He was instrumental in the early days of Wanuskewin. We wanted to recognize his contributions and decided to do so by using his traditional name Opimihaw."

Opimihaw Creek is now a formally recognized Canadian topographic name.

"I have admired what Calgary did with Deerfoot Trail, and this is an opportunity to take a significant step in the right direction. Where else should this happen than in a place named Saskatoon, Saskatchewan," asked Dr. Walker.

The committee will meet frequently now to adopt a campaign name and agree to a set of criteria that will spell out the who, what, where, when, and how of the naming process.

Executive Director for the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, Harry Lafond, is taking part as a member of the naming committee.

"I really appreciated the opportunity to tour the site and hear the stories about the area and history from Ernie."

This process gives the community the chance to express what is important to them," said Lafond.

"The naming process that the City of Saskatoon has adopted is an important indication that we are moving down the reconciliation path. It speaks to the commitment of extending ownership to the people who live in and

around our community, it belongs to the people."

Once completed the new bridge will link the Marquis Industrial Area with Saskatoon's northeast residential developments across the South Saskatchewan River, reduce traffic on existing bridges and increase economic productivity in the city's North Industrial Area.







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Government
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McCallum elected MN-S president

By Julie Ann Wriston
For Eagle Feather News

The long-awaited election for the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) has finally taken place, drawing nearly double the voters than the last time Métis people took to the polls.

This new four-year term sees the introduction of some new faces and the return of former Executive and Provincial Métis Council (PMC) members now tasked with moving forward collectively to create opportunities for growth and recognition of Métis rights on both the provincial and federal levels.

Newly elected MN-S President Glen McCallum is grateful for everyone who had the energy and courage to put their names into the ring with a commitment to build the Nation.

"It's a tough choice to make, to run in an election like this. Candidates need to consider their families, careers, lives in taking this on," McCallum said.

"I truly appreciate everyone who ran, and I wish them all the best."

McCallum has already been busy taking the first steps as President.

"Everyone who was elected have ideas about what needs to happen now. It is important that we get everyone together and begin to compare notes to create a plan to move forward. The Métis people are looking to see transparency, democracy and accountability," said McCallum.

The first of these meetings is

set to begin as early as next week. Communication and relationship building on the federal level has already begun.

"We are now going to work to capitalize on the opportunities that have been offered by the Liberal government. We want to build from the good relationship that we've already created."

One of the more interesting races in this year's election was for the position of Treasurer. Mary Ann Morin swept the competition winning by 1,000 votes over her nearest competitor.

Armed with a CMA and strong financial background, she sees proper financial management as critically important for the health of the organization.

"It's very important to develop trust with other levels of government that we know how to run our business. We have the people now that are skilled to manage our funds and political functions," said Morin.

Like McCallum, Morin is looking

forward to the first meeting with the PMC.

"I am looking forward to seeing what everyone's priorities are and hope to develop good strategies that address the needs of Métis people spanning from East to West and North to South."

She, too, congratulates her fellow candidates and hopes to stay engaged with them.

"We don't want to lose touch with the well-educated, passionate people who cared enough about our Nation to put their names forward. It's going to start from the grassroots for the Métis people to build that trust again."

Although there were a few changes to leadership positions, not everyone feels there was the type of change that seemed necessary to move past some of the systemic issues that have plagued the MN-S in recent years.

Senator Nora Cummings is disappointed that the push for new leadership didn't play out across all the positions.

"It's unfortunate that more people didn't get out to vote. This does not reflect the change people were hoping to see."

Cummings attributes the outcome to too many candidates running for Executive positions.

"It split the votes. We should have been smarter, and compromised as to who would be the best to run and backed them as large groups," said Senator Cummings.

Another area of concern for the Senator was the voting process itself.

"The identification required from voters was not sufficient. A driver's license is not a way to track and verify the criteria for eligible voters. We should have also been asked to provide our hospitalization cards, or other means to ensure that all voters legitimately had the right to participate. We will need to review the polls, which could take some time."

Cummings suggests that time will tell whether this new leadership will work to change and fix the MN-S.

"Anything is workable if people want to change. These leaders now must look within and come together to work for the benefit of our people. In the meantime, we have a lot of work to do. So, to each individual Métis person, focus on yourselves, your families and your communities."

"Achieve good things at the grassroots level. Gather your young people together and prepare them for the future."



Newly elected Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Glen McCallum.

(Photo by Julie Ann Wriston)



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FRIENDS OF BATOCHE HISTORICAL SITE INC.

SCYAP grads expand their artistic horizons, build confidence

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

The Urban Canvas Project graduated 12 talented artists at a ceremony at Art Placement Gallery.

The Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming (SCYAP) grads Asini Duquette, Michelle Pritchard, Wendell Sand, Jessica Belhumeur, Garvin Netmaker, Karla Bowman, Renee Moostoos, Tonia Bird, Elizabeth Fisher, Martine Strange, Joyce Kandakai, and Jordan Williams celebrated their Final Show.

More than just canvases, traditional star blankets were also on display. Local and provincial politicians filled the room, introduced by the grads before bringing greetings. Proud family members took photos in front of their artwork in the foyer.

Michelle Pritchard had never sewed before but made her first star blanket and will be in B.C. this summer checking out the art scene.

"Now I'd like to get my own sewing machine."

The program not only provides art experience but work experience to youth facing barriers to employment, and is a non-profit supported by the United Way, the city, the Province, Eagle Feather News, and many other organizations and sponsors. Darrel Lechman, the founder, announced his semi-retirement and has been replaced by Clayton Shock.

City councillor Cynthia Block noted the need for supporting Indigenous youth as the treaties intended, and talked about the work SCYAP does beyond their basic beautification of murals and art projects, and training, and outreach programs such as Art in the Park



Michelle Pritchard made her first star blanket during her stay at SCYAP. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

or face-painting.

MLA Eric Olausson brought greetings from the Province.

"Your Government of Saskatchewan believes that our province's people are our most vital resource. We know that every member of our community is valuable, and we are committed to taking measures that help Saskatchewan people succeed."

Assini Duquette, whose artwork at the event depicted the Highway of Tears in British Columbia, said afterwards he wished he could speak to him and ask him to replace the bus service cancelled for the entire province May 31.

"We need to look at why these women are disappearing. Because those buses are going away there's going to be more people walking, especially from reserves. They go to towns to get on the buses, now what are they going to do?"

"It's an issue that needs to be brought to light," said Duquette, who raises awareness of this important issue through his artwork.

"I would have said to them, have a heart for my people. Watch over my people. Honour my ancestors because they let your people live here, too. That's honouring them, is looking after my people now. Like why are they disappearing, why are they getting murdered?"

Grad Wendell Sand said he'd first heard about the program from his guidance counsellor.

"I learned a lot. There should be more non-profits, they do a lot of good work in society," observed Sand.

SCYAP grads later unveiled the new mural at White Buffalo Youth Lodge facing the parking lot. Designed by Duquette, great-grandson of Joe Duquette, and painted in pieced-together sections by many of the other students, the colourful mural depicts White Buffalo Woman and the gifts she brought the people.



