

Eagle Feather NEWS

Free



Children in Saskatchewan's North were thrilled to receive a visit from Santa Claus thanks to Transwest Air.

Santa makes a quick visit to the North

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

Santa came early this year for nearly 1,600 children living in the province's far North. Not only did he come two weeks before Christmas, but he traded in his sleigh and reindeer for something much faster: a Saab twin turboprop aircraft.

It was the annual Santa Takes Flight by Transwest Air, a private airline company in Saskatchewan that specializes in flying to northern communities, many of whom actually own some of the planes and lease them back to the company.

For the past nine years, Transwest has loaded up its plane with gifts bought by itself and some sponsors, 'Santa's helpers' (Transwest's staff), and the media to deliver presents to the children in the Athabasca region.

This year the group traveled to Wollaston Lake, Fond du Lac, Stony Rapids, and Black Lake.

Santa first arrived to a packed gym at Wollaston, where there were more than 400 children and their parents eagerly awaiting his arrival. They sang Christmas carols until they heard Santa's famous belly laugh, "Ho, ho, ho!"

Santa was also treated to some youngsters singing Oh Come All Ye Faithful in Dene.

The fact that Santa has visited her community for nine years is not lost on Hatchet Lake First Nation Chief Rosalie Tsannie-Burseth.

• Continued on Page 13



Twenty-month-old Kaylan Tsannie from Wollaston Lake lets Santa in on her Christmas wish list.



Santa arrives at his first stop up north at Wollaston Lake.
(Photos by Darla Read)



INSIDE



FIGHTING RACISM
A new organization, Sasipenita, has been formed to combat racism in the province.
- Page 3



WORKING FOR WOMEN
Bev Jacobs, president of NWAC has earned a Governor-General's Award.
- Page 6



POLICE SERVICE HONOUR
Saskatoon's Police Service has been honoured by the FSIN.
- Page 10



NAAA AWARD
Rev. Stan Cuthand will be honoured for a lifetime of achievement.
- Page 12



LITERARY GIANTS
Maria Campbell was the guest speaker at the Sask. Book Awards.
- Page 20

Welcome to our
Christmas Edition
Coming In January:
A Look Back at 2008
CPMA #40027204

Season's Greetings

Wishing you peace, joy, health and happiness



Your Saskatoon NDP MLAs are on your side and working for you.

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Cam Broten
Saskatoon Massey Place
(306) 384-7200 | Pat Atkinson
Saskatoon Nutana
(306) 664-6101 | Frank Quennell
Saskatoon Meewasin
(306) 651-3581 | David Forbes
Saskatoon Centre
(306) 244-3555 | Judy Junor
Saskatoon Eastview
(306) 477-4233 | Andy Iwanchuk
Saskatoon Fairview
(306) 651-3801 | Lorne Calvert
Saskatoon Riversdale
(306) 651-1211 |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|



Bad credit?
No credit?
Owe too much on your car?
No problem!



2004 Mazda 3
\$111 BI-WEEKLY



2003 Honda Civic
\$99 BI-WEEKLY



2004 Ford Freestar
\$94 BI-WEEKLY



2004 Chevrolet Cavalier
\$61 BI-WEEKLY



2006 Pontiac G5
\$77 BI-WEEKLY



2003 Ford Windstar
\$77 BI-WEEKLY

WITH EVERY PURCHASE RECEIVE

\$500.00

CASH JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS!



Contact Randy Racz or Chris!
www.firstnationsfinance.com
1-877-866-2767

Sasipenita to combat racism

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

Dignitaries and community leaders joined honorary chairman Gordon Tootoosis and provincial Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations June Draude in sharing their vision: a traveling exhibit celebrating the contributions, achievements, and strengths of First Nations and Métis people.

To be known as Sasipenita, the fledgling organization held a fundraising banquet in late November in Saskatoon.

“Our goal is to raise \$1.6 million in the next five years,” said Becky Sasakamoose Kuffner, who is the Coordinator for Saskatoon’s Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee, and chair of the Sasipenita Board.

