

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Winter Games a cool experience

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The First Nation Winter Games opened with fire and closed with ice. Literally. At Credit Union Centre, the athletes were welcomed at the opening ceremonies by walking through an illuminated tepee where large flames shot out beside and above them.

And the Winter Games fittingly closed with a nasty Saskatchewan spring storm that delayed many participants' trip home. The Saskatoon Tribal Council left nothing on the table in

welcoming everyone to the Winter Games.

The opening ceremonies were carried live on Shaw Cable and as the athletes entered the arena their images were broadcast on the scoreboard, making everyone look up with smiles as they tried to spy themselves on the big screen.

What followed was a cultural extravaganza that included remarks from leaders, traditional dancing and hip hop performances by Eekwol and Blu.

While Blu, Okema and Ekwol had the place thumping,

an impromptu break dance performance by hockey star Theo Fleury and Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo had the crowd roaring.

The smoke in the arena was thick, the hip hop loud and the athletes louder.

The event was capped off with an indoor fireworks display that left many in awe. What a great way to start off the biggest athletic event to ever hit Saskatoon.

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SHOOTING FOR STARS

Mike Linklater has a national university championship to his credit. Now he's turning pro.

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ATLEO IN SASK.

AFN Chief Sean Atleo has been spending some important time in Saskatchewan lately.

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HONOURED

Saskatoon lawyer Donald Worme has earned a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

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WEEKEND WITH BUFFY

Creeson Agecoutay received the assignment of a lifetime recently. His story....

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RANCHIN' HOCKEY PLAYER

Wynter Cyr of Pasqua First Nation is one ambitious young man, on and off the ice.

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Welcome to our
Arts & Entertainment Edition
Coming In May:
Sports & Youth Issue
CPMA #40027204



The look of awe was on the face of every athlete that entered the First Nations Winter games Opening Ceremonies. After four days of intense competition, the Games ended on another cool note as a classic Saskatchewan spring snowstorm hit on the last day.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Shared life experience unites westside hip hop group

LowRyze Records is a group of young men who are starting to take the hip hop scene by storm. Based in Saskatoon, this group has over 1,200 fans on Facebook and regular gigs around Saskatoon. We ran into them down by the river and cuffed a few minutes with their spokesperson Devon Anderson. For further info, lowryze@gmail.com

Tell us a bit about LowRyze records...

Lowryze began with me and a friend, Luke. We started playing with music around age 16 by dj-ing and making beats but never rapping. Then we got into lyricism etc. soon after being at parties and friends listening to our older music, people started noticing we had fallen on to something that we were quite gifted with. After a few months older friends (who had been into the rap game) started working with us and helping us. From then on we continued to make songs, work on song science and construction etc. Soon we had added many new faces behind the movement of our ideas. It's been quite a ride so far, and amazing how this music has been able to create a family out of what was kind of strangers becoming friends through business.

Is the entire group from Saskatoon?

All of our members are from the west side areas of Saskatoon. We kinda all shared the same street style upbringing and under-

standing of things. This is one of the things that held us all really close. As a matter of fact it's kind of a funny thing, but most of us are from the Riversdale area, and surprisingly only met from lowryze.

Where do you perform?

Well, we began making music in 2008 around winter time, but never really tried to

receiving much love from many of our peers and even the other musicians we looked up to. Andrew a.k.a. Overdrive's own D.J. Hypnotiq started mixing in our songs into the dance music for the club on the busiest nights. That in itself got us a lot of publicity and soon we had the club offer us a show. They paid everything and promoted us them-



All the members of Lowryze grew up on the west side of Saskatoon. That may be the reason they are so close and their music works so well.

make music for anyone else except our own personal interests of boredom. It wasn't until late summer of 2009 that from our Internet and hand to hand music distribution started reaching people around the area. We were

selves, which is something that is amazing. We had a 300 person turn out off of only a five day promotion, so we knew we were doing something right. We do shows at Overdrive now, usually every couple of

months, and also at the Roxy. We're workin' on three albums and have almost completed them. Keep your eyes open for events!

What drew you guys to this type of musical outlet?

In all honesty, it's from where we come from, hip hop, the environment, the feeling, and everything that comes from it. Hip hop is one of the realest and most honest ways to portray your message, no pre-writers, no computed singing effects etc. everyone in the family loved rap music, and most of the people from our areas can share the same point of view. A lot of urban youth love the idea of making hip hop but too many have yet to understand the concept and sciences behind the actual music. Our team assembled some of the best artists out of nowhere. Point is, we love the music, we knew and know what we are doing, and we're good at what we do.

What kind of day jobs do you guys have?

A couple of us are in high school, most of us have day jobs or side hustles working on various things. Some of us have families. In the end we all share the same mindset, the same goal, to make music from the heart and mind combined to create something wonderful. Maybe you might see us at the club in a few weeks, maybe a spotlight. Just keep your eyes and ears open. We're only beginning to start poking our heads into this business.

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Linklater shooting for the stars after winning national basketball title

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The man may not be big by basketball standards, but Michael Linklater is a giant in the eyes of many in Saskatchewan.

This young man just became the first Aboriginal person and captain to win the CIS National Basketball Championship and he was MVP of several games during the playoffs as the University of Saskatchewan Huskies Basketball team made an improbable run of 13 consecutive wins over some of the best ranked teams in Canada to clinch the National Championship.

"When I was growing up I was told I was too short to play basketball, not smart enough to graduate high school or to continue on in University," said Linklater in an interview before the opening ceremonies of the First Nation Winter Games.

"Now I have five years of university basketball and will be going professional. A lot of people said I couldn't do either. I want to tell the youth not to be discouraged if someone tells you you can't do it. Use it as fuel for the fire."

And fire he has. Michael Linklater was raised by his grandparents, Elders Walter and Maria Linklater and grew up in the inner city of Saskatoon, attending St. Mary's Elementary and Mount Royal and Bedford Road High Schools. He admits he owes much of his success to their parenting.

"They have always been supportive and never put anything on me. Best parents I could ask for," said Linklater. "They raised me in a drug and alcohol free home and taught me our traditional ways. They gave me the foundation for setting the standard of who I am. I could not thank them enough."

"They never pressured me to do anything, but when I came home with an idea for something, whether basketball or whatever, they always supported me."

Linklater has received lots of media coverage in his life and tons lately. He was a favorite of the announcers on TSN and he has had his photo in the Globe and Mail. The TV announcers were quite complimentary of him and his dedication to his sport and family, a family that includes four children.

"To hear the announcers talk about Michael, talk about this young man and the life he lives drug and alcohol free, being a role model in the community of Saskatoon, and his aspirations of becoming a police officer, we were very proud," said his uncle Lyndon Linklater.

"One commentator said he has four children, and the other commentator says no wonder why he runs around a lot. That's for sure. When the time was ticking down, I kept thinking about how the Roughriders blew the grey Cup and I couldn't get it out of my head I was so worried, but when they made key baskets near the end, we were pretty loud."

Lyndon had also asked Michael how bad he wanted to win, and Michael said that as bad as he wanted to win, he would rather have his mom and dad there.

"U of S was sending my parents there as Elders so they got to see him live. My dad got the arrangements all made, they told my dad they were flying out on Sunday afternoon. Well my father said what if they make it all the way to the finals; we are going to miss out. You have to change these tickets. So they changed them till Monday, and sure enough they made it to the finals, and won it."

With a diverse sports background: all-star in track,



Michael Linklater is taking a big bite out of life as captain of the National Champion University of Saskatchewan basketball team. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

a football player, a medalist at the First Nation Winter games, Summer Games and the North American Indigenous Games and now a basketball champion, some may let the notoriety go to their head. Not this guy.

"My parents always taught me to be a very humble man," says Linklater. "But people tell me how big this is, not only winning a national championship, but being the first Aboriginal person and a captain to lead his team, the first ever Saskatchewan team to the title."

"I am not allowing myself to really accept that. We had a great team. I just thank people for the compliment."

Linklater's dream to play professional basketball will soon be realized.

"I just signed with the IBL, a spring pro league and then I want to go overseas, but I would love to play in the NBA. I am shooting for that," added Michael.

"There is an old saying: Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you land among the stars."

"If I miss the NBA, there are other places to play. Policing is where I want to wind up. But first I want to play ball."

And we don't think anyone can stop him.



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Editorial

Elders Lodge much needed in Saskatoon

I recently had the chance to spend a day with a room full of 22 Elders. What a treat. They were gathered, as were dozens of youth and grass root community organizations, for the Urban Aboriginal Community consultations in Saskatoon. These citizens were specially invited to provide their input on what gaps there are in the community of services for youth and Elders in Saskatoon.

With that information, the UAS committee, a group of local volunteers, will be able to best focus the dollars they have, over \$700,000 of them, into programs and services that the people really need.

The Elders were open, honest and quite hilarious. They all chatted about the work they do in the community, whether it is one-on-one counselling, family counselling, working with youth or performing ceremonial duties. Bar none, it seemed the demands on the time and resources of these Elders were often beyond what they are able to do, and maintain the balance of their lives considering all of the challenges they face.

Despite the good work they do in their communities, there are still not enough services available to support them. The biggest need identified was safe and affordable housing. With rents skyrocketing, many people have to live with several family members in the house, or live in fear of the next letter from the landlord that showed a rent increase that would bust their fixed budget. The worry is real, the rise in rent, inevitable.

There was also the need expressed for food security, primarily in the inner city. Current programs like the CHEP Good Food Box and others were acknowledged, but the absence of an inner-city grocery store was noted. Not a lot of Elders, who are on fixed incomes and are rarely properly compensated for their services, can afford the extra cash for a cab to the grocery store and mobility is certainly an issue for many of them.

The Elders also spoke of others who had faced Elder abuse. Some people are muscled for money or threatened with physical violence by desperate relatives and they really have nowhere to turn.

They also spoke of needing a health care advocate for Elders, someone who can preferably speak their language, who can help them navigate the health system, find ways to pay for ambulance bills and prescriptions, and to lobby for their needs inside of hospitals around Saskatoon.

Coming through loud and clear was the need for a place. Several Elders mentioned that they were thrilled to sit in the company of their peers and share stories and laugh and tease and joke and reminisce and how they just don't do that enough. They talked about how it was different in smaller communities' and easier to stay in touch, but in the big city, people can't get around or have no particular place to go meet regularly. Then someone suggested an Elders Lodge for Saskatoon. Winnipeg has one. Edmonton has one. Saskatoon does not.

There was talk of perhaps a senior's home, with affordable rent, with a place for ceremony, playing cards, visiting and a place for Mary Roy to do her stand-up routine. The Elders got downright excited during the discussion. But, they said, they didn't know how to do this and they couldn't do it on their own. They also added that they would be more than thrilled to sit as an advisory committee and on the board of any such venture if anyone was willing to start the process.

Then a couple of them turned and asked me to help. The thought of making an Elders Lodge in the heart of Saskatoon, for the Elders, the youth, ceremony and safe affordable living for our old people makes a lot of sense. Not sure why we are not doing this already. That being said, anyone in the community who wants to support getting an Elders Lodge in the heart of Saskatoon, please send an email to johnl@eaglefeathernews.com

Let's see what we can get done.



MAKING HER DEBUT

Mike Gosselin's A & E column was pre-empted this edition by the premiere of Ruby Rae Gosselin, at 8:11, on April 2, 2010. Ruby made her debut when Mike and Courtney were going through the car wash and wondered if that sudden gush of water meant a window was left open. Mike was especially disappointed because he had paid for the deluxe wash, so Courtney suggested they finish the entire car wash experience before proceeding to Royal University Hospital. (Besides, how do you get out of those things once you're inside? Ruby was probably asking herself the same questions, come to think of it.) After a long labour, Ruby proved slightly camera shy – tools of the trade were wielded, but eventually they had to cut another hole in the tipi, so to speak. (One comedian joked you can always tell C-section babies by the way they always exit buildings by windows instead of doors, even as adults.) This gorgeous baby girl joins big bro Luka on the Gosselin A & E tour, giving Mom and Dad more things to write home about. While recovering from surgery and celebrating that new addition, flowers, cash, and casseroles are always great baby presents, says this Mom. EFN welcomes Ruby's contribution to the Arts and Entertainment this month, with her great sense of timing and stage presence, and her ability to dazzle just by lying in her bassinette sleeping. Congrats, Goss! – *Andréa Ledding*

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THIS ISSUE...LAST ISSUE...PAST ISSUES.

Let us not forget the power of the artists

“To speak when not spoken to was a courageous act – an act of risk and daring...”

- bell hooks

Prior to the 1950s very few of our people, with the exception of our leadership, spoke up against the tyranny, injustice and racial policies used to take our land and resources. The humiliation and degradation of loss, of displacement and dispossession, along with the pain of hunger for over a 100 years had taught us to be silent.

Not even the removal of our children by government agencies motivated us enough to stand up and be heard. Then something happened in the 1960s that changed us forever. The happening was “a movement.”