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La Ronge

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Landon Sasakamoose

running to honour his father's memory

By Jeanelle Mandes
Of Eagle Feather News

An athlete from Northern Saskatchewan is raising the bar high by competing in various sporting competitions this summer.

Landon Sasakamoose, 18, from Ahtahkakoop Cree Nation will be at this summer's North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) in Toronto, competing in track and field.

Sasakamoose is not a stranger when it comes to NAIG. He competed in the last sporting event that was held in Regina where he won three gold and two silver medals, breaking the Saskatchewan record in the 300-metre race.

"Right after I crossed the finish line in the 300-metre and I broke the Saskatchewan record ... my dad was right there waiting for me with his arms open and he said 'good run my son' and he gave me a big hug," he said.

His late father, Chucky Sasakamoose, the son of NHL legend Fred Sasakamoose, died last March in an apparent murder-suicide on the Cree Nation. It was a devastating loss to the young athlete who lost a man who was not only his father, but his coach and mentor.

"My dad trained me since I was 12-years-old. He'd follow behind me in his truck every second day, I would run 3-4 kilometres for about six months straight," he said.

"He really got me ready. He was doing that a month before he died. It's been awhile since a vehicle has followed behind me (while I) was running down the road. It's kind of different now."

When Sasakamoose was nervous before a race, he would let his dad know how he was feeling. His late father would tell him, "My son, pray hard and just do your best. You're here for a reason."

Those are words that still linger in his mind.

His father would smudge his sporting equipment before leaving the house. Until this day, Sasakamoose kept those traditions alive by running with sage in his shoes and wearing an eagle feather on his arm.

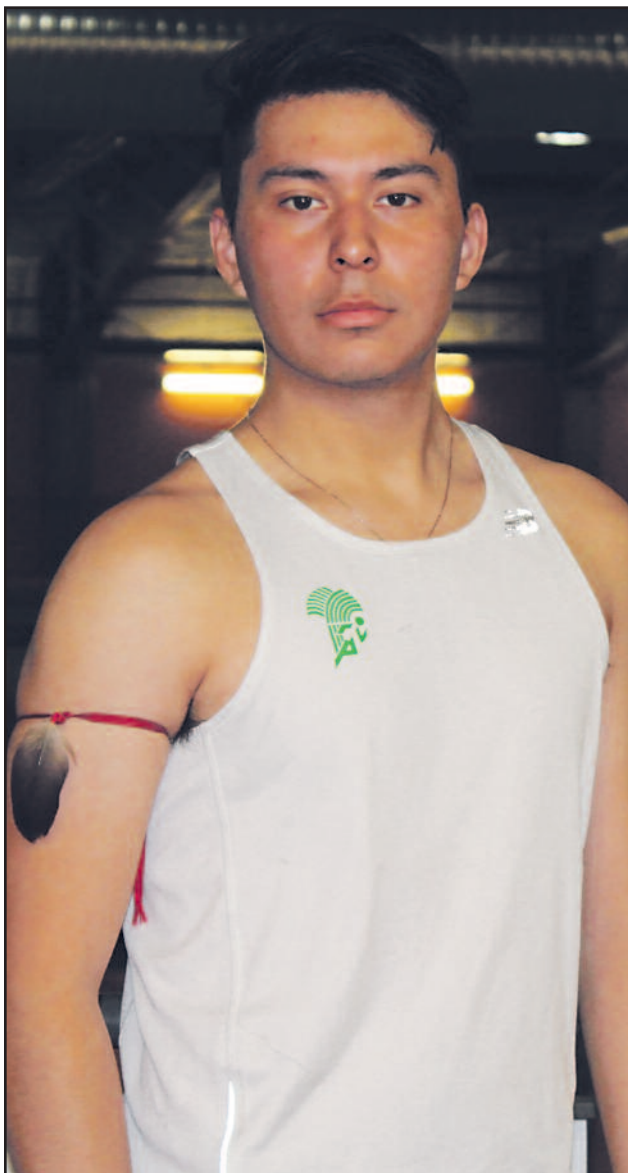
In 2015, Sasakamoose initiated a fundraiser called the Terry Fox run where he ran from his community to Prince Albert which is 86 kilometres that took them a day and a half. Five runners in total ran together taking turns switching off with a van following them. At that moment, his father told Sasakamoose that Terry Fox ran alone so next year, he should do the same – which he did last October.

"It took me two days to get to Prince Albert. I raised \$1,500 in 2016 and that all went to cancer research," he said.

"This year I'm planning on running to Saskatoon alone. It will take me about three or four days to get there running from 6 a.m. to 9 at night."

Right up until 2016, Sasakamoose said he remained Saskatchewan's fastest Aboriginal male for all ages – and that was achieved through discipline and training.

Sasakamoose sends a strong message to those who may have lost someone in their lives by telling



Landon Sasakamoose wears an eagle feather on his right arm every time he runs. A tradition that he and his late father started when he discovered his passion for the sport. (Photo by Jeanelle Mandes)

them not to give up on your goals and dreams.

"I know it's hard losing a loved one and you want to give up but that's not the answer. Your loved one is going to be looking down on you. Work hard at your goals and don't give up," he said.

"My dad always told me that pain is temporary and success is forever."

Sasakamoose is not only running in NAIG this summer but he will be his community's youngest running candidate for councilor in their upcoming election. To add to his long list of great accomplishments, he will also be competing in this summer's World Indigenous Nation (WIN) Games that will be held in Alberta.

Competing in this year's NAIG and the WIN Games will be different for Sasakamoose without his father waiting for him at the finish line but he found a way to make it feel like his father will be there.

"For the remainder of my track career, I'm going to always bring my dad's sweater that he always wore when he took me to my runs. I'm going to always put (his) sweater on a chair with his picture on it," he said.

"I did that at the Aboriginal championships and I felt just as if my dad was there watching me."

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SASKATCHEWAN POLYTECHNIC

Whitecap takes its business lesson to Harvard

By Katie Doke Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather News

An executive business program on Indigenous governance at one of the most prestigious universities in the world kicked off its first session at the beginning of May and by all accounts it was a success.

Harvard School of Business, yes, *the* Harvard School of Business, hosted 63 participants representing Indigenous communities and businesses from Canada and the US for the inaugural cohort of Leading People and Investing to Build Sustainable Communities from May 1-5.

"The quality of instruction is second to none. The facilities were amazing, like astounding. Everybody was treated very well," said Terry Goodtrack, CEO of AFOA Canada.

The program was born out of meetings last year between the Ivy League school, AFOA Canada and the National Congress of American Indians. The latter two organizations wanted to offer education and training on Indigenous governance, leadership and investment management to their members. In February, AFOA signed an agreement with Harvard to commit to delivering the program together.

All of the 43 participants from Canada were AFOA members or represented corporate memberships.

One of those members, PotashCorp's Lisa Mooney, Senior Aboriginal Relations Specialist for the Saskatchewan-based resource company, attended the event.

"It was an intense week; early mornings, full days and time in the evenings for networking and studying," Mooney said.

For Mooney, who lives in Saskatoon, the networking was key and the learning environment was mutually beneficial.

"Not only our learning was evident, but Harvard University had the opportunity to learn from all of us as well," she said.