“We plan to have it hit the road in 2013.”

Their hope is to have a premier national or even international exhibit, combining visuals, text, multi-media and artifacts to create a hands-on experience which engages and educates. By appealing to many learning styles and making history come alive, the goal is to promote understanding and respect for First Nations and Métis people and ultimately reduce racism.

Gordon Tootoosis was suggested as honorary chair given his accomplishments and advocacy of native rights, Kuffner said. A recipient of the Order of Canada, like his father and sister, Tootoosis has credits as an artist, a band chief, and a veteran actor sharing the screen with such luminaries as Brad Pitt and Sir Anthony Hopkins.

“I’m proud to be involved in this,” Tootoosis said, adding he’d be trying to make every meeting. “I experience racism still – especially in Saskatchewan. It’s one of the biggest heartaches – but I understand it.”

And, hopefully, understanding is what will ultimately eliminate the roots of racism. As First Nations contributions are brought forth to unlearn stereotypes, build community, and restore and enhance pride in First Nations and Métis communities by “telling their stories”, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginals will increase awareness of their shared and individual histories.

The inspiration for Sasipenita came after the success of the Anne Frank Exhibit in 2005, which broke at-

tendance records at the Diefenbaker Centre. Many organizations and individuals, including Monica Goulet as part of Saskatoon’s Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee, supported the Frank Exhibit. Making an exhibit for the First Nations peoples in the wake of events like the Starlight tours and the disappearances and murders of Aboriginal women and children seemed a logical next step.

Goulet suggested the name “Sasipenita” for the interactive exhibit.

In her regional dialect of Swampy Cree, it means “never give up” – or, “to get back up after being knocked down.” Goulet is one of about 20 board members, including representatives from both school boards, the Western Development Museum, the City of Saskatoon, and the University of Saskatchewan.

“This is an important initiative for our city and our province,” said keynote speaker June Draude, pledging support from the provincial government.

“We need to stop racism and the shadow it casts.”

Draude noted that when the devastating impact of the holocaust was highlighted in the Frank exhibit, many thoughts turned to the Aboriginal people in the province.

“The more we understand each other the harder it is for racism to thrive,” said Draude, citing a 2005 race relations survey where 70 per cent had observed acts of racism against First Nations people.



BECKY SASAKAMOOSSE KUFFNER

“We need to eliminate misconceptions regarding the treaties, and understand the sacredness.”

Mandatory treaty education has been one provincial priority – Bill McKnight was present from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner. McKnight noted that fulfilling the treaties means bringing about understanding, harmony and opportunity; the two signatories of the treaties meant that all would benefit as treaty people, living together, sharing land and livelihood.



Becky Sasakamoose Kuffner, Michael Bantjes, Dianne Craig, Gordon Tootoosis, Monica Goulet, Shannon Loutitt and Dana Soonias of the Sasipenita board. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

GREAT WEST WAREHOUSE

Find that perfect gift while you explore three floors of quality new and used FURNITURE, BEDS, ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, IMPORTS, HOTEL DISPERSALS AND MORE!

329 – 20TH STREET WEST, SASKATOON
652-8444 greatwestwarehouse.com

Season's Greetings!

On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and AFN Regional Chiefs, I hope you enjoy a happy and festive holiday season.

May the Creator keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy throughout the New Year.

Phil Fontaine
National Chief

The Assembly of First Nations is the national organization representing First Nations citizens in Canada.

473 Albert Street, Suite 810,
Ottawa ON K1R 5B4
Tel: (613) 241-6789
Toll-free: 1-866-869-6789
Fax: (613) 241-5808
www.afn.ca

Seasons Greetings

From all of us at
Eagle Feather NEWS



Editorial

Plenty to be grateful for in 2008

November was a rather uplifting month. Not necessarily because it is just before December and Christmas, but because of what I witnessed. Many of our people were honoured in for their participation in the community, primarily in the sports world.