Acimooowin, nukumooowin, neemee-towin, keesimowin – story, song, dance and prayer took their place beside the politics of the day and they created a strong sense of identity. They energized and inspired us to take collective action to improve our lives and ensure our survival. Led by elders and knowledge keepers, the way was paved for creative expression by artists, writers, poets, singers and dancers to show us another way of seeing ourselves, way that was grounded, in the spiritual traditions and values of our past.

In Saskatchewan it was knowledge keepers like Smith Atimoyoo, Ernest Tootoosis, Ida and John Macleod, Lizzette and Ivan Ahenekeew, Alex Bonaire, Jim Ka-Nipitehtew, Adam and

Stan Cuthand, Eli Bear, Medrick MacDougall, Pierre Vandal, and many more who told us “restless youth” olden times stories of great leaders and heros who saved the people from all manner of evil. The evil was of course, being over a 100 years of colonization. Our knowledge keepers were just a wee bit political.

Many of them criss-crossed the country holding sweat

lodge ceremonies, facilitating cultural gatherings and literally, for many of us, smudging away the alienation brought on by residential schools, foster homes and dysfunctional families; giving us hope for a better future and in the process, birthing an artistic and intellectual movement deeply rooted in “place” and reflecting “our perspective.”

Across Canada the art reviews and written words of “real native artists” could be found in native newsletters which became newspapers and native magazines and on the CBC’s radio program hosted by Bernelda Wheeler, called our Native Land. This was in the days before artistic grants were available to us, the days when publishers laughed at your manuscript if you dared to send it to them and galleries were considered “brave” and “revolutionary” if they hung the work of a Native artist.

The speed with which this all happened was phenomenal. One day there were two, maybe three, published

books by native writers, two or three artists and almost over night there were hundreds. The speed it happened reminds me of the speed Chief Dan George wrote about in his famous essay. I Have

Traveled.

“Was only yesterday that man sailed around the moon? You and I marvel that man should travel so far, so fast. Yet, if they have traveled far, I

have traveled farther, and if they have traveled fast, I have traveled faster. For I was born in a culture of bow and arrows. But within the span of half a lifetime, I was flung across the ages to the culture of the atom bomb ...”

And the wildness with which the change happened always reminds me of Serain Stump’s There is my People Sleeping.

And,
It’s with terror, sometimes
That I hear them calling me
But it’s the light skip of a cougar
Detaching me from the ground
To leave me alone
With my crazy power
Till I reach the Sun makers
And find myself again
In a new place.

I am also reminded of the haunting lyrics of Shannon Two Feathers when I think of the political awakening and incredible urge to just knock it down and

change it.

Musk rats and welfare
And red willow trees
Tar paper shacks that fall down
in the breeze
The old folks are dying
But the government don’t care
All we got left is muskrats
and welfare.

Today there are literally hundreds of artists, writers, poets, singers and dancers both traditional and contemporary, but the times are not as exciting or swollen with the promise they once wear. Last week I attended an art show it was filled with white folk and four of us. Another day I attended a book launch and reading by a writer and a poet. There were maybe 20 people. Not all that long ago, we would have filled those places, giving support and love. We would have been excited and we would have had great discussion.

Norman Bethune, a mixed blood doctor, writer and revolutionary wrote in 1937:

The function of the artist is to disturb, his duty to arouse the sleeper. Shake the complacent pillars of the world ... In a world terrified of change, he preaches the revolution: the principal of life. He is an agitator, a disturber of the peace: quick, impatient, positive, restless and disquieting. The creative spirit of life, working in the souls of men and women.

Hiy hiy, merci. Have a good mee oos kumic and give those students at First Nations University your support.

Letters to the editor ...

I just finished reading John Cuthands column about the CBC online discussion boards and I absolutely must say that I agree with him. I am a bit of a news junkie and read the news websites and newspapers on daily basis. I find myself disgusted with the comments that are continually posted on here and so do several people that I know that also read the comments board.

I started to post some of my own comments to counter the BS that these people write and they have started to attack me. Whenever there is a news story that has anything to do with Indians they spew their Pankiw like statements. It’s always “you never pay taxes, free education, treaties are BS, FNUC is a racist school, good riddance to Ahenakew, 80 per cent of Indians are criminals, we should all be equal, etc. etc. I could go on and on.

I am sure you have read the same crap I did. I turned it around and started calling them on their BS using the same language they do and my posts either never make it to the board or are “removed by the moderator” after being seen for an hour or so. I find myself continually going to the website to reply to the BS they post and/or report anything that I think is highly inap-

propriate.

CBC states what is acceptable for posting but I’d swear that Jim Pankiw is the moderator and allowing whatever he likes. I, too, requested that CBC cut out the “Hillbilly Forum” and stick to reporting news but they don’t care. They must like to stir the pot because they are doing a good job of it. I can see people reading these statements and then start to believe them because there are so many posts of the same view. There are a few who come to defend the ‘Indian side’ like me but they are few.

Like Cuthand said, we desperately need an Anti-Defamation League of our own. One guy in particular who irks me is the character known as Dirk Dig. He continually spouts Macleans statistics about Indian crime (didn’t Pankiw get in trouble for this?), how Saskatoon is the most dangerous city, Regina’s the second most dangerous, blah blah blah.

Whew, anyway, I enjoyed the article and agree wholeheartedly with Cuthand. Here is a thumbs up to Cuthand and a thumbs down to the clown known as Dirk Dig.

Thanks

Tayven Roberts

Did you see the comments on the CBC website following the article that ran online after the article about National Aboriginal Achievement Awards? I can’t believe bigotry and ignorance runs so deep in the Canadian psych.

It really hurts and I have to admit I’m pretty tired of all the stupid commentary from typical Canadians on Aboriginal anything. No wonder Harper is cutting so many native programs from continued funding. He knows where the votes are.

The whole atmosphere online in the press’s comments to Aboriginal articles is so – can one use the term Anti-Semitism in regards to non-Jewish people? That’s what I see happening in the public opinion on Aboriginal issues.

I saw another article from the Leader Post about the Mosquito chief and band members being charged with fraud put on the Calgary Herald website which allows comments and guess what?

Twenty-five comments and every single one was deleted due to inappropriate content. Amazing! At least they delete their inappropriate content, unlike the CBC (or so it would seem).

With more information, the racists

seem to be even more resistant to learning and are becoming more vocal about their bigotry. And CBC lets them post it.

I am non-native and the majority of my friends are native. I know the history and I’m offended and horrified that these people walk among us.

Makes one want to just drop out of society, cut off the Internet, stop reading papers or watching TV.

Keven Kanten



Chuck Strahl has you in his sites!

The view from 200 miles high

Two hundred miles up in the sky, satellites are taking high resolution pictures of the Earth. There is an Internet program called Google Earth where this data can be shared with most anyone who has access to a computer.

The military version apparently, is so accurate it can also read license plates. If a badger waddled across an intercontinental ballistic missile silo in Kazakhstan the Americans would know about it in real time. It is also very interesting that most Saskatchewan First Nations can be clearly seen from 200 miles high.

Since time of Treaty, First Nations lands have largely remained treed while the lands around them have been plowed under and made into crop lands. The contrast between forest and field makes for quite a striking image. Daystar and Kawacatoose First Nations, for example, stand out quite clearly.

The dividing line between forest and field is also echoed in the opposing positions of First Nations and those who seek an end to First Nations land and people.

The federal government interprets reserves to be crown land held in trust. The First Nations people, however, have always regarded reserves as unsundered Indian land.

There have always been attempts to remove First Nations peoples from their lands or remove First Nations lands from First Nations people. Either way the result has never been good.

Some reserves did not receive all the lands to which they were entitled. Other lands including entire reserves were lost by crooked means and threats of violence. Lucky Man people did not receive their reserve until over a century after entering Treaty Six. Thunderchild and Paspaschase people were threatened and pressured into giving up their original reserves.

More land was set aside for the Hudson's Bay Company, the railroads and national parks. Then there were lands set aside for Indians under Treaty Six.

Then there is the aberration of the occasional dysfunctional First Nation leader taking money meant for their people buying new reserve lands. Some First Nations leaders, drunk on shiny objects, have stolen considerable dollars from land entitlement funds entrusted to their care. Mosquito First Nation is now embroiled in scandal as criminal charges of theft from entitlement trust funds are laid. Saulteaux First Nation saw some elected leaders jailed.

The federal government is now trying to sell First Nations on the concept of private ownership of lands. A sugar coated version of dismantling the reserves may appeal to some intrigued by the possibility of a cash windfall but most are suspicious and guarded as they should be. This most recent attempt at land theft may offer considerable reward for the shrewd and ambitious.

Most recently Thomas Flanagan, the controversial architect of Aboriginal policy within the Harper government bluntly stated, "First Nations do not own the land on which they live. It is owned by the federal government."

He proposes an amendment to the Indian Act which would allow for the private ownership of Indian land. Reserve lands could be bought and sold and title used as collateral on loans. The legislation would be optional and the lands in question would remain under First Nation jurisdiction according to the proposal.

Jurisdiction, however, does not translate as ownership. Flanagan is to Canadian First Nations what Jim Pankiw is to Saskatchewan First Nations. Flanagan is far more sophisticated than the slobbering Pankiw, most recently witnessed making a bigger fool of himself some weeks ago.

The controversial University of Calgary professor has authored several books advocating for the end of Aboriginal rights and has been

Harper's point man on First Nations issues. He was Harper's campaign manager and remains a principle advisor to the Prime Minister's Office. Beware the Harper government's trinkets and blankets while keeping one sharp eye on those First Nations people addicted to shiny objects.

The First Nation University of Canada is hanging by a thread. Whether it will be placed into receivership, soldier on as a much smaller tribal college or be restored in its entirety remains to be seen.

There are so many rumors floating about. It has been assumed by some that the federal government is waiting until the summer when student enrollment is low to drop the hammer and kill the school. The uncertainty of fall classes resuming has more than a few students transferring or enrolling in the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina. It is very difficult to determine just what the student enrollment (fewer U of R students taking FNUC classes) was from fall 2005 to spring 2010. Dwindling student enrollment may tip the FNUC toward a smaller tribal college or even insolvency when coupled with everything else.

There is talk of First Nations insisting their post secondary students attend FNUC in order to boost FNUC numbers. This course is not realistic and it is potentially explosive. Heavy handed politics is not too popular these days.

Momentum has moved over to the students. They are holding "Live Ins" at all three campuses. They have led the most recent march on the legislature and now have plans to walk from Prince Albert Campus to Saskatoon Campus then on to Regina where they will camp on the legislature grounds until full funding is restored. Their morale is high and their purpose noble. Meanwhile the few dysfunctional chiefs who caused all this mess are nowhere to be found.

The biggest beneficiaries of the FNUC decline have been other universities. When the firings and resignations began five years ago the FNUC brain trust was eagerly scooped up by other universities. Some of the brightest and best faculty members left followed by more than a few students. None of this needed to happen.

Dirty Indian politics is so heartless and so damaging.



Common Ground
John Cuthand

'Care less' use of English

What is it with the beating being administered to the English language in our country?

Amusing and befuddling expressions began popping up a couple of decades ago. Think back when polite people publicly invited colleagues to "connect". Switch that spelling to the Biblical "connexion" and you get the picture: "connect" is what dogs do in the late winter. The nuns used to tell us to throw cold water on them. Around the same time someone, probably a bored bureaucrat, invented the ridiculous term 'sexy' for 'popular' or 'appealing' and professional grown-ups of the sheepy kind avidly adopted it.

More recently, journalists, TV reporters and other folks you would expect to have passed Grade 8 are making egregious errors such as thinking that "begs the question" actually means 'raises the question'. Using the expression correctly requires some actual thinking: it means to assume the truth of the proposition or argument without arguing it.

Then there are the simple assaults on the conventional, including the use of words that work only if accompanied by verbal crutches, for example, "commit", a verb that works only when linked to a verbal crutch such as "myself", "itself"; the use of "fraught" which means nothing by itself, but gives you a good message if accompanied by "with danger". Ditto for "it is a travesty." No such thing. But a "travesty of justice! Now you are talking! As you can tell, I do English by intuition; not by memorizing rules expressed in incomprehensible jargon.

I get a chuckle from those who still urge us to 'think outside the box.' That expression, born out of a geometric puzzle, is so old now that those who use it are not following their own counsel! Then there are those who rail for a 'level playing field'.

No one has been able to explain that one to me, and I have asked. If it refers to a rough and not level field of play, then the roughness is equally shared. If it refers to a sloping field which makes one team go uphill and the other downhill, then that is easily fixed with a rule that the time going up or down hill is equally shared in time.

That is the rule that used to apply, and may still apply for all I know, to outdoor ice hockey games, where teams switch ends halfway through the third period to get an equal share of the advantage or disadvantage of the prevailing wind. There is no problem that I can discern with a playing field that is not level. The problem is with the lack of imagination of those who bemoan their lot instead of adopting fair rules. Oops, I should have written 'there

is no issue', because no one must admit a problem today; we only have 'issues.'