"It was the first time they had a classroom with gender equity and of Indigenous descent. I look forward to bearing witness to the opportunities and successes these teachings will develop in our communities."

Scheduled courses during the week included Evaluating Start-up Opportunities, Governance and "Family Business" Systems, Investment Strategies, Leading Through Turbulent Times and Essentials of Negotiations. Sessions ended with the participants analyzing case studies and coming up with their own solutions in groups.

Chief Darcy Bear from Whitecap Dakota First Nation said the case studies were important.

"There's always learning from Siri but the practical experience is worth a lot," Bear said.

Chief Darcy Bear presented on Whitecap Dakota First Nation's economic success and determination on the final evening of the program.

(Photo by Terry Goodtrack)



"A lot of people want to know of real stories that have actually happened."

Bear shared his own real story in a presentation on the last evening. He talked about Whitecap's success in moving away from per capita capital distribution toward own-source revenues. The First Nation runs a golf course and casino and owns industrial, recreation and residential sites, employing 650 people. Bear hopes to increase that number to 1,000 in the next five years.

For Bear, his Nation's development of its own land code and working in partnership with all levels of government has been key to their success.

"Everything we've done is all based on partnership ... to create opportunities not just for Whitecap members but for the entire region," he said.

Goodtrack said that tuition for the program was originally projected to be \$11,000 for each participant but thanks to a private donor at the university, that price point was brought down to \$2,500.

The program will be offered for the next five years. The next cohort will take place May 7-11 in 2018.



Forty-three of the participants of the Leading People and Building Sustainable Communities program, which took place May 1-5 at Harvard Business School, were from Canada. The next cohort will take place May 7-11 in 2018.

(Photo courtesy of Terry Goodtrack)



Success

"My Dad worked for the City for 25 years and I have continued our family service for another 20 years now. I went from temporary Labourer to Plant Operator and the City paid for my training. I love the people I work with and I love my job!"

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Twelve Indigenous youth from across Saskatchewan were honoured at the 19th Annual SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards in June. Their amazing stories of perseverance and success were shared with an audience of grateful and supportive families and friends. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards honour outstanding young achievers

**By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News**

Youth and proud families gathered at the 19th annual SaskTel Indigenous Youth Awards of Excellence to celebrate the achievements of students, athletes and leaders from across Saskatchewan.

Supported by the Wicihitowin Foundation, it is a living legacy to Indigenous veterans by honouring and nurturing Indigenous youth for the challenge of responsibility and leadership. Wicihitowin is Cree for “helping each other.”

Kennedy Kewistep received the Community Service award, with Calista Moser also being nominated.

BlueJay Linklater received the Culture award, accompanied by fellow nominees Logan Cook, Chaston Dustyhorn, Makaela Pelletier-Higheagle, Daylan Perillat, and Ariel Poitras. BlueJay has been active with his culture since he was very young, and is the Elder-raised grandson of Walter and Maria Linklater.

Chelsea Cooke was recipient of the Education award, in a field of almost 20 exceptional nominees. An honour roll student in Gravelbourg, she hopes to obtain a pharmacy degree.

Aiyanna Glenister received the Fine/Performing Arts award for her extensive performances on the stage as well as her other well-rounded activities including music. The field included 16 other deserving nominees.

Emma Dewald received the Innovation Award, flanked by Royce Brittain and Mark Moccasin-Wolverine.

Lockhart Jahnke was the recipient of the Leadership award, accompanied by Brayden Caron, Brooke Kayseas, Tanisha McCallum-Morin, Le-On Ochuschayoo, and Taylor Vandalier. Lockhart is a Centennial Collegiate student who is very involved in mentorship and volunteering.

The Spirit award went to Joshua

Bear. Fellow nominees included Stephan Littlepine, Kryssa Mike-Nateweyes, Tearlin Night, Lillian Scott, Jordan Watcheson, and Taiya Whiteford.

Camryn Scarfe won Sports/Recreation Female, while Landon Sasakamoose won Sports/Recreation Male. Both categories included numerous other exceptional nominees.

Deserae Goodhand won the Technology/Science award, flanked by Jordan Hunter Knife, Destiny Isbister-Fremont, Jenice Lewis, Kain Settee, and Katie Turner.

Brayden Storm won Outstanding Achievement Male, with nominees Alexander Lafreniere, Byron Okemau, and Joseph Ratt.

Sidney Shacter won Outstanding Achievement Female, with nominees Amelia Boissoneau, Jessica Fisher, Maia Houle, Kayleigh Starblanket, and Emily Van De Velde.

“It was incredible. I’m so honoured to be able to be a part of this, and to be able to be here this night,” said Sidney Shacter, saying she loved being a part of the Grand Entry.

She enjoyed meeting the other youth at the event, describing them as talented, kind, and inspiring. She has been working at giving back to the community with her own experiences as a home-educated youth who is now involved in the public schools.

One of her favourite initiatives has been teaching math and science class mentorship for younger female students.

“Studies show by age 15, most girls tend to start dropping out of math classes and becoming less interested in them, and so it helps to get them interested at a young age.”

Shacter is also a graduate of media school in the Saskatoon Public Schools, and really enjoyed the community she found there. She has gone on to partner

with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner, creating a two-day workshop on film-making and reconciliation.

“The biggest and foremost thing is the interior work, before the exterior work.

“If you aren’t content and you don’t love yourself, you can’t expect love back. I make sure I am healthy and safe

and do self-care before I load a lot of traditional achievement onto my plate, because you need that foundation to draw on, because if you are empty you don’t have anything to give,” added Shacter.

“So, take care of yourself, take care of your friends, and build your community because your community is your most valuable resource.”

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Chelsea Cooke won the Education Award.



Bluejay Linklater was presented with the Culture Award.



The Technology/Science Award went to Deserae Goodhand.



Aiyanna Glenister received the Fine/Performing Arts Award.



Joshua Bear received the Spirit Award.



Lockhart Jahnke was presented with the Leadership Award.



Kennedy Kewistep was the winner of the Community Service Award.



Camryn Scarfe received the Sports Award.



Landon Sasakamoose won the Sports Award.



Emma Dewald was the winner of the Innovation Award.



Sidney Shacter won the Female Outstanding Achievement award.



Brayden Storm earned the Male Outstanding Achievement Award.

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Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas thinks National Aboriginal Day should be a stat holiday
• (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

**By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News**

Among our nationwide statutory holidays in Canada are celebrations of the new year, labour, Canada's birthday, and the birth of the reigning Canadian monarch.

Not among these nationwide holidays is a day commemorating the rich history, contributions, and culture of Canada's Indigenous people. This begs the question, why hasn't Canada designated a stat holiday

Leaders renew calls to designate National Aboriginal Day a stat holiday

in honour of our Indigenous communities?

On June 21, Canada celebrates National Aboriginal Day – a celebration first announced in 1996 by then Gov.-Gen. Romeo LeBlanc – as a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding contributions of Indigenous peoples. But the day remains somewhat limited across the country, as Canadians will largely observe the celebration from work.

“Through National Aboriginal Day, we all want to make a difference for our people. The way to do that is build bridges – to say come sit with us, celebrate our uniqueness with us,” said Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Second Vice-Chief Robert Merasty.