Elder and veteran Tony Cote, the grandfather of the First Nation Winter and Summer Games was awarded the Order of Saskatchewan, our province's highest honour. He received the honour because of his lifelong commitment to youth through developing programs and infrastructure for them around sports.

Who, as a kid did, not like sports? The teamwork that built you up and the teammates who became lifelong friends. The fun travel to a tournament. Getting better and mastering a move. The feeling of accomplishment you get from being healthy and successful.

Who, as a youth, once they went away from sports, began to smoke, drink, do drugs and hang out and break things? Lots of us have. It is proven that sports can keep youth on the good track. Folks like Tony Cote knew that and he did what he did and has been rewarded.

Eugene and Lorna Arcand also understand the importance of sport for youth. Both of them were entered into the North American Indigenous Games Hall of Fame this summer in Cowichan B.C. Eugene and Lorna have been involved in NAIG since it's inception in 1990 and have done remarkable things for the Games and for the thousands of youth who have benefited from the programs they have established. The community took time in November to honour them, laugh with them, and to present them with Star Blankets as a small sign of our gratitude for all their hard work. A very deserving couple indeed.

Then the Regina Pats host a First Nation and Métis Awareness night at the Brandt Centre. Events included hoop dancing at centre ice, the national anthem in Cree by the beautiful and talented Stacey Cyr, First Nation politicians at centre ice and hockey legends Reggie Leach and Freddie Sasakamoose in attendance. The place was electric and packed with Indians. Very cool.

And then we get a press release from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation announcing that six of the 14 recipients in 2009 are from Saskatchewan or have a strong connection to our territory. They are Dennis Jackson from Peter Ballantyne and Melanie Jackson from Sakimay, the creative and award winning duo behind Wapos Bay. There is journalist Carol Morin, originally from Sandy Bay, who is now with CBC in the Territories. Delia Opekokew from Canoe Lake Cree nation was named in the Law category. Dr Cecil King, originally from Wikwemikong, but well known for his work at the Indian Federated College in Saskatoon is also named. And last but not least, we have Elder Stan Cuthand from Little Pine who is receiving the Lifetime Achievement award.

This kind of news allows all residents of Saskatchewan to puff their chests out a little bit more. We have so much to be thankful for in the province. Yes we do have many challenges, but as we all work together to create solutions to our problems, the province grows together collectively.

And believe me, the list of leaders and achievers above is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to people making a difference in the First Nation and Métis communities of Saskatchewan and beyond. 2008 was a great year. There is every indication that 2009 will be better.

Believe it. Merry Christmas.

Coming next in Eagle Feather News

We have a few changes in store for the paper in January. It will still be recognizable, but due to changes at our printers, we have to change the size of Eagle Feather News just a wee tiny bit. The advantages we get from this change will be many.

First it will allow us to access many more pages of colour. That will make the paper even more attractive and readable and allow our advertisers more options when it comes to colorizing their ads.

Secondly, we will be saving some trees. By shaving an inch and a half off of ten thousand copies a month, there is actually a good amount of tree hugging that we are encouraging. Our forests will be grateful.

Of course we will still have our awesome array of columnists and stories to keep you enthralled, just be warned that their photos will now be in colour.

On behalf of all of us at Eagle Feather News, thanks for sticking with us as we go and grow and we wish all of our readers a fine and fancy, family filled holiday. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper confers with Saskatoon Mayor Don Atchison earlier this year during a visit to Saskatchewan. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Harper Newsmaker of the Year

Well, it was kind of an easy pick this year to decide on Newsmaker of the Year. We entered 2008 with Stephen Harper as our prime minister, leading over a raucous House of Commons that was split down ideological lines and split by hate and mistrust.

Just the kind of atmosphere you don't want in government, especially one that is in a minority government.

But at least the parliamentary system was working and we could trust the system somewhat. There was also lots of pressure on Prime Minister Harper to apologize for the Indian Residential Schools. Settlement money had been flowing, but without an apology, it was just money.