Another bit of blather involves the incorrect use of "purport", especially in its verb form, and the replacement of the meaningful expression "I could not care less" with "I could care less", which means that you do care!



When I learned English from French-speaking nuns in a mission school in Manitoba the words 'male' and 'female' were used to refer to plants and animals, such as a 'male lion' or 'female pistil'. Only police reports referred to male or female suspects and no man would dehumanize his daughter by referring to her as a 'young female'.

This brings us to the use of 'gender' which refers to the classification of nouns and related words, as a replacement for 'sex'. My suspicion that much of this claptrap comes from official Ottawa is strengthened by the title given to the recent Bill to amend the Indian Act to (arguably) remove sex discrimination, which refers to 'gender equity'. The Constitutional prohibition is against discrimination on the basis of sex. There is no Constitutional 'gender' and 'equity' is a far cry from 'equality', which actually has express Constitutional significance, but 'equity' does not.

'Equity' itself was invented by Rosie Abella, now a justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, as a veil to hide the term 'affirmative action', which raised eyebrows and generated policy debate. In Canada, debate and criticism are not officially encouraged. It is better to invent new words, hide, and avoid debate.

I was puzzled about the meaning thought to apply to 'diversity' in recent years, where every official writer cheered it on, and only recently discovered that it is a replacement for 'multiculturalism'. That contentious idea was put in the Constitution by Pierre Trudeau as a sly response to Quebec separatists' ideas that they were unique: make everyone unique. The result is that now there is nothing that is uniquely Canadian. Diversity is the new nationalistic god.

Space requires me to finish my rant before explaining the purport of this commentary. So until next month then... unless Eagle Feather News tells me to avoid issues and write about summer sports instead.

Millenium Scholarship winner follows her dreams

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

Tara Desroches, winner of the 2009 SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Leadership Award and a \$20,000 Millenium Scholarship Award, had four years of perfect attendance in high school.

"I just set it as a goal to never miss a day of school, and only to be sick on holidays," she said during a recent phone interview. Even in times of loss, attendance was a priority.

"I took off one day for my grandfather's funeral and school – he really supported me in my goal so I thought I have to go I can't let this stop me."

Currently a first-year student in SUNTEP, on the road to being a teacher, Desroches says her whole family is a huge support system for her.

"My grandpa was one of the pillars of my family," she said, but added her grandma, aunty, uncles, and parents are all supportive. When it was observed that she was going to be a teacher like her father, she quickly replied, "Nope, I'll be a teacher like ME."

Tara also hopes to teach abroad, maybe in Asia – she went there on a school trip in Grade 9, a last minute addition when someone pulled out.

"I was the youngest person there – I didn't know anyone and had to fly alone a lot but it just made it an even better experience."

rience."

Travelling solo, she was taught how to use chopsticks by a Japanese woman on one flight, and when she demonstrated fancy shawl dancing the Japanese crowds went wild with their video cameras – it was the first time they'd seen anything like it.

She has many fond memories of the SaskTel Youth Banquet but was surprised when her name was announced – she had been nominated another year but not been a winner.

"I remember how nervous I was, hoping I wouldn't trip across the stage – it was lots of fun, dressing up, the banquet – talking to people, everyone was all gung-ho about what they were doing and really passionate," said Tara.

The SaskTel scholarship, funded by the Wicahitowin Foundation on behalf of First Nations Veterans helping youth achieve goals and recognize excellence, honoured her many involvements in school and community – so many she needs to read a print-off.

"Jazz band, grad band, multi cultural club, SRC, student newspaper, yearbook, youth action circle, Whispering Wind Dance Troupe ..." she lists, off the top of her head.

The Millenium Scholarship was based on excellent grades, extra-curricular volunteering with children with



Tara Desroches and her dad, Jim, display the blanket she was awarded as a SaskTel Aboriginal Youth Award winner.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

disabilities, and perfect attendance.

"I guess in some ways I had no social life, but I was also in a musical and a play – that was lots of fun. I just love doing everything and trying new things."

She also held down a part-time job for

her last two years at E.D. Feehan high school in Saskatoon. Tara suggests other youth find something they like and know they're going to work hard at.

"Anything's possible if you stay focused and follow your dreams."

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Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo stands surrounded by Saskatoon Tribal Council Chiefs just prior to the Grand Entry for the First Nation Winter Games in Saskatoon. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

AFN making education a priority: Atleo

Assembly of First Nations National Chief Sean Atleo and the AFN team were in Saskatoon recently for their National Policy and Planning Forum. The Chief's stay included a trip to the Muskeg Lake Cree Nation and a 20-minute sit down with Eagle Feather News. Many important topics were covered in that interview. We will tell that story over the next three issues of Eagle Feather News. The National Chief spoke about topics that ranged from leadership, family, the residential schools and Truth and Reconciliation Commission to education. Below are his thoughts on education and the First Nations University of Canada. Next month we will bring you the discussion on residential schools and the upcoming Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

EFN: You stress education. Obviously you are a very educated young man. But there is a study commissioned by the AFN which shows that reserve graduation rates are tragically low. How do we address the gaps on reserves and off reserves for First Nations people in education?

Chief Atleo:

I am glad the regional Chief is here because I think it links to the session happening here which is essentially, really it is a strategic planning forum, about how to address things like education, the challenges in education. They are dismal, the graduation rates, but we have to remember in 1972 graduation rates were 12 per cent for First Nations. So they are 49 per cent now. They are dismal, no question about, but we are making progress on the long journey. Same thing can be said about post secondary. In the early '60s, late '60s we had a handful of post secondary students and a hand full of graduates. That number is now over 130,000 nationally. It peaked as far as number of students in school at 27,000 a few years ago and it has since dropped off. We have several factors at play

here. One is that we have had a two per cent cap on funding since 1996 and this resulted in about a \$2 billion shortfall throughout the entire education spectrum. To close the gap our experts have said that what is needed is 65,000 post secondary graduates to match Canadian achievement at the post secondary level. We also have to know, which I am sure you are aware of this with your work that there are communities across this country, First Nations, that don't have a school. They don't have the basics even in place to talk about achievement when they don't physically have the infrastructure. We still have to deal with infrastructure. So what we have called for is 65,000 post secondary graduates, 60 schools in the next five years. To focus on the goals and objectives, and to make a call for a hands on deck. That includes support for the First Nations University of Canada, one of about 50 post secondary First Nations controlled institutions in Canada. So I agree that success is not where we want it to be, but we have to remember where we have come from and that we are making progress. What we need right now is a real concrete effort to bring to scale the change that is required. Not to stay on a path that we have been on since the '70s or the '60s on both K to 12 and post secondary. Mainstream Canadians are recognizing that our populations are youthful, that we can fill the ageing population gap in the availability in human capital in the national labour market. Our people can fill that void. So there is a very practical, pragmatic economic reason for investing in Aboriginal young people at this time in history. In addition to the treaty and other arguments we can make and are making and will continue making.

EFN: Is your argument being heard on the Hill though?

Chief Atleo:

I believe so, but I think we need increasingly for

Canadians to join us. To say, "You know what? It makes sense to support Indigenous people's success." I think that the proof will be, for example, if we see the First Nations University of Canada issue as a bit of a hallmark, perhaps a litmus test for this. The University is over a 30-year-old organization. They have graduated thousands. I don't know the total number, but it hasn't been around for 80 plus years, like a McGill, or U of T or UBC. I give great kudos to regional Chief Lonechild and the Chiefs of Saskatchewan for staying focused, and finding a way through. We heard from the students today in the press conference. They are incredibly articulate. They want their institution for the reasons that make a lot of sense. It flows from the sentiments and apology the Prime Minister Harper offered up in the House of Commons, because FNUC represents an institution that reflects the culture. I really liked the way the student articulated it today that even if you don't know very much about your culture you are made to feel welcome. That was such an important and powerful message she shared in that small snippet that I heard. The legacy of trying to kill our culture, our connection with our language and our territories has been so pervasive through the residential school eras. She showed we are coming out from that. Students were calling it privately when we were talking about decolonization, and the path of decolonizing. That is what The First Nations University stands for. Like the other indigenous institutes. So the Chiefs have made education a priority. We as a National Executive are following through with that push. It will be heard on the Hill, particularly when mainstream Canadians, when the grassroots, when the students start stepping forward like they are today on FNUC. We see a national movement continue to build. They are going to hear it, and they are going to hear it increasingly on a go forward basis.

FNUC students continue to fight for their 'home'

By Delaney Windigo
For Eagle Feather News

In a move to convince the federal government to restore funding to the First Nations University of Canada, students staged a live-in. On March 23, students rolled out their sleeping bags, making the university their home. As of press time, there were no plans to move out, unless federal funding is restored in full.

"We think of this place as our home and we decided we were going to take back our home. We're not going to let anyone take it from us," said FNUC Students Association member Nicole Bear.

FNUC students have continued to take the non-confrontational approach in their latest effort to get federal funding back. They are not locking themselves in the university, they are simply opting to live in the school, with students coming and going as they please.

"We chose to do the live-in to gain more support from the community and we wanted it to be peaceful," said FNUC Students Association member Thomas Benjoe.

"We don't want to do anything too aggressive to change people's minds about our cause."

Benjoe says the peaceful route is vital in maintaining dialogue with the government. "They're (federal government) not going to fold under any aggressive behaviour. They're not going to negotiate with individuals who are going to do those kinds of actions (lock-ins) but they will negotiate with people who are doing things peacefully," said Benjoe.

Faculty members and supporters have joined students in their protest. Additionally, some students have brought their families and children to participate in the live-in they refer to as, "protecting the home of treaty education."

"We've had our core amount of supporters that have been part of the live-in every single night," Benjoe added, "There have always been new people camping with us every night."

Technically the live-in takes place on weekends and during weekdays from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. With the remaining time students are expected to go to classes and fulfill their academic duties. Evenings are occupied by various entertainers and speakers, with recent performances by comedians, Bionic Bannock Boys and rapper, Ostwelve.

Students have incorporated daily smudging and praying into their morning routine during the live-in.

"We want to do things the right way, with respect to our elders and our ancestors," said Bear.

So far, students have been receiving

donations from various people and organizations. Donations will continue to be accepted for as long as the live-in continues. According to Bear, "People have been incredibly generous whether it's been food, money, or any donations."

Students have had difficulty in achieving dialogue with Strahl. Benjoe said, "It's very hard to get any word in with (Indian Affairs Minister Chuck) Strahl. He likes to avoid us."

Which Benjoe described as, "very frustrating. A lot of the statements that he's made just show he doesn't know what's going on here."

Yet there is momentum in the fight for federal funding as it has gained international attention. Since the live-in kicked off, several letters of support from various universities have been sent to Strahl. The letters outline the importance of an Indigenous academic institution, urging Strahl to make the necessary changes for the university to survive.

The outpouring of support for the institution leaves students optimistic that the federal government will change its mind.

"Power comes from numbers. If we have all the numbers there, eventually they're going to break," said Benjoe "It's been working – we've gained a lot of support from all over the world."

The letters written to Strahl on behalf of FNUC have come from Australia, Ireland, UK, Sweden, Germany, Spain and more.

In a release FNUC Chief Operating Officer Del Anaquod said many of the universities that wrote the letters have close ties to the school.

"We have over 32 international agreements with new and emerging universities around the world. We are known as the leader in international Indigenous education," said Anaquod.

An agreement was reached with the province on the same day students began living in the university. The provincial government decided to restore the \$5.2 million funding. The funding is part of a four-year deal that gives financial oversight to the University of Regina.

The step made by the province leaves the pressure on the federal government. Minister of Advance Education, Employment and Labour Rob Norris said he's going to bat for the university.

"This agreement also allows me to begin lobbying aggressively for the federal government to follow the provincial lead and invest in this partnership."

The federal government remained unchanging in its stance on funding for a long period of time. However, Strahl eventually pledged \$3 million to the institution, still falling short of the over \$7 million students are demanding. The



Tala Tootoosis addresses the media to show support for her school, the First Nations University of Canada. National Chief Sean Atleo and FSIN Chief Guy Lonechild look on.
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

funds would allow students to continue their studies until August 31, 2010.

The financing is coming from the Indian Studies Support Program and like provincial funding, will flow through the U of R. Additionally, the funds do not provide any security to students who wish to return for the fall semester.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief, Guy Lonechild said the federal government's pledge is "a step in the right direction with a long way to travel."

Yet Lonechild expresses optimism.

"The decision by the Government of Canada to provide interim funding is a signal that the federal government recognizes the valuable role of First Nations University."

"Our goal was, and our goal remains, a long term sustainable funding agreement with the Government of Canada," said Lonechild. "It is through long term core funding that we can ensure First Nations University is equipped to carry out its pivotal role for First Nations people and for all Canadians."