“Building bridges is how we showcase how we (as Canadians) are all one people, and how we should focus on appreciating one another.”

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) issued 94 calls to action, one of them being a call to create a new national statutory holiday in honour of residential school survivors. Regardless of a TRC Day or National Aboriginal Day, the principle is the same – a way for Canada as a whole to show respect for the Indigenous peoples.

“More than ever, we need a National Aboriginal Day to celebrate and showcase our unique culture and symbols in this period of reconciliation and rebuilding relationships in government,” Merasty says.

“But similarly, more than anything, we're all the Creator's children, and we should celebrate Aboriginals, Ukrainians, French, everyone who calls themselves

Canadian. It's about being human with each other and celebrating the diverse and unique culture that Canada has to offer.”

Merasty believes that the Canadian government should be responsible to set the tone in terms of embracing and celebrating Canada's cultural diversity, not only for Indigenous communities, but all heritages that makeup Canada's cultural mosaic.

Currently, only the Northwest Territories and Yukon recognize National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday. And here in Saskatchewan, many leaders believe it's time to catch up with our northern neighbours.

“Let's at least start off with a stat holiday,” said Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas.

“But I don't think it's going far enough, just having one day. In the United States, they have Black History Month. In Canada, we have one day, and often the only people who celebrate are the Aboriginal groups (themselves).”

Chief Thomas says that making National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday would make for an important statement of respect from the Canadian government, and a possible catalyst for greater change.

“I think the biggest thing would be the affirmation and confirmation for Indigenous people that we do matter,” said Thomas.

“The more people who understand and take part, the more politicians and policy makers will listen and implement more things to reconcile relationships with First Nations.”

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aboriginal.usask.ca



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

National Aboriginal Day Quiz - Test Your Knowledge

1. Who was likely the first person to speak Swampy Cree in the Saskatchewan Legislature?
Brain Duck
Keith Goulet
Doyle Vermette
Buckley Belanger

2. This jerk is credited with creating the residential schools and has a very important building named after him in Ottawa.
Duncan Campbell Scott
General Middleton
Sir Hector-Louis Langevin
Frank Parliament

3. What year did the first residential school open in Saskatchewan?
1883
1886
1890
1902

4. Between 1750 and 1821, how many beaver pelts did it take to trade for a rifle?
5
1
7
10
5. How many Calls to Action did the Truth and Reconciliation Commission create following their investigation into residential schools?
50
4
94
17

6. How many Calls to Action are tied to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People?
16
0
94
1



7. How many First Nations men were hanged in Battleford in 1885 in what is Canada's largest mass execution for their association with the Massacre at Frog Lake?
5
2
6
8

8. Even though they couldn't vote and didn't have to fight, how many First Nation men enlisted and fought in WWI?

About 500
About 107
None
2000
9. This person is the first Indigenous person to sit on the national board of Habitat for Humanity.
Kim Jonathan
Perry Bellegarde
Sean Atleo

Pamela Palmeter
10. The economic gap between Indigenous people in Saskatchewan and other Canadians costs Saskatchewan how much yearly in lost economic impact?
\$1,000,000 (million)
\$0 (zilch)
\$1,000,000,000 (billion)
Unmeasurable

11. After the Métis resistance at Batoche, how many First Nation reserves were identified as 'disloyal' to the Crown?
10
74
2
28

12. This once deemed 'rebellion band' launched a specific claim over lost Treaty Annuities post Riel



Resistance and recently received over \$4 million in a settlement.
Beardy's and Okemasis
Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
One Arrow First Nation
Black Lake First Nation

13. Louis Riel went to Montreal to study to be a priest but after his father's death, he dropped out and enrolled in what type of college?
Psychiatry
Law
Sociology
Economics

Continued on Page 18

Your Saskatoon NDP MLAs



Building Together

National Aboriginal Day Quiz - Test Your Knowledge



14. In 1914, this Métis gentleman became the first Indigenous judge in the Saskatchewan Supreme Court.

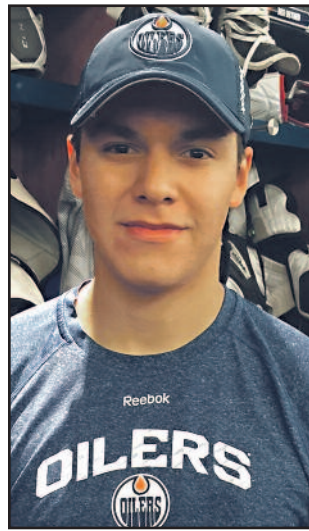
Gerald Morin
Barry Senger
James McKay
David Kingfisher

15. This year we lost this beloved author, former Eagle Feather News columnist and visionary behind Keeper'n'Me, and Medicine Walk

18. What Peepeekisis leader was the first National Chief of the now named Assembly of First Nations in 1968.

19. In 1926, First Nation people were at the lowest percentage of the population ever. Today we are about 18%, what were we then?

1.6%
15.2%
5.7%
10%



22. What two schools in Saskatoon are seen as Métis cultural schools?

23. This former President of the Métis National Council just keeps on winning elections.

24. This Olympian of Red Pheasant Reserve, was one of the best distance runners in Canada in the 20th century.

amongst others.

16. What year was the National Indian Brotherhood formed?

1982
1900
1876
1919

17. This former National Chief is now entering the world of medical marijuana.

Phil Fontaine
Ovide Mercredi
Shawn A-in-chut Atleo
Mathew Coon Come



20. What percent of kindergarten students in Saskatchewan in 2017 are of Indigenous descent?

18%
45%
25%
60%

21. In the 1940s the Green Lake Experiment saw Métis people forcibly relocated and trained to be what?

Mechanics
School teachers
Subsistence farmers
Servants

25. This hero from Ochapowace First Nation is destined for greatness with the Oilers in the NHL.

Courage Bear
John Bear
Ethan Bear
Dave Bear

26. This Canadian writer of Three Day Road became the flash point of cultural appropriation in 2017.

John Ralston Saul
Yann Martel
Rudy Weibe
Joseph Boyden



CELEBRATE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

On June 21st, take the time to recognize and celebrate Indigenous cultures in Saskatchewan. Participate in events, learn about different cultures and take the opportunity to build intercultural understanding. Find out about SaskCulture grant programs that support cultural activity at saskculture.ca.

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National Aboriginal Day Quiz - Test Your Knowledge



27. This author of the award-winning poetry book on residential schools “Burning in this Midnight Dream” was also Saskatchewan’s Poet Laureate in 2006.