Finally on June 10, 2008, Stephen Harper stood in the House of Commons and made an official apology to the Aboriginal people of Canada. He was followed by the leaders of every major political party in Canada. Each and every one of those apologies was from the heart and sincere.

Then, for the first time in history, the leaders of the six major Aboriginal groups in Canada were allowed to address the House of Commons. It was an historic and moving day.

Then Stephen manufactured turmoil in the House of Commons and said that the atmosphere had become so sour, that the government couldn't function and that he had to call an election, even though he had already passed a law setting an election date a couple years into the future.

Pundits say he called the election because he figured the Liberals were weak and he could form a majority government and rule for four more years.

So we had a \$300 million election that nobody wanted and Prime Minister Harper was re-elected with a 'strong' minority government. The Liberals were decimated under the bumbling Stephan Dion, the NDP made gains, but not enough and the Bloc grew in spite of the Conservatives.

After the election Harper talked of statesmanship and working with the other parties for the betterment of Canada, especially in these tough economic times.

Then in his economic update, Harper tried to sell an ideologically driven bit of clap trap that would bankrupt the Liberals and force the NDP to change their ideologies.

He also forgot to address the economic crisis. What a mess and what a stupid political move. This will soon cost him his job, hopefully.

In reaction, the NDP and Liberals formed a coalition that was propped up by the Bloc and they threatened to topple the government at the earliest opportunity.

This was a gong show. Stephane Dion showed his incompetence; Jack Layton showed his opportunism and Gilles Duceppe got promises for a province that wants to destroy Canada.

Stephen Harper dropped the ball. His arrogance has set Canada back eons in governance, has threatened our economic stability, has upset our political process and almost saw us wind up with the bumbling Stephane Dion as Prime Minister and with Jack Layton as his right hand man. Imagine that.

We should fire them all.

Congratulations to Stephen Harper for almost wrecking our country and for being the Eagle Feather News Newsmaker of the Year.



Eagle Feather News
 (306) 978-8118 1-866-323 NEWS (6397) Fax (306) 978-8117

Publisher/Editor John Lagimodiere (306)651-1772 johnl@eaglefeathernews.com	Publications Mail Agreement No. 40027204
Associate Editor Warren Goulding warrengoulding@yahoo.ca	Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Circulation Dept.
Advertising Sales Faith McLean (306) 651-1776 mclean_f@shaw.ca	P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4

OSSN #1492-7497

Eagle Feather News is published monthly by ACS Aboriginal Consulting Services, P.O. Box 924 Saskatoon, SK S7K 3M4
 Subscription Rate on \$25 per year. No part of this publication may be reproduced either in part or in whole without the express written permission of the publisher.
 Disclaimer - Eagle Feather News hereby expressly limits its liability resulting from any and all misprints, errors, and/or inaccuracies whatsoever in advertisements or editorial content to the refund of the specific advertisement payment, and/or the running of a corrected advertisement or editorial correction notice. Contributing authors agree to indemnify and protect the publishers from claims or action regarding plagiarism.

Christmas traditions keep our families strong

We always hung up our socks on Christmas Eve. When I was a kid we didn't have fancy socks. We used those old grey work socks and pinned our names to the top of them to tell Santa which sock belonged to who.

First thing Christmas morning we raced to our socks and found all sorts of fun and useful goodies Santa left for us.

When I was 12 I stayed up late Christmas Eve helping Mom wrap presents. After everyone else went to bed she handed me some grocery bags, one for each member of our family, and she asked me to fill the socks.

By then I knew there really wasn't a big bellied white guy in a red suit flying around on a sled pulled by magical caribou giving presents to all the good little girls and boys in the world. So that Christmas Eve when mom passed me the bags of goodies for the socks, I teasingly said to her: "So, Santa Claus is really a single mom from Gordon's, eh?"

Mom smiled, then she told me a wonderful story about Saint Nicholas.