Changes continue to be made at the FNUC administration level. On April 1, Dr. Shauneen Pete returned to FNUC as president for a six month term, a move that has been welcomed by students.

Despite all the odds that have been against them students continue to have faith and fight for an institution they call home.

"I've been optimistic throughout the whole thing," said Benjoe.

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Mistawasis begins on road to recovery

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

The Mistawasis First Nation is taking steps to clean up its community and return to traditional ways. The community's plan was presented at the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations annual health and wellness gathering in Saskatoon last month.

Russel (Sam) Badger says alcohol and drugs have affected everyone in their community, including himself, and says that's why something needs to be done.

"I had a brother that was murdered in 1990. I've got a grandson and nephew that were shot and killed. Cousins that were murdered. Cousins that were killed in car accidents. Friends that committed suicide."

A committee of community members has begun exploring ideas to deal with substance abuse but nothing has been passed by chief and council yet. Ideas up for consideration include banishing people off-reserve, evictions, and drug testing for chief and council and all band council staff.

Badger says right now the committee is consulting with community members. He went to the school to ask children what they think about drugs and alcohol.

"They turned around and said we need to do some workshops. And I asked them, 'OK, do we need presenters or anything?' and they said 'no, we want to present to the parents.' And that just blew me away because I didn't expect that. If we listen to the children, they've got lots of information we can use. They've got lots of ideas."

"They don't like it because it's affecting them. And they're afraid to walk around different areas, and they're afraid to walk around the beaches with glass in the sand, needles. They're fed up with it."

Gloria Lee, a consultant working with the committee, says the community has a vision where everyone can walk around the reserve feeling safe and



Russel (Sam) Badger and Gloria Lee are working with the community of Mistawasis to explore methods to reduce drug and alcohol abuse.

(Photo by Darla Read)

without fear.

"Right now that's not the case," Lee says.

She says the community is working with the Elders to increase pride and self-respect of the youth. There is a noticeable disconnect between the young and old people now.

FSIN Vice-Chief Edward "Dutch" Lerat says listening to the Elders is key to healthy communities.

"Our Elders remind us of a time when our people were healthy and all these negative health problems that plague our communities were non-existent."

Lee says the current social disorder in the community illustrates that cultural teachings are unknown or not practical.

"Our first responsibility is to provide those teachings in a respectful and open environment. 'You can't just have an expectation. You have to be able to explain it.'"

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Parenting about building trust

"In order for a tree to grow straight it must be nurtured when the tree is still a seedling."

I got this quote from a fortune cookie and when I thought about it for awhile, I thought about my children and how I raised them. What have I learned that I can share?

I have a very long list of things I should have done with my children and a very short list of things I actually did with my children. Spend time with your children when they are young, play with them.

Listen to your children when they are talking to you. Really listen. It will show your kids what they have to say is important.

It is also establishing a relationship based upon trust and respect, something you will rely on as they approach their teenage years.

Don't be afraid to say "no" to your children and when you say "no" you have to mean it. Think about your own childhood and what were you doing at that age?

Raise with praise. Like that seedling, your children need nurturing. Tell them they are doing a good job in school. Tell them they did a good job cleaning the yard. Recognize when they come home on time and thank them.

Encourage your children to participate in sports. Studies show that children who are active do much better in school. Understand that it is critical that you become involved and active in your

child's life. Take them to their team practices and go to their games and be their number one fan.

Sounds so easy, but I know it's not. I know that not everyone has a car to get their children to practices and not all parents have money to pay for fees associated with organized sports and not all communities have the volunteers needed to run the programs.

How many parents are involved in their child's school activities? How many attend parent teacher interviews? According to many teachers I have spoken with there are few Aboriginal parents who attend parent teacher meetings.

Being a parent is the hard and being a good parent is harder yet.

I was raised in different families as a young teenager and I recognized how the different styles of parenting affected me.

I spent time at my friends' homes and saw how they were treated by their parents. Some were good and others were pretty bad. Not everyone is raised in a good family. Some children are hungry, some abused.

I realize that this is a list of things that I wish I had done with my own children.

It's called regrets and there's nothing I can do to change the past and

that really sucks.

I hope that parents reading this will try some of the things I mentioned. I know that you will never regret the time

you spent your children. Only the time you did not. Parenting books say to talk to your kids about sex, drugs and gangs because if you don't someone else will.

Pray with your children and teach them about God. Take time to laugh and play with your children.

It's a good opportunity to make good memories. Teach your kids to practice safe sex. Far too many young Aboriginal girls are having children of their own.

Acknowledge when you have made a mistake. Your children will respect you for it.

Don't be hard on yourself. Nobody is perfect but we can change how we raise the future generations.

Promise to raise your children with love, discipline, respect and trust.

Does your community offer parenting classes? If not, think about starting your own group.

Thank you for your emails and letters. You can write; Sandee Sez C/O Eagle Feather News P.O. Box 924 Station Main Saskatoon or email: sandra.ahenakew@gmail.com



Strategy to address youth suicide in the North

The Ministry of Health and the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan are developing a youth suicide prevention project in the North. The project is receiving \$300,000 from Health Canada's Aboriginal Health Transition Fund.

The project will place three health promotion co-ordinators in Cumberland House, Ile-a-la-Crosse and Buffalo Narrows to work with northern residents.

The youth suicide prevention project will contribute to the development of a Métis Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy as well as an evaluation mechanism.

"The Métis Nation of Saskatchewan is dedicated to the well being of its citizens and we look forward to developing partnerships that facilitate this process," Métis Nation of Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette said.

"We will work with the northern health regions to adapt services aimed at Métis youth suicide prevention. It is our mandate to ensure a healthy and productive environment for our youth to flourish and take part in society."

The project will identify the extent of suicide risk among Métis youth and as well as establish best practices and potential partnerships, and provide input into future provincial mental health initiatives.



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My brief stint in the film and TV industry

By Tyrone Tootosis
For Eagle Feather News

It was way back in the early 1970s when my late Dad asked me if I wanted to be in a movie that was being shot near the town of Duck Lake. Not being the most studious student in class, I said sure. The movie was called *Alien Thunder* and was based on the life of Almighty Voice, a Cree warrior from One Arrow's Band who stood up to the colonial powers in the 1800s.

It starred Donald Sutherland, Chief Dan George and my dad's younger brother, Gordon Tootosis, playing Almighty Voice.

It was an awesome and fun experience working with Dad as an extra on the set, dressing up in 1880s period dress, staying at hotels, traveling from place to place and to top it all off, being paid well for it.

We worked for several days on different movie sets including a teepee camp set and in a reconstructed town set. The most vivid memory of this initial experience in the film and TV industry was in the scene where Almighty Voice was finally trapped in a small bluff by the North West Mounted Police and bombarded by cannons and ultimately killed.

I very clearly remember this time as all those of us who were playing extras as members of One Arrows Band were standing on the side of a hill watching this final battle scene unfold. I recall Claude Fournier, the director, came to talk to all the extras on the set and asked us to think back to the time when this battle scene had actually happened and to show it in our faces. The movie was premiered at a North Battleford theatre and it was then that I discovered that there was a close-up shot on me during this scene ... and a cousin blurted out, "hey, that's Tyee!"

Since *Alien Thunder*, I've had the privilege and honor of working on a few movies including as Chief Poundmaker in the 1997 movie *Big Bear* along with

uncle Gordon who played Big Bear. Poundmaker is in our family tree and I had already been told that "Namoya Onakutasskaye Ayisinat" aka "one should not mimic/play/portray those who are already in that sacred place."

As a result, I had to ask my Dad for permission before I could play the part and after doing something

only after I was finished that I looked in the mirror and looking back at me was this person who looked eerily similar to the many archival visuals I had seen of Poundmaker.

It was actually the first and only time that I saw what others had already seen and it was a very strange feeling that is impossible to describe in words.

A month after shooting *Big Bear*, I was asked to audition for a movie called *Revenge of the Land* and somehow I managed to get selected to play a Métis farmer by the name of Clifford Ladoucer. *Revenge* was shot on many different sets including a scene near Moose Jaw and another set near Weyburn and also outside Montreal.

Other productions I've worked on include playing the lead and again as Chief Poundmaker in the NFB film, *The Trial of Poundmaker*, as "Whirlwind Dreamer" in the Hallmark Production *Dreamkeeper*, including *Renegade Press.com*, *Corner Gas*, *Wapos Bay* and some TV commercials.

My most recent work worthy of mention was playing "Chief Little Soldier" in the award winning drama movie *The Englishman's Boy*. The story is based on Guy Vanderhaeghe's Governor General Award winning novel and some well known actors who worked on the production included R.H. Thompson, Bob Hoskins and Nicholas Campbell.

There are times when I wish I had the interest, passion and motivation to do more work in the film and TV industry. But, quite honestly, I don't and I don't know why.

However, if a part comes along and I get asked to audition and I get selected for it, my selfish side says, why not? I like a bit of traveling, staying in fancy hotel rooms, meeting and working with well known people and being paid well for it.

Another day, another quarter.



A scene from the 1970s movie, *Alien Thunder*, filmed near Duck Lake.

by way of ceremony, I was given approval to do so. Much of the film was shot in different locations here in Saskatchewan including on the Pasqua First Nation and Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

Again, one memory stands out from my time shooting *Big Bear* and it was on Day One. I had just come out of costume, hair and makeup and had stepped out into the sunlight and standing outside was Uncle Gordon. He looked at me and laughed and said, "You're a dead ringer." I knew what he meant as moments before I had been sitting on a chair in the hair department and it was

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NAAA honors Worme at Regina ceremony

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

An enormous green willow tree staged the setting for this year's National Aboriginal Achievement Awards in representation of Saskatchewan's beauty. On March 26, this year's 17th annual event was held at the Conexus Art Center in Regina.

The entertainment for the evening consisted of well-known Aboriginal performers from across the country, including Buffy Saint-Marie, from Piapot First Nation.

Raoul Trujillo and Andrea Menard, were the hosts for the evening. With much enthusiasm, poise and grace, the two displayed a quirky and entertaining chemistry on stage.

Fourteen recipients from across Indian country were awarded for being valued, dedicated, hardworking Aboriginal people who have made a great impact in their communities.

Don Worme, from Kawacatoose First Nations, was the recipient of the Law and Justice Award.

"I don't know where to start. I can tell you as a lawyer, I am never lost for words

Governor General's Medal for Outstanding Contributions to his fellow Canadians. Beaton's inspiration and meaning in life comes solely from Mother Earth.

"It means a lot to protect Mother Earth and event and venues like this and opportunities like this to share that concern for Mother Earth, is what I care about. If I can keep that concern alive, if I can keep that wisdom alive, then I'm honoured to be here," he said.

He extended his gratitude to the NAAF for giving him the opportunity to share his passion.

"Our responsibility is to share, to be a voice for Mother Earth. To honour, protect, to defend Mother Earth and to pass that on to our children, and to pass that on to this organization which is raising awareness, and raising funds to educate Native children. It's a very important work, so I'm honoured to be a part of that work," said Beaton.

There was no age limit to the success of



Performers and recipients pose for a group photo prior to the NAAA show. (Photo by Jennifer Dubois)

across the world. He is a well-respected spokesman and spiritual leader.

The performances for the evening displayed the diversity presented within Indian Country. Crystal Shawanda, from Wikwemikong, Ontario was one of the first performers of the night.

"It's something that I try to encourage through my music and through everything that I do. To encourage other young Aboriginals to pursue everything that makes them happy.

"It's just about becoming an active part of society, whether it's in the arts or education or whatever their avenue might be," Crystal said.

Much like the talent and performers, the NAAF strives to inspire their audience, which is the Aboriginal youth in Canada. Since 1985, the education programs NAAF offers to youth have awarded more than \$37 million in scholarships and bursaries.

More than 9,800 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students from across the nation have been awarded financial assistance for their educational goals.

The recipients, entertainers, guests and spectators who attended the event all have one thing in common: to create awareness, assist in the positive development, caring and guiding of Aboriginal youth across Canada.



William Commanda, recipient of the Life Time Achievement award and Saskatchewan's Don Worme, recipient for Law, posed for a photo at the recipients meet and greet function the night before the Awards. (Photo by Jenn Dubois)

but this is one of those occasions. I am truly overwhelmed by the honour of being recognized with such tremendous people. It is just outstanding to be counted among them," Worme said.

Dedication to his people and the justice system has brought him much success in his life. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Centre for Investigative Reporting.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has been able to capture a glimpse of well-known, dedicated Aboriginal people from all parts of the country.

Danny Beaton was this year's Environment and National Resources recipient. Beaton is from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. He has received the

these recipients. Monica Pinette from Langley, B.C., is one of the youngest, expecting her first child at age 29. Pinette received the award for her excellence as a pentathlete. The five category sport consists of pistol shooting, epee fencing, 200m freestyle swimming, show jumping and three-km cross-country run.