Louise Bernice Halfe
Rita Bouvier
Greg Scofield
Greg Lundy



28. This Saskatchewan First Nation is expecting to be self governing by 2020.

Thunderchild First Nation
Whitecap Dakota First Nation
White Bear First Nation
Kawacatoose First Nation



29. This media star of 8th Fire and author of The Reason You Walk is now leader of the Manitoba NDP.

John Lagimodiere
Don Kelly
Wab Kinew
Ryan McMahon

30. This role model and Mrs. Universe 2015 almost won the Amazing Race Canada in 2016!

Pamela Palmetier
Candy Palmetier
Jodi Raybould Wilson
Ashley Callingbull

31. What Saskatoon Institution played host to a challenge of the Amazing Race Canada?

The Mendel Art gallery
Wanuskewin
SaskTel Centre
Penguin Park

- Answers
1. Keith Goulet

2. Sir Hector-Louis Langevin

3. 1883

4. 10

5. 94

6. 16

7. 8

8. 107

9. Kim Jonathan

10. \$1 Billion

11. 28

12. Beady's and Okemas

13. Law

14. James McKay

15. Richard Wagemase

16. 1919
17. Phil Fontaine

18. Walter Dieter

19. 1.6%

20. 45%

21. Subsistence Farmers

22. Westmount Community School and St Michael Community School

23. Gerald Morin

24. Alex Wuttunee Decoteau (1887-1917)

25. Ethan Bear

26. Joseph Boyden

27. Louise Bernice Halfe

28. Whitecap Dakota First Nation

29. Wab Kinew

30. Ashley Callingbull

31. Wanuskewin

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fcc.ca/Careers

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BEST EMPLOYER

PLATINUM | CANADA

Documentary captured painful TRC stories

By K.D. Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather News

It's common knowledge that the stories told by residential school survivors at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission events were hard to tell, but it might be less well-known that they were also hard to hear.

That's why the role of statement-gatherers for the TRC is the subject of Regina filmmaker Trudy Stewart's documentary, *From Up North*, which screened at the Wairoa Maori Film Festival in New Zealand in June.

"I felt that our story wasn't being told, those of us that were taking on these stories and how affected we all were," Stewart said.

As a TRC statement-gatherer, Stewart recorded and summarized each survivor's story on paper for an archivist.

heard and how to let go of them.

"I wasn't prepared for how difficult it would be hearing those stories, I mean on my psyche," Stewart said.

Stewart's film is a 10-minute short that features Noel Starblanket, a Knowledge Keeper at the University of Regina who is from Star Blanket Cree Nation. In the film, Starblanket talks about the effects of the abuse he experienced at residential school, including repeated blows from nuns and priests that left him with permanent hearing loss in his left ear.

Interspersed with Noel's story are Stewart's own thoughts, which she narrates throughout the film. She wonders what her own mother's experience was, something she doesn't know because she was adopted. She is originally from Flying Dust First Nation.

The weaving together of Starblanket's

some healing," Stewart said.

During a Q-and-A at a screening event at the University of Regina on May 24, Starblanket said the key to his healing was learning how to forgive.

"Our old people tell us learn to forgive and pray for the ones who have hurt you and I do that," he said.

"I still find it difficult to this day, but it has to be done if you're willing and you want to free yourself, forgiveness is freedom."

Stewart is raising money to pay for Starblanket's plane ticket to New Zealand so he could go with her to the festival. At press time, she'd raised \$3,400 of her \$4,000 goal.

"I think it'll be a really great exchange of culture and knowledge with Noel cause he's an educator and he knows so much about treaty and residential-school legacy and all those things that they would want to learn about, but also he wants to learn from the Maori so I think it'll be a great learning experience for everybody," she said, before they left May 31.

With regular updates on Facebook from New Zealand, Stewart was pleased announce that *From Up North* won the festival's International Indigenous Film Award on June 3.

She plans to stay for a couple weeks in New Zealand to shoot another film.

To support Starblanket's trip to New



Trudy Stewart's documentary *From Up North* shows what it was like gathering statements from residential school survivors for the TRC and how it impacted her.

(Photo by K.D. Sawatzky)



Noel Starblanket (right) is the subject of Trudy's documentary *From Up North*. He answered questions after a screening event at the University of Regina on May 24.

(Photo by K.D. Sawatzky)

She often did multiple statements in one day, each of which might range from 45 minutes to two hours. Stewart figures she listened to over 100 statements in her work from 2012 to 2015.

At the end of the day, she would check in with a health support worker, needing to talk about the stories she

ket's and Stewart's stories is meant to give the viewer an idea of what the statement-gathering process was like for both parties.

"I really wanted to show what it was like to hear these stories of abuse and also pick out something that was positive and show that (Noel) had done

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National Aboriginal Day

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Wanuskewin sharing culture, educating on Aboriginal Day

By NC Raine
For Eagle Feather News

Wanuskewin Heritage Park, a First Nations heritage site with over 6,000 years of history, will be offering a full day of traditional games, performances, tours, and other activities in celebration of National Aboriginal Day.

In partnership with the Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre, Dakota Dunes Community Development Corporation, The Department of Canadian Heritage, CHEP, and Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre, Wanuskewin hopes to celebrate all aspects of the diverse Indigenous culture.

“For Wanuskewin, we are very much about educating and sharing culture. For us to be able to hold an exciting event like this is a great opportunity for everyone to come and experience Aboriginal culture in its many forms,” said Andrew McDonald, Sales and Marketing Manager at Wanuskewin.

On June 21, the celebrations kick off at 8 a.m. with a Pipe Ceremony. Then, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a host of sponsored events will keep guests of all ages busy, including traditional food servings, dance performances, puppet shows, and interpretive walks, among others.

Additionally, those completing all of the 'Story Robe Passport' stations can enter a draw for a Pendleton blanket.

“Our hope (through National Aboriginal Day) is to reach more people in the community, to bring it back to that mandate of education, awareness, and celebration of culture,” said McDonald.

“The more people that we can reach and offer these rich authentic experiences to, the better. And we’re very proud of being able to do that.”

In February, Wanuskewin announced its \$40 million expansion plan, which includes reintroducing interactive exhibitions, improving educational offerings, expanding and renovating the facility, and introducing a herd of plains bison. The park also intends to seek UNESCO World Heritage Site designation – which would be an historic first in Saskatchewan.

Through National Aboriginal Day, Wanuskewin

hopes to boost awareness to their development plans and to remind visitors of the importance of supporting cultural and historic centres.

“It’s a good experience for us to talk about the expansions. For folks who haven’t been to the park in a while, it’s a good opportunity to come out and rediscover the park, and get a better understanding of what



A hoop dancer shares his skills with a young student. (Photo Credit Wanuskewin Heritage Park)

we’re going to be doing with the expansions,” says McDonald.

“It’s a very exciting time to reconnect with everyone in the community.”

More information on National Aboriginal Day celebrations, including a full list of planned activities, can be found at wanuskewin.com



HAPPY NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

AREVA is happy to celebrate National Aboriginal Day with its employees and northern neighbours. We are proud that nearly 50% of our McClean Lake operation employees are of Aboriginal ancestry and that we all share the values of respect for people, culture and the land.

www.arevaresources.ca



AREVA

Waskesiu festival celebrates Indigenous filmmakers

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

The inaugural “Celebrating Indigenous Film” Indigenous Film Festival is being held at Prince Albert National Park (PANP) in Waskesiu as a way of reclaiming the sacred spaces of the na-

tional park systems.

“Surrounded by the beauty of longstanding traditional gathering places, we will celebrate creative Indigenous resilience,” notes the poster.

Co-Founder of the Festival and Friends of the Park President, Ernie

Scoles says it has been a dream of his to get youth up to PANP for a film-festival, to access nature, and to be inspired to be the next generation of film-makers.

“We’ve been working with Parks Canada to reincorporate Indigenous programming into the park, and this was one of our projects,” said Scoles.