She said St. Nick was an old man who lived in northern Europe many centuries ago. Every Christmas Eve he

dressed up in his best winter clothes and delivered presents to each house in his village, making sure every child woke up to a present Christmas morning. Mom said this old man was poor but he had a kind heart and he worked and saved all year long to fill his bag full of presents for the children.

Everyone loved St. Nick and when he passed away the people in his village were very sad. As Christmas grew closer the people missed him even more because there was no one to take over his gift-giving tradition.

Then, that first Christmas Eve after St. Nicholas died, something magical happened. The spirit of St. Nicholas came back to the village and touched every single adult, filling them with joy and love for the children. The spirit of St. Nick filled all the adults and the next morning the children awoke to Christmas socks full of treats.

I told Mom it was a good story but I

didn't believe that the spirit of one man was whipping around the world filling adults with love and joy. What about all the kids who wake up to nothing Christmas morning and all the kids in the world who are starving?

Mom sat down on the floor beside me, put her arms around me and said "close your eyes." With my eyes closed and her arms around me she quietly whispered, "can you feel it yet?"

I remained quiet and she whispered again. "I feel it, I feel his spirit. Right now, this very minute I feel so much love for you kids. I believe that the spirit of St. Nick touches us all, if we are open to it. But we have to want his spirit touch us.

"That's why we put cookies out for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve," she said, "We're feeding his spirit and thanking him for blessing us with this wonderful tradition."

That made sense. I later learned this

was a Cree twist on a northern European story but it worked for our family.

Many years later when my daughter was eight years old, we couldn't get to Mom's on Christmas Eve. I didn't bother hanging our socks that night because we were heading to Mom's first thing Christmas morning. But my daughter insisted: "We gotta put our socks up, Mom, or Santa will miss us, and we just gotta put some food out for him, too!"

So we did. Christmas morning I was surprised to find my sock full of goodies. I looked at my little girl and she had a big smile on her face, then she waived her arms in the air and said, "did you feel him mommy? I did, I felt Santa Claus's spirit, he was here, and look what he left for us!"

Every family has their own Christmas traditions that we pass down to our children. Sometimes they seem silly or time consuming, but they are special. They are part of the bundle that keeps our families strong and keeps the memories alive of loved ones long gone.

From my family to yours, we wish you all a safe and joyful holiday.

And may you be blessed with good health, happiness and good luck in the new year.



Christmas Down Under evokes many thoughts

Christmas in Australia: This was the title of a chapter in my elementary school 'reader'. I thought of it when I heard that quite a few Canadian teachers are heading south to Aussie for a major conference on education and indigenous peoples in December.

Australia is a good place to spend Christmas if you like to open your presents on a hot summer day, the seasons Down Under being the opposite of ours.

I have spent many Christmases in the Land of Oz, and I spent much of the past year there. I was a Visiting Scholar at Australian National University in Canberra, the Australian capital city. My stint was at the National Centre for Indigenous Studies in the Faculty of Law at ANU.

It is easy to think about warm southern places as the ice on the lakes starts to get really solid up here. There is much to think about on indigenous issues in the Antipodes.

Australia did not enter into any treaties with the Aboriginal peoples. Nor did the English colonies that preceded the establishment of the new Australian Constitution in 1900. Six states united in a federal union with a central 'Commonwealth' government, the national government in Canberra. They united into one 'indissoluble' union. There is no room for negotiating separatism in the Australian Constitution.

Australia's neighbor, New Zealand, which lies three hours jet time southeast of Sydney over the Pacific Ocean, did enter into a treaty with the Aboriginal peoples there.

The first document was signed at Waitangi on the northeastern tip of Aotearoa, the Maori name for the country. It means 'Land of the Long White Cloud.' The Treaty of Waitangi of 1840 between the English and the indigenous peoples of New Zealand, or Maori, as they have come to be called, contains only three paragraphs. The legal and

political significance of the Tiriti o Waitangi is still an open question. The Maori side says that sovereignty, or 'tino rangatiratanga' was kept.