Ninety-six-year-old William Commanda was the oldest recipient. He was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Commanda is a shaman from Algonquin, Kitigan Zibi First Nation in Quebec. Through his lifetime, he has promoted racial harmony and intercultural understanding on national and international levels.

His accomplishments include writing his own book, Learning from a Kindergarten Dropout, to building over more than 50 canoes

A weekend with Buffy: Driving Miss. Sainte-Marie

By Creeson Agecoutay
For Eagle Feather News

On the way to the Regina airport a million things were going through my head. Buffy Sainte-Marie is one of the most famous Indians in the world so you can understand why I was so nervous. I kept telling myself 'just be yourself; be professional and treat her like a normal person.'

If you're wondering how I got the privilege to be Buffy's personal chauffeur; in part, it was luck! Originally, my cousin had been asked to drive her but his plans involved an all inclusive vacation which he was not about to back away from. Thus, he suggested his little cousin, Creeson, and the rest is history.

Buffy Sainte-Marie is a household name but I really knew very little about her. I remember my mom would always say, "Oh, she's my idol" and I'd think 'if she's an idol, then she must be awesome.'

After some research I found out her "awesome-ness" is measured by her accomplishments. She is an Academy, Gemini, and Juno award winning singer-songwriter. She's been recognized globally with awards and honors for her music as well as her work in education and social activism. She is so outspoken that during the sixties she was blacklisted by the American government who said her music, "deserved to be suppressed."

But it hasn't slowed her down. At 68 years old, she is still one of the hardest working artists out there.

Buffy was in Regina for International Women's Day and was scheduled to be the keynote speaker at the Prairie Lily Feminist Society dinner at the Queensbury Centre in Regina.

So here I am back at the airport waiting for her to get off the plane. I made sure to wear my best suit so I had to check myself in the mirror at least a couple times – just to make sure my tie was straight.

The plane finally arrived and passengers began making their way down the stairs. Among them, the one and only Buffy Sainte-Marie. She's a small woman, no more than five foot six.

She had dark sunglasses on and I recognized her famous choppy bangs and glitzy clothes. It took her less than a minute to get down the stairs and my heart stood still. I was still nervous and a little scared thinking 'what am I going to say to her?' I didn't want to stutter or make a fool of myself.

I approached her and told her who I was and she lit up and gave me this huge smile. We made small talk and I told her where I was from and while waiting for the luggage I noticed everyone in the airport was staring at her.

A few, less shy, people came up to her and said, "We love your music" and shook her hand. She greeted them very politely and said thank you. I grabbed her bag off the conveyor and it took all my strength to pick it up.

Buffy then jokingly said, "It feels like I'm packing so light! I usually bring my instruments as well!" For my back's sake I was glad she was just doing a speech. On the trip from the airport to the hotel we discussed the itinerary for the next few days. I was still a little nervous so I played the radio and began to sing along to a song I knew. She asked me, "Are you in a band?"

I said, "No I just like to sing." That moment was an ice breaker and for the rest of the short drive she was very attentive and kind and asked many questions about my career goals.

On Saturday morning Buffy had some free time. Nelson Bird and I saw this as a perfect opportunity to be a guest on CTV's "Indigenous Circle." We arranged to interview her at the Hotel Sask where she was staying. We arrived around 11 a.m., set up for the interview and made our way to the lobby to meet her. I should mention that the 34th Kinsmen Telemiracle was taking place and all of the weekend's celebrities were staying at the same hotel including Sesame Street's Bob McGrath.

On the way to the lobby Nelson talked about watching Buffy and Bob on Sesame Street when he was young and how great it would be to get a picture of him with the two of them. Buffy was a Sesame Street Cast member for five years in the 1970s.

We met Buffy in the lobby and she was happy to see us. On the way up the fifth floor the elevator door opened and who should step in but Bob McGrath from Sesame Street. Nelson noticed right away and got very excited.

Bob and Buffy did not recognize each other and Nelson said, 'hey Buffy, it's Bob' and she said 'hey Bob. It's me, Buffy!'

It was as though a light switch had been turned on and Bob and Buffy had the greatest reunion you can imagine. All this between three floors.

Obviously that wasn't enough time so we all got out of the elevator on the 5th floor where Bob and Buffy got caught up for at least 15 minutes. It was obvious the two had not seen each other in many years. It was an historic moment, one I will never forget.

Neither will Nelson because he got his picture taken with his childhood heroes. Bob and Buffy parted ways and promised to stay in touch.

Later that night Buffy spoke to the crowd at the International Women's Day Banquet. In her speech she stressed the fact that every single person, male or female is unique and we should appreciate ourselves in our uniqueness and appreciate other peoples in their uniqueness. For her that is the only way for society to be complete.

Overall, the night was a huge success and she received a long standing ovation followed by lines of autographs and pictures. The Lily Society people



Nelson Bird (right) host of CTV's Indigenous Circle, poses with two heroes of his youth, Bob McGrath and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

wondered if she might be tired and if I should save her from the adoring crowds. She was fine so I just politely waited beside her, looking like her bodyguard waiting for the lines to disperse, smiling the whole time.

Among those present was some of her family from Piapot First Nation. This pleased her very much. After we left I took her back to the hotel and she was very tired and said I would pick her up Monday morning at 6:00 a.m..

Monday morning came and I was there on time and off we went to the airport. We walked into the airport and said our farewells. As I was walking away I thought to myself how fortunate I was to meet and spend time with Buffy Sainte-

Marie. During our conversations it seemed as though she was an auntie or other close relative.

I could tell her what I want to do with my life and she would support it and say good job. She encouraged me to be open-minded and think globally on all issues. She gave me a big hug and said I was very professional.

Our last conversation for that weekend was about her going back home to Hawaii, her looking after her sick mother and tending to all her "kids" (goats) on the farm she owns.

Buffy is an inspiration for all Aboriginal people proving that despite life's hardships we can overcome anything we put our minds and hearts to.



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Art at AKA Gallery is a reflection of community

An innovative art project in Saskatoon's core neighbourhoods will see both artists and a community group raise some much need cash and exposure. The 10 x 10 Core Art project was initiated by the Integrated Community Ministries and coordinated by Dean Whitebear, a local Saskatoon artist with deep roots in the community.

The idea was to give fifty 10 x 10 canvases to established artists and beginners and they were to paint a reflection of the community. The art is then offered for sale through a silent auction. At the end, the Ministries and the artists split the pot evenly.

"It really is a great benefit to the artists. It allows them exposure and a chance to make a few dollars," said Whitebear. "Many young people took part, and old people, and people who couldn't speak English. It was really diverse and really good."

Whitebear has been an artist for years and has studied fine arts at the U of S, the U of R and the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. He also works at the Saskatoon Food Bank Learning Centre and his ties to the community are many, making him a perfect coordinator for this event.

Community Minister Janet Clarke was pleased at the many sectors of the community that participated.

"We had the Open Door Society send some in, the youth at SCYAP placed four paintings and the Wii Can make a Difference Program, which is a collaboration of

grades 5-7 and local seniors from a nursing home, they submitted nine paintings," said Clarke. "It was a great reflection of the core community and the art shows the



Dean Whitebear facilitated an art project that saw 50 small canvases created that reflect the inner city. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

area is vibrant and alive."

Make sure you get down and take a look at some of this incredible art work.

"There are some real treasures in the set," said Whitebear. "It was really incredible to be asked to be involved and an honour. What an incredible experience."

The project has won the Merv Harrison Community Development Award from Community First.

The art was on display at the AKA Gallery on 20th Street, but is now hanging for public view and silent auction at Amigos Restaurant in Saskatoon, from April 9 to May 9.

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2010 - The Year

Batoche highlights Year of the Métis

The entire year, 2010, will be one of commemoration, celebration, reconciliation and honour for the Métis Nation. A highlight will come in mid July when thousands of people are expected to travel to the Back to Batoche Celebrations July 18 to 25. This anniversary defines the history of the Métis Nation not only in Saskatchewan but the rest of Canada and the United States. This year is the 125th Anniversary of the Battle of Batoche

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette and Back to Batoche event Manager Claire Bellanger-Parker recently hosted a press conference to announce the amazing line up of entertainment for 2010.

"This year we are very excited to present a line-up of world renowned performers" said Doucette. "Scheduled for the main stage will be performances by Michelle Wright, Donny Parenteau, Andrea Menard, The Métis Fiddler Quartet and the Asham Stompers along with many, many other great Métis talents.

"It is a great honour to be a part of such an important celebration of culture and history. During our visit to the Vancouver Olympics, we invited the world to Saskatchewan to celebrate with us at Batoche. Our team is working diligently as we prepare to host thousands of visitors with true Métis hospitality" concluded Doucette.

The Festival is held each year next to the Batoche National Park located 86 km north of Saskatoon. The celebration is a drug and alcohol free event, perfect for families and people of all ages. This year's Back to Batoche Days features fiddling and jigging contests, colourful Métis sashes, beaded leatherwork, chuck-wagon and chariot races, CCA Rodeo events, toe-tapping square dancing, arts and crafts displays, educational displays, the ever-popular Mr. and Mrs. Batoche contest, children's activities, co-ed slo pitch tournament, horseshoes and bannock baking.

A new addition will be the Artisan's Village which includes a Métis Film Festival and theatre productions such as The Trial of Louis Riel and the Batoche Musical.

"Since September, I have been working with an incredible group of people who are passionate, proud to be Métis and they want the world to know not only the story of Saskatchewan Métis, but the Métis people of this great nation," said Claire Belanger-Parker.

"The scope of this year's event is much larger than what our Métis people are used to, but we know they will love the expanded format and the eight full days of entertainment at the Artisans Village."

Go to www.backtobatoche.ca for information on purchasing passes for this historic weeklong celebration.

Day passes will be available at the site.

- Written by John Lagimodiere



MN-S President Robert Doucette



Country music stars Michelle Wright and Donny Parenteau will be just two of the artists that will make this year's Back To Batoche celebration memorable. Also on the entertainment bill are Andrea Menard, The Métis Fiddler Quartet and the Asham Stompers.



Métis Did you know?

Did you know? James Isbister, a Métis, was the first person in what is now Saskatchewan to cultivate wheat in 1862. He was also the first farmer in what is today Prince Albert.

Did you know? Many Métis families originally farmed river lots in the Prince Albert area in the 1860s.



GABRIEL D
of Native Stud

Year of the Métis

Public Memory of the Battle of Tourond's

Coulee/Ka Nootinikayhk daan la Koolii dii Tourond



April 24, 2010 marks the 125th anniversary of the Métis victory at Tourond's Coulee in which 150 Métis and First Nations confronted 500-800 Canadian troops.

Before the proverbial smoke cleared, the Métis lines, which were positioned higher on the coulee and concealed by dense bush, almost wavered, but were reinforced just in time, while the Army, divided in two by the South Saskatchewan, wasn't able to press its numerical advantage. Erring on the side of caution, General Middleton retreated.

In the end, four Métis, two Dakota, and 11 Canadian soldiers were killed, and the Tourond's homestead was destroyed.

Public commemoration for this battle began in the 1920s. At first, the official history indicated that the Canadian Army won the battle, known as "Fish Creek" by Euro-Canadians. Later, it was described as a "stalemate."

The Métis always considered this battle as a Métis victory. Tellingly, the Métis were not allowed ownership for an event that directly involved their ancestors. For the Métis, the 1885 Resistance can be summed up by two victories—the Battle of Duck Lake, March 26 and the Battle of Tourond's Coulee, April 24—and a loss during the main battle at Batoche (May 9-12, 1885). The final battle determined the war, ensured

that the Prairie West would be a predominantly Anglo-Protestant agrarian society, and it directly led to the Métis' social, economic, and political marginalization.

The official history focused on the precise details of the battle record and

on Riel and Dumont's leadership, while leaving the Métis as a people in historical limbo. Until recently, the historical record has been silent about Métis suffering after the 1885 Resistance, which in the end took far more lives than the war.

Dozens of Métis, mainly women and children, died due to the privations they suffered during the Resistance. The main killer was disease, primarily tuberculosis. Many families lost property and were

French relations. By contrast, the Métis have always viewed 1885 as an Indigenous resistance against distant and cold authority.

However, it is certainly possible to accommodate Métis, First Nations, and Euro-Canadian perspectives of the 1885 Resistance in one inclusive narrative. To so do requires real partnership and a willingness to listen and incorporate opposing points of view. In that spirit, Métis community members, Parks Canada, Batoche National Historic Site, Friends of Batoche, and the Gabriel Dumont Institute formed a partnership in order to restore the Métis name to this battle, which would also honour the sacrifices of the Tourond family.

Eventually, these lobbying efforts were successful. In 2008, Parks Canada officially unveiled new commemorative plaques, in Michif-Cree, English, and French, which commemorate the battle site as "Battle of Tourond's Coulee/Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada."

With this inclusive but necessary name change, a key piece of Métis corporate and family history has been restored in the historical commemoration of the 1885 Resistance.