The event is being organized and curated by film-maker Marcel Petit and will be held at Twin Pines Theatre.

The goal is to draw in not only tourists and locals, but youth from around the area reserves and further abroad, including youth from urban areas.

The festival will

open with “Angry Inuk” by Alethea Arnaquq-Baril at 7 p.m. Friday night.

Saturday morning will have time for workshops and socialization, with films opening again at 1 p.m. until supper time.

The afternoon films include Naskumituwin, 7 Minutes, Assini, Cree Code Talker, and Backroads by Shane Belcourt, Tasha Hubbard, Gail Maurice, Alex Lazarowich, Candy Fox, Janine Windolph, and Michelle St. John.

The director of Backroads will be in attendance, as will the director of the 3 p.m. film, Land of Rock and Gold.

At 7 p.m., Colonization Road will be the final film. The entire event is open and free to the public.

“We really wanted to celebrate these talented Indigenous filmmakers in the 150th year in which Canada cele-

brates its anniversary,” said Marcel Petit, who has organized the films and directors to be viewed.


“We thought that was a great year to found our film festival as 150 years of resilience, 150 years of survival, and 150 more years of Indigenous film and activism and connection and protection to the lands and waters.”

Petit also wants youth to be empowered to create their own films.

The Film Festival is proudly sponsored by mpet productions, Scoles Fine Art & Framings, Friends of the Park, SaskTel, PotashCorp, Eagle Feather News, and others, including the author.

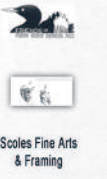
If you would like to sponsor youth to go up, as an act of Reconciliation, contact Ernie at Ernie Scoles Fine Arts & Framing or email andrea.ledding@gmail.com

Celebrating Indigenous Film
June 23 – 24th 2017
Waskesiu, SK (PANP)



Films by
Alethea Arnaquq-Baril
Shane Belcourt
Tasha Hubbard
Gail Maurice
Alex Lazarowich
Candy Fox
Janine Windolph
Michelle St. John

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Films
Friday - 7:00pm
Angry Inuk

Saturday - 1:00pm
Naskumituwin
7 Minutes
Assini
Cree Code Talker
Backroads
(director will be in attendance)

Saturday - 3:00pm
Land of Rock and Gold
(director will be in attendance)

Saturday - 7:00pm
Colonization Road

free to public

All movies at
Twin Pines Theatre

artwork by kevin wesquatte

* films subject to change



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Mr. Prime Minister, it's time to re-name the Langevin Block

The Prime Minister's Office, the seat of power in our parliamentary system of government, is located in the Langevin Block, named after Sir Hector-Louis Langevin – one of the chief architects of Canada's Indian Residential School System.

Let that sink in for a moment. At a time when the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Inquiry is just getting started, and as the government is spending millions of dollars to mark the 150th anniversary of Confederation, that same government is also spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on lawyers to deny Indigenous children the right to the same funding as other Canadian children. Need I say more?

Because of the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we now know what the goal of Canadian Aboriginal Policy was for over a century.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Final Report Executive summary states: "The establishment and operation of residential schools were a central element of this policy (Canadian Aboriginal Policy), which can best be described as 'cultural genocide'".

Since the release of the TRC's final report, many have called on the government to re-name the Langevin Block. So what's the hold-up?

NDP MPs Romeo Saganash and Georgina Jolibois, along with Liberal MPs Robert-Falcon Ouellette and Dan Rusnick and independent MP Hunter TooToo, joined together across party lines to call on the Prime Minister to re-name the building. MP Saganash is "befuddled" as to why the government hasn't announced the

renaming of the Langevin Block.

In an interview with CBC, MP Saganash explained why renaming the building is important. "Every day, at work, I remember the man (Langevin) who dreamed up the school I was sent to, to purposely sever my connection to my family, my people and my nation."

The case to re-name the Langevin Block is compelling, but governments have a knack of saying everything is complex and not as simple as you think. Hogwash! This is just what governments say. It's the equivalent of saying "we will get back to you".

I would suggest the Prime Minister take a page from Mayor Naheed Nenshi and Calgary city council on this one.

After the release of the final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a Calgary resident started a petition to change the name of the city's Langevin Bridge. The Mayor said yes. What he actually said was, "This stuff is easy". Lo and behold, nine months later, Calgary city council re-named it Reconciliation Bridge. Well done, Calgary!

Perhaps you've heard what some non-Indigenous folks have said on the subject: "If we re-name one building, we are focusing too much time on one individual."

We'd better be careful we don't start re-naming buildings "en masse," said Bob Rae, former premier of Ontario and former Liberal MP, in an interview on CBC. I like and respect Bob Rae on many fronts, but in this case, he's got it wrong.

The Langevin Block isn't just ANY government



building, it is the seat of power in our Canadian democracy. The Langevin Block is the Canadian equivalent of the White House. How can our Prime Minister govern our country from a building named after a man who, in 1883, spoke these words in Parliament:

"The fact is, that if you wish to educate those children you must separate them from their parents during the time they are being educated. If you leave them in the family they may know how to read and write, but they still remain savages, whereas by separating them in the way proposed, they acquire the habits and tastes-it is hoped only the good tastes-of civilized people."

Mr. Prime Minister, on the eve of National Aboriginal Day, I ask you to show that you are truly committed to truth and reconciliation. You have an opportunity to start the next 150 years in a positive way: let us honour the truth and re-name the Langevin Block. It's time.

Sheri Benson, MP (NDP)
Saskatoon West

CONGRATULATIONS 2017 INDIGENOUS GRADUATES!



On May 31 we hosted our annual Graduation Powwow to recognize the hundreds of Indigenous students who are graduating from the University of Saskatchewan and high schools across the province.

Thank you to everyone who helped us celebrate.



UNIVERSITY OF
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Thunderchild FN growing its own agricultural business

By K.D. Sawatzky
For Eagle Feather News

Spring means seeding time for Saskatchewan farmers and it's no different for Thunderchild First Nation.

The community, which owns 6,100 acres of farmland it has leased to nearby farmers for decades, is now farming its own land.

"In the past, it's always been the Elders' advice for Thunderchild to farm its own land," said Linda Okanee, director of operations for TCFN.

ultimately a win-win for the farmers who didn't have to pay taxes on the land.

"We've changed that reality," Wapass said. "It's employment for our people and it's pride. You know, to see your own people stepping out of the John Deere tractor with eight wheels and coming down with a braid on their back ... it's like 'Wow, this is a dream. This is a vision.'"

Thunder Farms will cultivate canola and wheat. Okanee sees the \$8 million project as a positive not only for her

the-art equipment and hired a farmer from Alberta to help manage the farm in its first season.

John Wozniak is from St. Paul-area in Alberta and has farmed for over 30 years. He's also worked for Alberta Wheat Pool, AgriCore United and the United Farms of Alberta. Chief Wapass called him and asked if he would consider getting things started at Thunder Farms this spring.

"It's exciting for me because Thunderchild First Nation wants to succeed and I would like to see them succeed," he said.

Right now, Wozniak leads a team of six people employed from the community. He's teaching them to use equipment like the air-seeder and getting them used to the long hours. More employees will be hired in the fall for harvest.