Meanwhile, back in the Land of Oz, the idea of a national Treaty was introduced into public debate a generation ago but it seems to be going nowhere.

It was only in the early 1990s that Australian law first recognized Aboriginal title in the famous Mabo case.

The decision caused a panic that can not be imagined from Canada. The government even set up a Mabo Hotline that panicky wealthy landowners, mining companies and the plain stupid could call for reassurance that their

property would not be snatched and handed over to the 'Abos'.

Of course, the response of the Commonwealth government was to pass a Native Title Act the size of a large truck. The Act ensures that land disputes provide a windfall for lawyers and interminable wrangling.

In this, Australia has caught up with its New Zealand neighbour's Waitangi Tribunal Act which is overloaded with a long list of cases that stretch into the Pacific sunset.

Treaty or no treaty, just as in Canada, all you need to stall real change is to create a way for the lawyers to tie up the process in cobwebs of legal argument.

Australia's relations with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters is a very unhappy story. The Aussie version of the Indian Residential Schools issue is called the Stolen Generations and can be viewed in part in the movie Rabbit Proof Fence which made its way to Canada quite a while ago.

Until its defeat in the national elections in November 2007, the right-wing Australian government of John Howard attacked Aboriginal rights, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was also rejected by the extremist Conservative government of

Stephen Harper (no relation to Elijah). The new Labour Party government of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has stated it will now sign the UN Declaration and Rudd issued an apology to the Stolen Generations on the second day in office.

Although Harper also issued an apology, Canada's backing of the UN Declaration most likely rests on prospects for a new government headed by someone else.

This, of course, looks more likely now than it did last month. Expect a January budget with stimulus for the economy.

Obama's goal of rebuilding America's inter-state freeways, which have fallen into dreadful disrepair, should be near the top of the list for Canada's infrastructure spending in recessionary times.

Is it not a great idea to replace our national Pot Hole Trail, which remains single lane in Western parts, with a real national highway?

But driving the highways at Christmas time in Western Canada is not a happy prospect.

Better to do that in Australia, where Santa is sometimes pictured on a snowboard, with his Santa Suit pants rolled up.

You never know where your thoughts may wander when you start thinking of being in warm places at Christmas time.

Merry Christmas.



The winter of addiction and the spring time of recovery

I am a recovering alcoholic. I live with regret for things I have said and done and I still mourn for the years lost in the fog of addiction. I cannot boast my recovery of 27 years has been by my willpower alone.

I am humbled by knowing something good and strong carried me.

Recovery is like climbing a mountain and watching the sun rise. It's hard work but work well worth the effort. My ongoing healing comes from facing some personal painful truths and in finding the inner beauty within myself and other people.

It was a year after quitting drinking that I experienced the most memorable

dream of my life. I dreamed I was walking in winter and the snow was deep. I came across a frozen slough where I stopped and stood. The trees were barren and there was no sound. The snow began to melt and green grass grew from a renewed earth.

The trees became thick with leaves and the boughs were filled with singing birds. I stood in clean clear water and before me floating were two sweetgrass braids. I saw myself walking cradling the sweetgrass in my arms. It seemed to me the long winter was over and a new life had begun.

There are so many people I have known who have died long before their time. There was the friend who buried his pain so deep within himself. He gave up his career in journalism and became a street person in Calgary. He froze to death drunk and alone.

I never knew what his life's story was but I know it was more than alcohol that killed him. There are the ones who committed suicide and those who died violently at the hands of another. It's all so depressing. Their life and death must mean something. It can not just be pain nor can they be forgotten. No human is disposable.

Native Addictions Awareness Week in Canada was held this past month. My First Nation held a banquet to honour those who don't drink or use drugs. I was invited and asked to sit with the Elders.

There were so many children. Some people found them noisy and annoying. I felt a little different. There are many children I counsel whose lives are full of fear and anger. They find it hard to laugh. The Little Pine's children's laughter was a joyful noise. It reminded me of my dream and the trees full of singing birds.