- Article by Darren Prefontaine



never compensated for their losses. Perhaps the most poignant losses were suffered by Madame Josephite Tourond, who owned the land in which the battle took place. Two sons were killed in the final hours of the Battle of Batoche while another was severely disabled. Soon thereafter, she

lost five more children, several more grandchildren, and members of her extended family to disease. Many other families lost a great deal too. While in Montana, Gabriel Dumont cared for several Métis and First

Nations orphans displaced by the fighting.

Public memory of the 1885 Resistance has changed with time. Euro-Canadian interpretations of this event traditionally focused on nation-building and East-West/English-

Chronology of the 1885 Resistance

1884 (June 4)

James Isbister, Gabriel Dumont, Moïse Ouellette and Michel Dumas arrived at St. Peter's Mission in Montana in order to bring Louis Riel to Canada.

1884 (Summer)

Louis Riel held meetings with English and French-speaking Métis and non-Aboriginal settlers in order to negotiate provincial status for the region.

1884 (Autumn)

Big Bear and his band wintered at Frog Lake, the home of the Woods Cree. Lawrence Vankoughnet, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, severed rations to Big Bear's band. Vankoughnet was suspicious of Big Bear's association with Louis Riel.

To be continued next month ...

Prepared by the Gabriel Dumont Institute with material developed by Darren Prefontaine, Leah Dorion, Ron Laliberté, and Father Guy Lavallée.

A Gathering at Tourond's Coulee

Friday, April 23, 2010 ■ 1:30 - 3 p.m.

Information available from Parks Canada 423-6220

How to get there

Heading north from Saskatoon on Highway 11, turn east on highway 312 at Rosethorn. The Battle of Tourond's Coulee / Fish Creek National Historic Site of Canada is located 17 kilometres south off Highway 312. The battle site is where the cairn is and the event will be celebrated. Middleton's camp is before the battle site, so do not take the first turn, but continue south. The battle site is fenced and the cairn visible from the road.

GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE
Studies and Applied Research



Mosionier's memoir tells a story familiar to Aboriginal people

By Andréa Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

“If I’m going to turn trees into book pages, then those pages had better be meaningful.” (quote from “Come Walk With Me”)

In 1984, Beatrice Mosionier’s mother did a series of interviews with Alanis Obomsawin. A driving force for her daughter, “Come Walk With Me” has just been released by Highwater Press and includes some of the interviews of her deceased mother, Mary Clara Pelletier Mosionier. Beatrice, author of “In Search Of April Raintree” said fiction was more “fun” in some ways – a memoir meant more personal risks.

“While I was willing to expose my own blunders, weaknesses and such, I was loath to write about mistakes of others,” she explains.

“At one point I decided not to finish the memoir because of this. After receiving advice that I had to write the truth, as I knew it, I finished the memoir.”

Growing up in the foster care system where families and communities were torn apart, and losing both older sisters to suicide, systemic racism is examined by Mosionier in both books.

“The rape of April is that of Native people worldwide, where dominant societies destroy a way of



woman or adult, but also for policy makers and social workers.

“She did tell me about one of the times she and Dad went to court to try to get us kids back. The judge sat high on the bench looking down on them and the social workers and everybody in there were speaking against them. As Mom is recalling that time, she is trembling with remembered rage. ‘If I had a gun,’ she says, ‘I would have shot them all. Every last one of them.’”

Mosionier writes in the voice of the age she is recalling – bringing alive other people in her story respectfully and only as they affect her own life and perspective at the time.

It is always clearly about her process and journey: “What I really like about being in boarding school is that there is no cloud hanging over me about being a foster kid. I am finally just like everyone else because none of us is home.”

Her memoir ends in 2001.

“I’ve learned a great deal more since June 2001, (when the memoir ends) but felt I ought to stick with the knowledge I had in the time period of my memoir,” she noted via email.

“The response I’ve received is similar to those for April Raintree, especially from Aboriginal readers who have had many of the experiences I’ve had in my life, so again, this story is the story of many.”

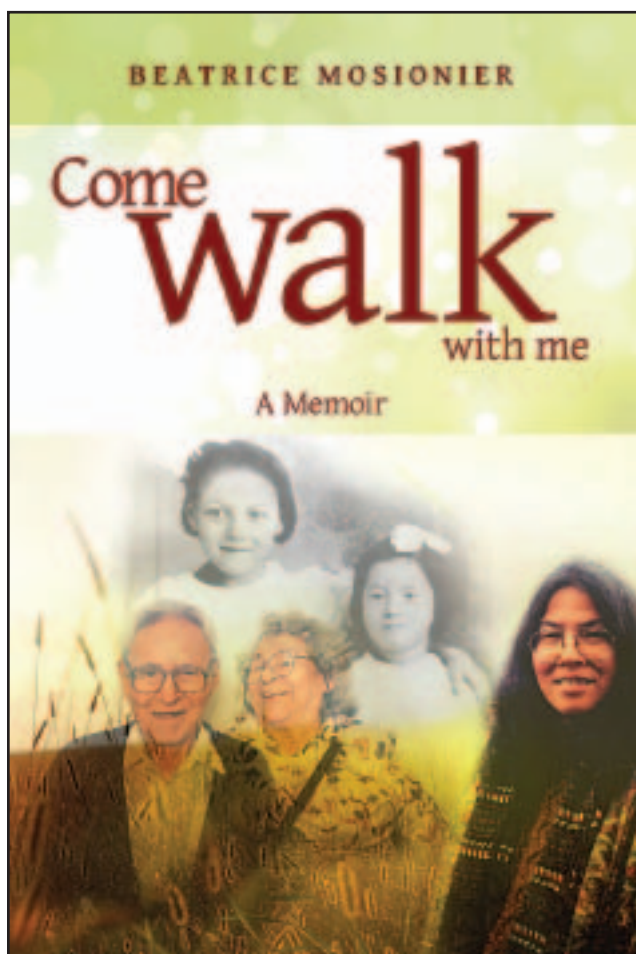
Author Beatrice Mosionier says she has taken more personal risks in writing a memoir. Her latest book, *Come Walk With Me* includes interviews of her mother, Mary Clara Pelletier.

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life through their oppression. When the rapist tells April she likes being raped, he represents the oppressor. This is what forced assimilation feels like ... he is letting her know that he has no respect for her body and soul, just as oppressors have no respect for the land they rape for diamonds and oil.”

Often there is humour and tenderness: “Eddy told me that once he was so drunk he had trouble getting into his basement apartment, so he tried to use a window to get in. The police arrested him and he found out he was trying to break into the wrong house.”

But there is also trauma. It is a must-read for any

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Arts Board names executive director and Indigenous and community arts consultant

David Kyle has been named the new executive director of the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Kyle is the former Regional Director of CBC Radio & Television in Saskatchewan and was selected by a hiring committee after a comprehensive national search that saw more than 80 applications from across the country. He took over his new duties April 1.

A graduate from the very first class at the University of Regina's School of Journalism and Communications, Kyle has enjoyed a distinguished 26-year career in the broadcast news media. He has worked across Canada for both CBC and CTV, and in 2000 returned to his home town. From 2003 to 2008, Kyle was in charge of all CBC programming created in Saskatchewan, including the province's Centennial and the 2007 Year of Music.

In 2009, Kyle led a team assembled by the Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport to travel the province in a massive consultation with the Arts, Culture, and Heritage sector. He met with more than 300 cultural organizations and individuals as part of the Ministry's development of the first ever written cultural policy for our province.

The experience brought home to Kyle a first-hand knowledge of the aspirations, issues, successes and vision of a rich cultural foundation for the people of Saskatchewan.

His personal goal is to move the arts sector from strategic planning to action in a way that builds on the many successes already enjoyed by this internationally renowned community.

"I am tremendously excited and honoured by this opportunity to continue the excellent work done by the Saskatchewan Arts Board over the past 60 years," Kyle says.

"I look forward to working with the arts communities which have shown they are up for the challenge of building an even brighter future." Kyle replaces Jeremy Morgan, who retired on March 31 after a decade of serving the arts community in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Arts Board also announced Michelle Rae McKay as the agency's new program consultant: Indigenous and community arts. McKay has an extensive background in education, teaching, curriculum development and policy analysis and has also been involved in various Indigenous arts throughout her life, including dancing, storytelling, painting, writing, fashion design, quillwork, birch bark, beadwork and theatre.

She is Status Indian with band membership on Thunderchild Independent First Nation and is Nakwe and Métis. Her late mother is from Sakimay Nation and her father has family from Sled Lake in northern Saskatchewan.

McKay has taught at various First Nation schools and served as a policy analyst for the Aboriginal Management and Professional Development program at Saskatchewan Housing; as First Nation educational, policy and First Nation language immersion consultant for her own company, Thunderplains Consulting; as director of Aboriginal cultural heritage for the Museums Association of Saskatchewan; and as an instructor of Indigenous health studies and Indigenous studies at the First Nations University of Canada.

She has a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Regina, a bachelor of arts in Indian studies from the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College at the University of Regina, and a bachelor of education through the Indian Teacher Education Program at the University of Saskatchewan.



MICHELLE RAE MCKAY



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The Métis: A Visual History (Book and 4-poster set)

The *Métis: A Visual History* is a stunning and visually commanding resource covering over three hundred years of history and culture from the birth of the Métis Nation to our near past, a mere thirty years ago. Sherry Farrell Racette has blended her acumen as a historian and researcher with her skill as a visual artist to create four panels, each representing a different era of Métis history. The panels have been reproduced as educational posters and have a companion book explaining the significance of each image.



I Knew Two Métis Women: The lives of Dorothy Scofield and Georgina Houle Young (Book and CD set)

Gregory Scofield's *I Knew Two Métis Women* recreates the world of his childhood and celebrates his Métis family. The unforgettable voices of his mother Dorothy Scofield and aunt Georgina Houle Young wind through the book, telling tall tales, soothing hurts, offering love and sly humour as an antidote to hardship, poverty, violence, and prejudice. The companion CD includes Scofield's dynamic reading accompanied by the voices and music of an impressive group of performing artists including John Arcand, Maria Campbell, Tantoo Cardinal, Andres Menard, and Donny Parenteau.

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Campeau Fund thriving in tough times

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Despite a significant downturn in the economy, the Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) had a record year in 2009. And the board and management maintain a positive outlook and project even bigger and better things for the Fund in 2010.

Bob McLeod is the Area Director of Western Region II and has the portfolio of Economic Development Minister for the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. He also sits as chair of the CCDF Board of Directors. McLeod believes there are several reasons for the success of the fund.

"CCDF is successful because we removed the politics from the board and have business people involved at the board table. The board members are geographically representative and selected based on strict criteria. The board has helped create trust and vision, but we also have a strong CEO in Roland Duplessis and a professional staff," McLeod says.

"When you have good people at the top, it filters through the organization. It is about strong relationships with our funding partners. It is difficult sometimes to get federal or provincial ministers to meet considering their busy schedules. However once we get them through our doors and show them what we do, they buy into it right away and become strong advocates for the Fund."

McLeod recalled a productive visit from First Nation and Métis Relations Minister Bill Hutchison. The one hour meeting turned into a three hour visit. The positive relationship that has been developed with the Province has resulted in an extra \$1.4 million from the Gaming

Fund for CCDF to invest this year.

"Two years ago we invested \$4.3 million dollars. In 2009, even during a slump in the economy, we invested \$4.5 million. This year we expect to do even better," said McLeod. "It shows we are doing something right."

The folks at CCDF are doing many things right. They have only a two per cent writeoff on bad investments. Most banks and developmental lenders would love to have that number.

"Other lending institutions are very envious of that. It shows that we have a close working relationship with our clients. They want to repay the money so we can lend it out to someone else," added McLeod.

Meyers Norris Penney recently completed a thorough review of the Fund.

"The report spoke highly of us," said Fund Manager Roland Duplessis. "That report led to the extra \$1.4 million this year, but it also identified we would need even more dollars if the trends continue. The demand is fantastic right now and has led to the opening of a second location in Regina, the creation of five new jobs as well as the intended expansion of our building in Saskatoon. We also expect to make a major announcement in the next couple few weeks that will really be groundbreaking."

The Fund, since its inception in 1997, has provided over \$28 million in funding to Métis businesses and leveraging \$95 million in conventional financing and helped create or secure well over 1,700 direct jobs. The Fund has helped with investments at the Back to Batoche site as well. With over \$1 million in funding from CCDF in the past several years, the site now has more cabins, electrified sites, two kitchens and also some much needed



BOB McLEOD

operating dollars.

"Imagine what we can do with Métis businesses in the North if the forestry industry fires up again," speculated McLeod.

"When we do well as Métis businesses, the whole province does well. These Métis businesses are paying taxes and creating jobs and wealth for everyone. We are helping Métis citizens.

"They come in the door with an idea, we assist them with a professional business plan, and before long a new business in the province is up and running," says McLeod.