"I know the challenge to get this

done and it's all timing," Wozniak said. "We've got to work together to get it going."

So far the only challenge on the land is the moisture due to a wet fall and wet spring.

Chief Wapass understands the risk associated with the business, but he can see the spinoffs.

"I expect the returns to be great although we understand how farming is," he said.

Wapass said the farm is one of many ventures the First Nation is investing in right now. TCFN is also invested in oil and gas and owns a gas station in Saskatoon that he expects to receive reserve status in a few months.

"(Each) one of these are revenue streams into the community to advance the economic position of Thunderchild," he said.



State-of-the-art equipment will help Thunderchild First Nation in their first farming season as Thunder Farms this spring. (Photo courtesy of Linda Okanee)

"The leadership has always had that in the back of their mind and the opportunity came about and (we) decided to do that."

Thunderchild bought the land from farmers with funds from the Treaty Land Entitlement agreement it signed with the federal government in 1992. When the cash-rent leases for the land expired in 2016, it seemed like the perfect time to take over.

According to Chief Delbert Wapass, the lease payments didn't benefit TCFN as much as they did the farmers renting the land. He said the payments brought in \$1 million annually, a low amount and

community but also for the surrounding area.

"It enables TCFN to contribute to the local economy cause we're buying equipment, we're buying seed, we're buying fertilizer ... that's one of the goals, too," she said.

Chief Wapass and his council didn't take this project lightly. They developed a business feasibility plan with MNP and a risk management strategy through consultations with Western Ag and Parrish & Heimbecker Limited.

"We've done a lot of work," Okanee said.

TCFN has also invested in state-of-



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**PUBLIC INFORMATION
SESSION**

Tuesday, June 27

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Public Presentation 6:30–7 PM
Moderated Q&A 7–8 PM

**North Ridge Centennial
Community Centre**

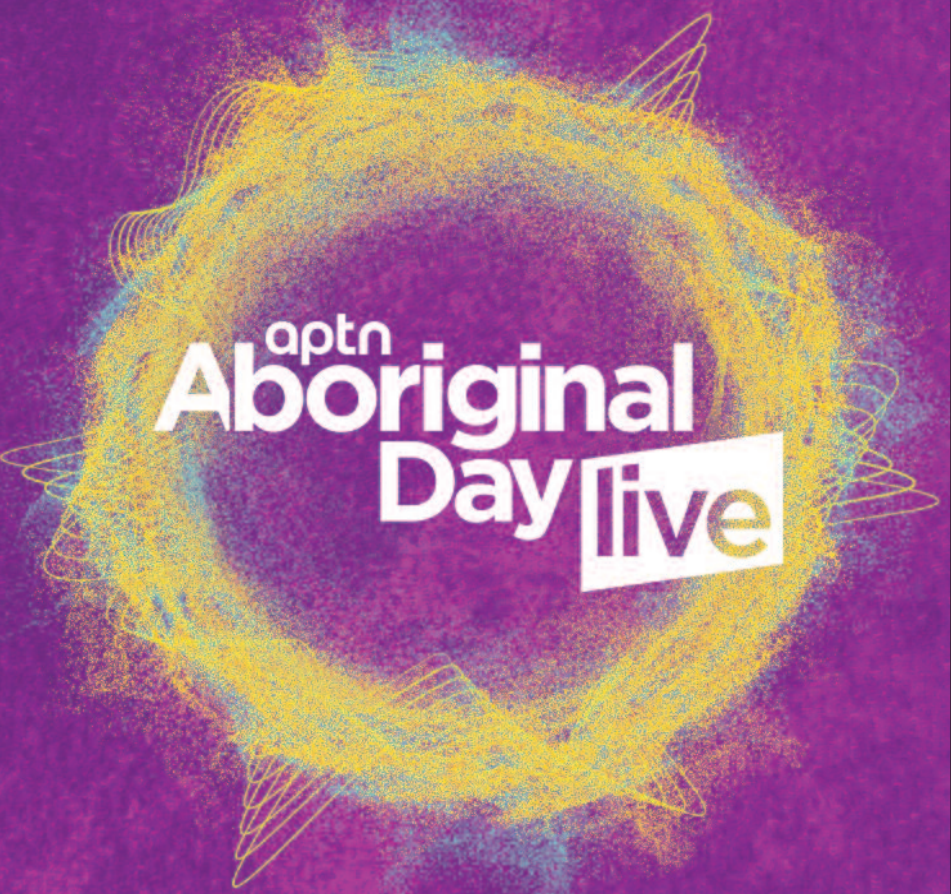
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#ADL2017 #JAD2017

Joe Gallagher Field honours baseball icon

By Julie Ann Wriston
For Eagle Feather News

Passion is a funny thing. It can emerge unexpectedly.

If it is fostered through hard work and dedication it can serve as a catalyst that pushes us to dream big and achieve things beyond imagination.

For Joe Gallagher, the spark of passion was something he wanted to share with everyone. On May 17, Joe's dedication to one of his life's passions was recognized in the renaming of Gordie Howe Fastball Field to Joe Gallagher Field.

Born June 15, 1932 to Elanor Dumont and Charles Gallagher, Joseph (Joe) Charles Gallagher was the oldest of four boys who grew up on a farm in Grandora, near Saskatoon. From a young age, Joe was drawn to the types of activities that enrich life, like art, music, hockey and of course fastpitch softball.

He would spend countless hours practicing, throwing pitches into a mattress in the family barn, and taught himself to hit by hand crafting bats from old tree branches, igniting a passion that would shape the course of his life.

Over the years he also played for CNR Carmen, Saskatoon College Lads, Saskatoon Centennials, and K&K Olson Jewellers.

A highlight for Joe was pitching for James Smith First Nation at some of the first Canadian Native Fastball tournaments.