Employment Opportunity

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund is now accepting applications for the following position:

Business Development Specialist

Responsibilities:

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) is looking for the appropriate candidate to fill the position of Business Development Specialist to be located in either its Saskatoon or Regina office. Reporting to the Business Development Manager, this position will be responsible for an investment portfolio and will be expected to provide a high level of customer service to new and existing commercial clients. The candidate will be responsible for initial client contact, due diligence, credit submissions and recommendations, document preparation, loan disbursement and collection. A detailed job description will be provided to acceptable candidates prior to the initial interview.

Qualifications:

The candidate must possess a high degree of commercial lending experience and have a thorough understanding of financial statement analysis. The position also requires a self-starter with superior written and verbal communication skills. In addition, the Business Development Specialist must have a sound understanding of other service delivery agencies in the province and the different programs and services they provide. Understanding of Métis culture and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan would be a definite asset.

Preference for this position will be given to Métis applicants.

The Organization:

More information can be obtained by visiting our website at www.clarencecampeau.com.

Start Date: Negotiable

Location: Saskatoon and Regina

Salary: Negotiable based on qualifications and experience

Deadline for receipt of applications: April 23, 2010

Please submit your resume and cover letter by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Attention: Business Development Manager

Clarence Campeau Development Fund

2158 Airport Drive

Saskatoon Saskatchewan, S7L 6M6

Fax: (306) 657-4890

E-mail: info@clarencecampeau.com



Employment Opportunity

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund is now accepting applications for the following position:

Administrative Assistant

Responsibilities:

The Clarence Campeau Development Fund (CCDF) is looking for the appropriate candidate to fill the position of Administrative Assistant to be located in its Saskatoon Head Office. Reporting to the Business Development Manager, this position will be responsible for normal reception duties including greeting clients, telephone answering, file maintenance and the general organization of the clerical area. A detailed job description will be provided to acceptable candidates prior to the initial interview.

Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will have formal training and experience in general office administration. Experience working in a risk environment and a basic understanding of lending and collection procedures would be an asset. Exceptional verbal and written communication skills are necessary for this position, as is the ability to work in a team environment under significant time constraints. Applicants are required to have a good working knowledge of Microsoft Office with an emphasis on Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Understanding of Métis culture and the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan would be a definite asset.

Preference for this position will be given to Métis applicants.

The Organization:

More information can be obtained by visiting our website at www.clarencecampeau.com.

Start Date: Negotiable

Location: Saskatoon

Salary: Negotiable based on qualifications and experience

Deadline for receipt of applications: April 16th, 2010

Please submit your resume and cover letter by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Attention: Business Development Manager

Clarence Campeau Development Fund

2158 Airport Drive

Saskatoon Saskatchewan, S7L 6M6

Fax: (306) 657-4890

E-mail: info@clarencecampeau.com

Raccoons survived in latest story from Drew Hayden Taylor

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Ojibway author Drew Hayden Taylor says it was never his intention to write a book about the trickster legend, Nanabush.

But, that's just what happened in his latest book, *Motorcycles & Sweetgrass*. The story, which came from a play he'd written years ago and put on a shelf, focuses on a stranger who rides into a quiet Anishnabe reserve on a motorcycle and creates some adventure for the people living there. There is also a band of marauding raccoons.

Taylor says while many people revile the rodent, raccoons hold a special place in his heart. He even feeds them outside his home in the country.

"They're so adorable to watch. They've got these wonderful fingers, five fingers, and absolutely beautiful face. I absolutely love them. And, there is a startling intelligence behind those eyes that I wanted to use. And, because of the mischief raccoons can get into, sometimes they can almost seem vindictive, and I thought that might be an interesting aspect to approach them through in the novel."

After Taylor wrote the first draft, he fully expected his editors to tell him "cut the raccoons." He was pleasantly surprised when they told him they wanted more of the curious creature.

The main character of the book, John, is as mischievous as the raccoons, and Taylor says readers should pay close attention to his various last names. There



Drew Hayden Taylor says he has a great love of raccoons despite what the public may think of the mischievous rodents. Raccoons are front and centre in his latest book, *Motorcycles & Sweetgrass*.

are around a dozen of them.

"Each one has a history either literary or historical. I decided I had to give the grad students something to research," he jokes.

Without giving away the ending, one of the quotes used by the main character, John, near the end of the book is "there are no such things as dead ends. Only people who find dead ends."

Taylor says it's a saying he believes himself.

It also leaves the book open to a sequel, something Taylor hasn't decided if he'll write.

But if he does, he says he will follow in the steps of his inspiration Tomson Highway, who has two plays with the trickster, one in which Nanabush is a female and one where he is male. Taylor says that's in line with most Indigenous cultures where there is no gender distinction for subjects.

"So if I did another one of these, I might just have to make John into Joanne."



2010 SUMMER EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



The City of Saskatoon in partnership with the Gabriel Dumont Institute, Saskatchewan Tribal Councils has developed the following 2010 Summer Employment Opportunities for First Nations and Métis applicants. Please declare yourself on your application.

ME TA WE TAN SUMMER CULTURAL PROGRAM LEADERS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Plan, organize, and direct sport and recreational activities for children and youth at the playgrounds, youth centres and Aboriginal organizations city wide. This includes specialization in the Aboriginal cultural programs in, sports, games, arts & crafts, Tipi Teachings & Tipi Raising, Hoop Dance and other cultural activities. Traditional knowledge is required in program planning and implementation. Training is provided. Must have experience working with Aboriginal children, youth and adults.

QUALIFICATIONS: Preference is given to applicants with one year's post-secondary education in the Recreation/Leisure, Physical Education, Early Childhood Development, Education, or a related field. Experience working with children and possession of a valid first aid certificate and a Criminal Record Check is required. A valid CPR Level C certificate is preferred, and have a valid driver's licence.

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: June 21 to August 19, 2010.

HOURS OF WORK: Hours of work vary depending on work assignment; evening work is required.

SALARY: \$13.97 per hour (2009 rate).

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for a cultural program leader is Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:

For further information, please contact Warren Isbister at 975-7813.

SUMMER CULTURAL PROGRAM COORDINATOR

RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise, coordinate, and administer the Me Ta We Tan Summer Cultural Program. Supervision includes evaluating the performance of Me Ta We Tan Summer Cultural Leaders, as well as the Weekend Paddling Pool Attendants and the development of Aboriginal Youth Leadership Camps.

QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from a recognized two-year, post-secondary Recreation diploma program or a degree in Recreation Administration, Kinesiology, Physical Education, or Leisure Studies. One year's experience related to playground or youth centre programs is preferred. Possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate and a valid CPR Level C is required.

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: May 26 up to August 25, 2010.

HOURS OF WORK: Hours of work vary depending on work assignment; evening work is required.

SALARY: \$3,222.50 per month (2009 rate).

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for a Summer Cultural Program Coordinator is Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:

For further information, please contact Warren Isbister at 975-7813.

ACTIVITY LEADER - WEEKEND PADDLING POOL ATTENDANTS

RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise children attending the paddling pool site and maintain a safe, hazard-free and clean activity area at the paddling pool. Provide excellent customer service to the public.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicants must be at least 16 years old and have completed Grade 10. One year's related experience (volunteer or work) monitoring or leading recreational activities is required. Possession of a valid Standard First Aid Certificate and valid CPR Level C Certificate is required.

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: From June 25 to August 15, 2010

HOURS OF WORK: Saturday and Sunday 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

SALARY: \$12.23 per hour (2009 rate).

Deadline to apply to Human Resources for a weekend paddling pool attendant is Friday, May 14, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

NOTE:

All successful candidates will require a positive Criminal Record Check prior to offer of employment.

Please forward, in confidence, a detailed resume for the above listed positions to Human Resources, City of Saskatoon, 222 Third Avenue North, Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5; Fax (306) 975-3073; Email: careers@saskatoon.ca



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Saskatooncoop.hr@sasktel.net



Tracey George with model Nathan Sinclair in Vancouver at the festival.

(Photo by Luis Valdizon)

Timeless Shadows turned the spotlight on prairie fashions at the Olympics in Vancouver

By Jennifer Dubois
For Eagle Feather News

People from all parts of the world flocked to Vancouver for the 2010 Olympics. This gave Tracey George the opportunity to display her unique Aboriginal Clothing line, Timeless Shadows.

George won a clothing design competition and was welcomed to the 9th Annual Talking Stick Festival, February 21 – 28. The festival introduced the Aboriginal culture and arts to visitors during the Olympics.

George believes that First Nation people from the prairies are unique when it comes to style.

“Haida art is out there mostly and I feel there is definitely a need in showcasing designs from the prairies. We have so many different nations in the prairies,” she said.

George has experience designing clothing for over 30 years. Her expertise and traditional values shows in her work.

Her strong ties to her own culture make her clothing line that much more meaningful to her.

“I think that is why the powwow is so valuable, and it’s important to hold onto that. When you look back, the fur trade showcased who they were. They had apparel and I feel like we are going back in that direction and we will be able to show who we are,” she said.

To George the festival meant more than just showcasing her work.

“It was in a lot of ways, an affirmation of what I am doing. It was an honour to be in that circle” George said.

George established Timeless Shadows over 15 years ago. She hopes to be designing her unique traditional/contemporary custom cloths for as long as it is needed.

“I think we are naturally artistic, we have items and we beautify them and I don’t think that is going anywhere and as long as people love art, I think I will always have a job,” George said.



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- ✓ Provide access to **investment expertise & due diligence processes** from leading industry professionals, and
- ✓ Engage industry partners and professional service providers to facilitate the completion of **investment transactions** in the energy and resource sectors in Saskatchewan.

For More information on BRIDG and how your community can be involved please visit:

www.westcapmgt.ca,
Or call
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Young hockey player's dream unfolding

It has been nine years since he first stepped onto the ice and discovered this would be his passion.

Wynter Cyr, a 14-year-old member of the Pasqua First Nation, in southern Saskatchewan, will travel to Prague, in the Czech Republic, this month, to play hockey for Team Western Canada Selects for the second year in a row. In 2009, he played for the same team, bringing home the gold medal winning over top European teams from Sweden, Czech Republic, and Finland.

Cyr has played both winter and summer hockey for various teams throughout Saskatchewan and has already accumulated a number of achievements in his budding hockey career. He has played league, AA or AAA hockey for Fort Qu'Appelle Falcons,

Weyburn Young Fellows, Milestone Flyers, Saskatoon Hustlin' Huskies and Jr. Blades, Lumsden Lions, Regina Sask Grawl and Jr. Pats, Saskatchewan Black Hawks, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Winter Games Teams and others.

Cyr has played in many tournaments throughout the prairie provinces accumulating a number of medals, trophies and awards. He has played against teams from across Canada and the USA in these tournaments.

As a member of Team Western Canada Selects 2010, he will once again play top European teams from



Not only is Wynter Cyr making a name for himself on the ice, he's already an accomplished rancher at age 14.

The Czech Republic, Sweden, Finland, and others.

Cyr gives credit to many of his coaches who have taught him and helped him develop his hockey skills over the years. Even those dreaded figure eights.

And, he doesn't forget the many hours his family has spent in the rinks, the early hours or the late nights, and the many miles traveled.

Dreaming of greater hockey achievements, his hope is to play in the NHL, as is many a young boy's wish. But, he says he will see where this road takes him.

Cyr was honored to meet NHL hockey player Fred Sasakamoose at a fundraiser in Saskatoon in 2008. The "Golden Jet" Bobby Hull was in attendance and watched one of Cyr's games in February 2010, when The Lumsden Lions (who Wynter plays for) versus Yorkton.

Cyr takes pride in knowing that he is related to Bill LeCaine who played NHL hockey for the Pittsburgh Penguins 1968-1969.

A Grade 8 student at the Bert Fox Community High School in Fort Qu'Appelle, Cyr maintains very good grades in his classes. He is an active participant in school activities, track and field, and long distance running.

More recently Cyr has qualified for the Youth Livestock Program through the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation and will purchase about nine head of bred cows.

This will add to his previous purchase of two cows. Under the mentorship of his father, Everett Pinay, Cyr plans to develop and gradually expand his herd.

He has actively participated in the various farming operations and activities with his dad and grandparents on the Pinay family farm on the Peepeekisis First Nation since he was very young.

Actively ranching, school and sporting activities will provide him with a good foundation to his future.

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— CANDACE WASACASE-LAFFERTY,
Consultant, Human Resources

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Charlene found support with Harmony Song

“Get up and walk your life” were words from her grandfather which Charlene (pseudonym used to protect identity) took to heart. The meaning of these few words was clear; no one could do her healing for her; it was something that she had to do for herself.

During her 18 years in Saskatoon, Charlene has made a healing journey along with achievements such as completing an education and raising a family. With grounding in First Nations cultural values, Charlene maintained a strong sense of self along the way.

Seeking to make a home in Saskatoon in the early 1990s, Charlene was in search of places and programs with a First Nations focus.

She first came to Tamara’s House when the agency was located on Fairlight Drive and utilized the Drop-in Healing Centre.

At the time there were only a few programs for First Nations women offered in the city so she sometimes felt something was missing for her.

With the creation of the Harmony Song Project in 2002, Charlene found a place where she could feel at home. She began attending the program regularly at Tamara’s House now located on Victoria Avenue.

In the beginning, she joined the Healing Circles facilitated by Elder Maria Linklater, who began the ceremonies with an opening prayer.

Charlene appreciated the importance and significance given to ceremonies in the Healing Circles. She was able to recognize and relate to the way ceremonies had been held in her home community.

From the Healing Circles, Charlene branched out to attend other Harmony Song activities such as



Val Metsikassus presented flowers to Elder Maria Linklater in appreciation of her work in the Harmony Song program.

retreats, Full Moon ceremonies, Sweat-lodge ceremonies and trips to Prairie Chicken and Sun Dances.

Charlene appreciated the programs offered by Harmony Song and the way in which the programs were facilitated noting.

“You are allowed to tell your story the way you see it and understand it, the way you remember it, without interruptions,” she explains.

Harmony Song also acknowledged milestones of healing with personal celebrations such as birthdays and self-care sessions

Charlene also appreciated the

knowledge of First Nations dynamics and history.”

She also appreciated that she had something in common.

“They had similar backgrounds and education ... you didn’t have to explain yourself. I really feel at home here, can be myself.”

For Charlene, Harmony Song provided holistic healing that was grounded in cultural ceremonies and teachings.

The programs addressed the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical needs of the person, providing one-on-one support, Elder support, ceremonies and supportive healing circles.

Most of all Harmony Song programs have given Charlene awareness of how she could make changes in her life.

“I learned to trust in myself and in others and be able to share my experiences. Healing is happening here.”

To give thanks to all First Nations women survivors for accessing services sponsored by Aboriginal Healing Foundation and Tamara’s House, Harmony Song held a Round Dance, Thursday, March 25 at White Buffalo Youth Lodge.

knowledge of Harmony Song staff commenting, “Staff were well-educated, well-rounded with

“At SIAST, I’m proud to help bring technical training to developing countries.”
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equity



Eve Kotyk, Collections Manager at the Mendel, shows some of the art that is in the vault. This piece is worth over \$2 million. The art has to be kept at 19 Cand with a humidity level of 43 per cent or it gets damaged. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Mendel jammed to the roof

The Mendel Art Gallery had every media outlet in Saskatoon tour their building in early April. In order to ensure they could handle the media, they had to schedule them one at a time. Such is the case when you are dealing with an old building that the gallery outgrew a decade ago.

Crammed into receiving rooms and other corners, new exhibits wait piled up while old exhibits are torn down. To accommodate show changes, the Mendel has to close its doors for days ... something no other major gallery in Canada does.

"We have simply outgrown the usefulness of this building," said Vincent Varga, Mendel's executive director and CEO.

"We have trouble switching shows, but our staff are ingenious when it comes to making it work. They had to take Junior the Bison up to the second floor loading dock to get him in here. There was no

other way."

Junior is a 2,600 pound bison who is part of a show by Adrian Stinson that opens this month. The Mendel also has some serious storage issues. They have almost 6,000 pieces of art in their vault and in offsite storage ... art that is worth almost \$14 million.

"When we get a new gallery, we can show all of this amazing work," added Varga.

And the Gallery can accommodate the huge demand for its services. In 2009, the Gallery had over 171,000 visitors and has many partnerships with schools to supply art programs.

"Mr. (Fred) Mendel donated to the Gallery an extensive collection of art and we want to honour him with a Mendel Gallery at our future location on River Landing.

"We want to display all of our treasures for everyone to appreciate."



Junior the giant bison sits forlornly in his crate crammed into a receiving room at the Mendel. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Winter Games athletes participated in curling at the Granite Curling Club in Saskatoon. (Photo by Marcel Petit)



Golfers relax after a round at Dakota Dunes Golf Club near Saskatoon.

Scoles preparing to dust off the golf clubs

The smell of spring is in the air and the Toronto Maple Leafs are out of the playoffs again, and for many, that means it is time to blow the dust off the golf clubs and hit the links.

A popular men's and women's club has been developing for the last four years at the Dakota Links Golf Course outside of Saskatoon.

Ernie Scoles is president of the club and has done much to enhance the experience of the members.

"We make sure, as a board, to have lots of fun social activities and spectacular prizes for the people who join," said Scoles, himself an avid golfer and supporter of golf tournaments and junior golf.

"Of course, it is mostly about the friends you make and the good times spent golfing on this beautiful course."

Mike Jacobs, club pro, is excited about the upcoming year at the Dunes.

"Twenty-ten once again looks to be a

promising year for the Dakota Dunes," said Jacobs. "The Saskatchewan Open will be undergoing a name change and will now be known as the Dakota Dunes Casino Open."

"We are also excited about the Mens/Ladies League committee seeing the return of Ernie Scoles and Janet Lafond, along with last year's committee members Debra Laliberte and Lorne Binsfeld. They do good work and have a strong group of golfers."

Last year Tim Cuthbert and Pat Caron secured the Men's and Ladies league championships. Scoles intends to challenge this year, even though he recently suffered a serious injury from some broken glass in his art store.

"I nicked an artery and it bled pretty bad," said Scoles. But to the relief of his friends and fans, it will not slow him down. "I am off to go ski, then we start golfing."

For more info on the League, email Ernie at scoles@sasktel.net

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SaskTel

Hosting Winter Games a major undertaking for Tribal Council

• Continued from Page One

The logistics of the event are hard to imagine. Try bunking up 3,500 athletes, then add in coaches, support staff and volunteers and you have a lot on your plate. Then you have to feed them, move them around the city and entertain them when they aren't playing. The task was up to the organizing committee led by co-chairs Mark Arcand and Saskatoon Tribal Council Vice Chief Geraldine Arcand.

"We could not have done this without our sponsors and volunteers," said Mark Arcand.

"They really stepped up to the plate and made this all possible."

This year, both Saskatoon Public and Catholic School Boards donated in-kind services. Those services were the use of schools to house and feed the students as well as venues for badminton and volleyball. The youth were put up on bunk beds or cots.

Mel Mercredi, FSIN director of sports, who, according to his own research is the world's fastest Dene auctioneer, had dreams of foam rolls, bunk beds and logistics because of all the worry.

To thank the sponsors, the organizing committee held a banquet at the Dakota Dunes Casino. A fine feast it was, topped off with speeches by former NHLers Scott Daniels and Theo Fleury and CIS basketball star and former First Nations games competitor Mike Linklater.

All three stars had jerseys to auction off



Assembly of First Nations Chief Sean Atleo busts a move during the opening ceremonies of the Winter Games while Theo Fleury busts a gut.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

as part of the fundraising for the game. Linklater's game worn jersey earned over \$500 at auction.

For Mark Arcand, the hard work and months of planning has really paid off.

"The Games have been a huge success," said Arcand, speaking on his cellphone, even as he multitasked and coached STC youth in badminton on the final day of competition.

"I believe, with the media partners we had with Shaw TV interviewing youth and broadcasting it, and CTV at the opening ceremonies and the coverage we received

in the papers, we really took the awareness of the event outside of our own community to another level."

The Games truly are about the youth, and there were many events to keep them occupied.

"We held a teen dance at the Exhibition hall and we had over 2,000 people there. The youth also had a swimming and movie night and a "So you think you're hot" contest and we gave away laptops and other prizes," added Arcand.

"We really focused on the youth experience and at the great venues, they were playing on centre court so everyone was

focused on the athletes and I hope it made them feel special. Let's just hope everyone gets home okay in this storm."

Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas puts the credit for the games on the volunteers, sponsors and the organizing committee.

"People really stepped up to the plate for this event," said Chief Thomas. "Over 150 volunteers made it happen. And our sponsors. Lots of sponsors contribute to events like the World Juniors because they get advertising from it," Thomas said.

• Continued on Page 28



Dolores Sand sang the national anthem in Cree to open the Winter Games in Saskatoon.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

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Winter Games provided economic boon for Saskatoon

• Continued from Page 27

“Here, the investment is done to make a difference in our kid’s lives. Not a lot of these kids will be buying their products, but the investment is in contributing to their development as athletes and people. They are building the next generation.”

The economic impact on the City of Saskatoon is expected to be over \$5.6 million, but Chief Thomas thinks it will be more.

“There is not a hotel room to be had in this city, and judging by the empty vending machines in every hotel, there are no chocolate bars left in town either,” he joked.

“But honestly, this event is about the young athletes and the relationships they create. That is what I will remember. I bet you there will be lots of Facebook additions after this.”

With that, Chief Thomas was off to navigate the icy roads en route to the closing ceremonies at Credit Union Centre.

“Now it feels like the Winter Games, too. Snowy and cold,” he said.

Because of printing timelines, we are unable to bring the final results in this edition. Please check our website at eagle-feathernews.com and our May edition for more photos and results.

Agency Chiefs Tribal Council defeated the Battleford Agency Tribal Council 3-2 in hockey action. Eekwol entertained at the opening ceremonies. Bunk beds lined the math hallway at Holy Cross High School. More than 3,000 athletes were bunked in Saskatoon for five nights.



Photo by Andr ea Ledding



Photo by Ted Whitecalf



Photo by John Lagimodiere



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Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



Tansi!

On behalf of the 74 Chiefs in Saskatchewan, the FSIN Executive, Senate, First Nations Veterans and staff, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations would like to thank the Saskatoon Tribal Council and the organizing committee for all the hard work in making the 2010 First Nation Winter Games a huge success!

Very special thanks to the hundreds of volunteers and to the sponsors who helped make the 2010 First Nation Winter Games a reality.

And to the 3,500 athletes and coaches who competed in the spirit of sportsmanship and good relations which is a fundamental principle in the development of our youth as they grow into future role models.

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Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas and Vice Chief Geraldine Arcand led the Saskatoon Tribal Council Chiefs and team into the arena at the Opening Ceremonies. (Left) Leading their badminton division at press time were Damon Nippi and Brandon Poorman, both of Yellowquill. 22 young athletes came from Yellowquill First Nations to compete. (Below) Johanna Nelson, Brittany Morin and Allanah McCallum of Team Woodland Cree turn to watch their teammate serve during their grueling 40-38 win over TATC. (Above) Saskatoon Tribal Council Chief Felix Thomas addressed the youth at the opening ceremonies.

(Photos by John Lagimodiere and Andr  a Ledding)





Cassandra Kawacatoose and Dihna Kehler of the Touchwood Agency Tribal Council prepare to return serve in their game against Team Woodland Cree. (Below) Elder Melvina Eagle and Monica Goulet of the Saskatoon Police Service welcome Laureen Harper to the Winter Games. The prime minister's wife stopped by Walter Murray Collegiate to bring greetings to the young athletes.

(Volleyball photo by John Lagimodiere, Harper photo supplied)



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GRAND ENTRY

FRIDAY - 8:00PM

SATURDAY - 1:00PM & 7:00PM

SUNDAY - 1:00PM

CATEGORIES

JUNIOR (7 - 12YRS)

1ST - \$200, 2ND - \$150, 3RD - \$100, 4TH - \$75, 5TH - \$50

JR. BOYS & GIRLS TRADITIONAL
JR. BOYS & GIRLS FANCY
JR. BOYS GRASS
JR. BOYS CHICKEN DANCE
JR. GIRLS JINGLE

TEEN (13 - 17YRS)

1ST - \$300, 2ND - \$250, 3RD - \$150, 4TH - \$100, 5TH - \$75

TEEN BOYS & GIRLS TRADITIONAL
TEEN BOYS & GIRLS FANCY
TEEN BOYS GRASS
TEEN BOYS CHICKEN DANCE
TEEN GIRLS JINGLE

JUNIOR ADULT (18 - 34YRS)

1ST - \$1000, 2ND - \$750, 3RD - \$400, 4TH - \$200, 5TH - \$100

JR. MEN'S & WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL
JR. MEN'S & WOMEN'S FANCY
JR. ADULT MEN'S GRASS
JR. ADULT MEN'S CHICKEN DANCE
JR. ADULT WOMEN'S JINGLE

SENIOR ADULT (35 - 54YRS)

1ST - \$1000, 2ND - \$750, 3RD - \$400, 4TH - \$200, 5TH - \$100

MEN'S & WOMEN'S TRADITIONAL
MEN'S & WOMEN'S FANCY
ADULT MEN'S GRASS
ADULT MEN'S CHICKEN DANCE
ADULT WOMEN'S JINGLE

GOLDEN AGE (55+YRS)

1ST - \$1000, 2ND - \$750, 3RD - \$400, 4TH - \$200, 5TH - \$100

MEN'S GOLDEN AGE TRADITIONAL & CHICKEN
MEN'S GOLDEN AGE GRASS/FANCY
LADIES GOLDEN AGE JINGLE/ OLD STYLE FANCY
LADIES GOLDEN AGE TRADITIONAL

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