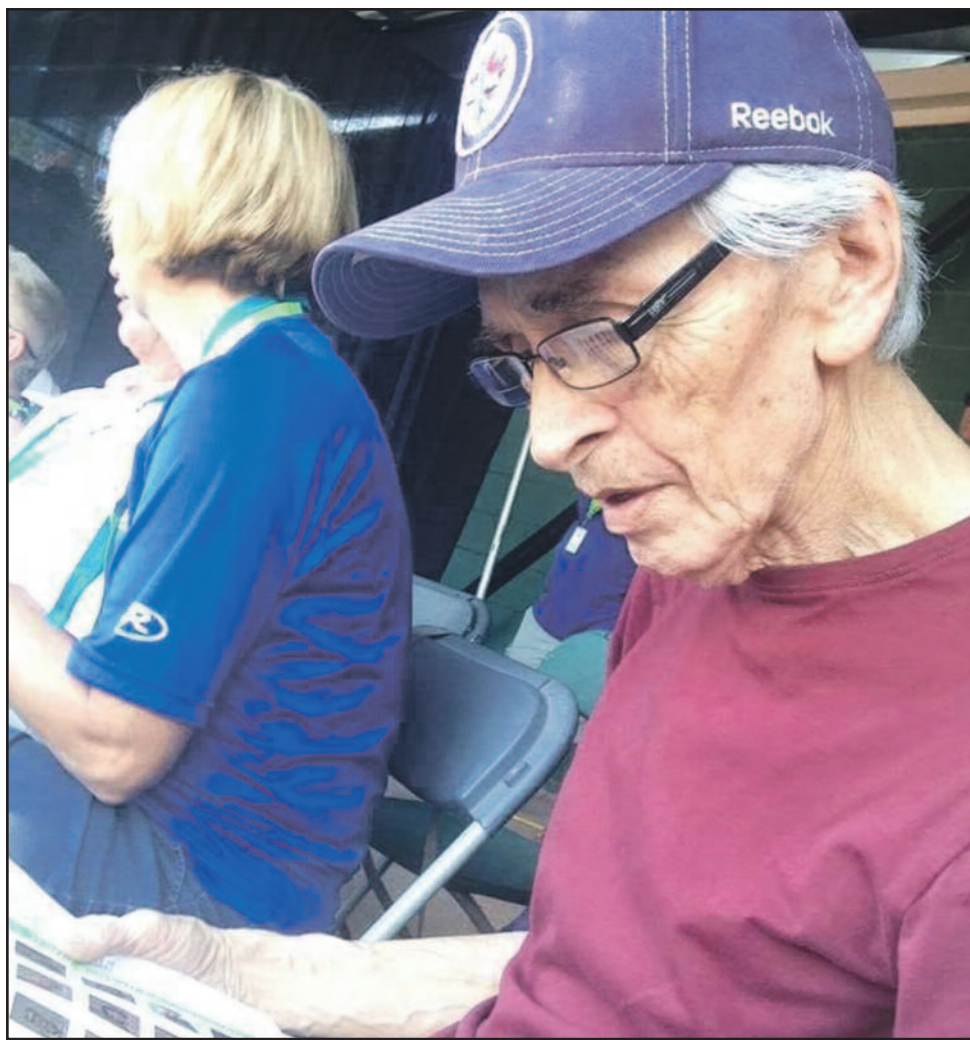
Joe made softball accessible to people. He believed that anyone that wanted to play should have the opportunity.

In 1968, he recognized that there weren't any children's softball teams in his neighborhood. He began coaching the King George Peewee boys and was joined by Vera who coached Squirt girls.

In 1969, from humble beginnings, he started a men's team with a minimal budget where they would recycle balls by hand sewing ripped seams and handle any sponsorship shortfalls by contributing out of pocket.

The team evolved through many name changes including Holiday Park Grocery, Dog and Suds, Westgreen Drug Mart, OV Medallions and finally Success Pro Enterprises, which he registered as a company to secure the name for the future.

Hundreds of young athletes benefited from Joe's efforts to provide the opportunity to play.



Joe Gallagher, 82 years old watching the ISF World Championship.

(Photo Credit Brian Gallagher)



Joe Gallagher, 45 years old (left) with sons Brian centre and Denis right.

(Photo Credit Brian Gallagher)

It was the ballfield that introduced Joe to his wife Vera, together creating a spirit of support and volunteerism that would touch the lives of countless young people throughout their marriage. Brian Gallagher, Joe's son, suggests that "It should really be named the Joe and Vera Gallagher Field because what they did wouldn't have been possible without their commitment to each other and their sharing of each others' talents and resources."

Brian recalls that his dad was never one to sit idle.

"He was always actively doing something, never in a rush, but always working at something that interested him."

Joe was committed to a healthy lifestyle, never wasting his time with drinking or smoking.

"Dad believed that if a person strives to do the best they can, the real success stories are able to rise above the challenges."

A hard-working Métis man, Joe initially took on work that allowed him the flexibility to play ball. He played for Hamilton's Garage as an orthodox pitcher at the old Cairns Field with Oliver (Ollie) Fiddler.

He knew he wanted to further his education and went on to achieve a degree in Education at the age of 40. He was one of the first Aboriginal teachers in Saskatoon and was instrumental as part of a team that developed curriculum for Provincial Native Studies (10, 20, 30). His career in education impacted vast numbers of young people.

Family was Joe's number one driver. A highlight for him was playing alongside his sons, and eventually sharing Bob Van Impe Stadium with three generations of his family.

"He instilled in his family, and the countless people he connected with that everyone is capable of greatness. He always talked about the 80/20 rule, repeating his favorite quote often 'It is your attitude not your aptitude that will determine your attitude,'" said Brian.

"He believed that success was all about attitude, and it starts with belief in yourself. He modeled this for his family."

Everyone who met Joe was struck by his gentle nature and ability to bring out the best in others.

"He wanted to give kids a sense of purpose, something that would motivate them

to aim high for themselves."

Brian knows that his father would not have liked the recognition.

"He never did any of this for himself. He was a humble man who required no fanfare. He was quick to credit others

for the positive work that was done.

What's important about the naming of the field is when people ask, "who was Joe?" is that we can tell stories about following your passion and turning obstacles into opportunities."



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For more information, please contact:

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LARISSA CAMPBELL

Millwright

"ONE THING that really drew me to the trade was that it didn't involve doing the same thing every day. You are always working on a different job site and meeting new people."



Larissa Campbell: *Not a run-of-the-mill job*

There's only one real complaint Larissa Campbell has about being a unionized tradesperson: she has no time to develop any hobbies.

"I've never had trouble finding work, so I've never really had time to sit back and form a hobby," Campbell said with a laugh.

Campbell is a millwright, a person who designs or builds mills or who maintains mill machinery. She joined the Prairie Arctic Regional Council of Carpenters Drywall Millwrights and Allied Workers Local 1021 as soon as she began practicing the trade in 2013. Since then, work has been steady.

Campbell's first job saw her working for PotashCorp on the Rocanville \$3 billion mine expansion, which has been underway since 2008. Since then she has worked on numerous potash job sites, most recently the K+S Potash Canada Legacy Project mine and production facility, the first new greenfield potash mine built in Saskatchewan in nearly forty years.

"It's been a great experience so far. I've been able to be a part of so many different and diverse job sites. It's awesome knowing I've taken part in these major projects and made a difference," Campbell said. "It was actually at Rocanville where I learned about the union from other workers, because at the time I was unfamiliar with it. They convinced me to join and it's been a great decision.

"Joining the union has given me more confidence on these job sites. It makes me feel that people see what I'm doing and know that I can do the job. You meet people from all different unions and it's great to see new faces and familiar faces on a job site. I've worked with some experienced tradespeople that have taught me some valuable lessons."

Campbell grew up on English River First Nation, a Dene First Nation band government in Patuanak. After graduating, she dabbled in a number of jobs. She learned about millwrighting through a mobile training course offered by SIAST (now known as Saskatchewan Polytechnic) and fell in love with the trade.

"One thing that really drew me to the trade was that it didn't involve doing the same thing every day. You are always working on a different job site and meeting new people," Campbell said. "I had bounced around to a couple different jobs after school, but I could tell right away that this was the career for me."

After completing the five-month course at SIAST, Campbell received her first-year millwright card. She is now working toward achieving her journeyman status while working at the same time. She just recently completed her third year of education.

While Campbell may not have established any hobbies, she is certainly headed down a promising career path.

"I would encourage anyone to get involved in millwrighting," she said. "You get to make something out of yourself instead of just sitting around."

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