A Blackfoot Elder once told me laughter is a sign of a healthy family and is a good medicine in itself. My father also told me the strength of a grandparent is their grandchildren. Children are the hope of a people.

My wife and I were awarded a plaque simply saying: "In recognition of your journey to wellness NNADAP 2008." It meant a lot to me.

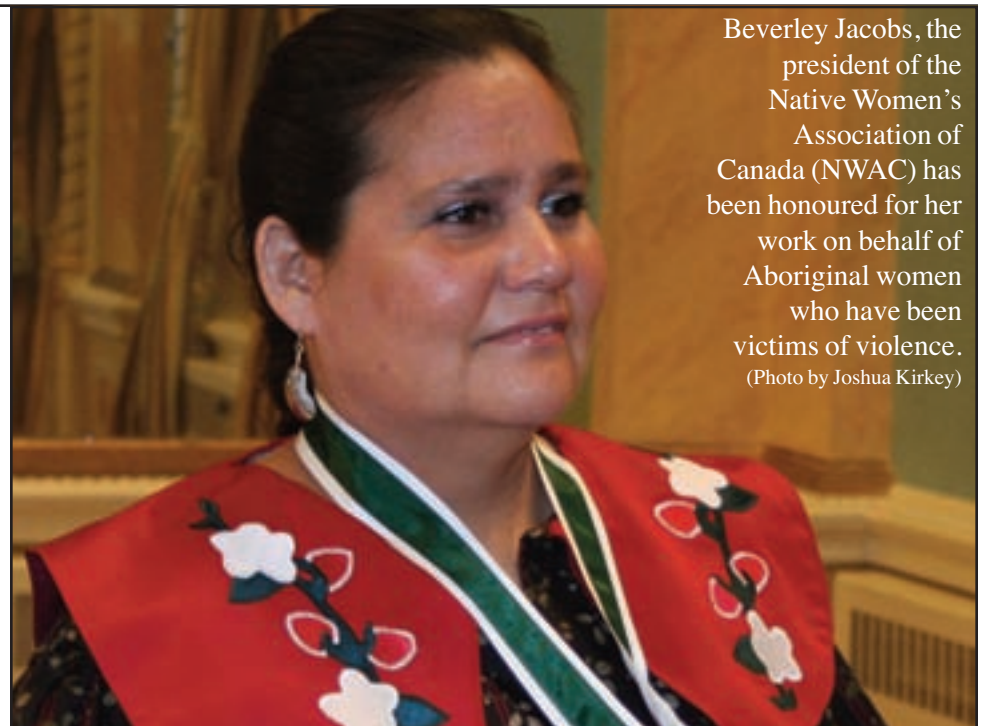
Many years ago when the smallpox epidemics hit the plains people hard, there were those here and there who survived. They were the ones who kept the Nations alive.

When winter came the people followed the buffalo north into the woods and shelter. It was there they hunted and held out during the hardest time of the year. When the buffalo died and the people took Treaty they moved back to their old winter camps. It is there, it may be said, they then held out through their longest and hardest winter lasting over a century and more.

It was nice to hear people speaking about the things that really matter in this life. People are finding their voice. There is so much that needs to be told. When we comfort one another we find we are not so alone after all.

Recovery is also not just about misery but about a renewed hope and a joy in living. I left with good feelings, grateful I had come.

I would also like to thank our NNADAP worker Jerry Sapp, the ladies who cooked the good meal and of course the Elders and Chief and Council. They are among the many good people who have and continue to make a difference.



Beverley Jacobs, the president of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) has been honoured for her work on behalf of Aboriginal women who have been victims of violence. (Photo by Joshua Kirkey)

Jacobs receives Governor-General's Award

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) President Beverley Jacobs was awarded the Governor General's Award in Commemoration of the Persons Case. The presentation took place in November at Rideau Hall, the residence of Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean. She is one of six receiving this award this year.

This prestigious award is presented annually to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of women. Jacobs, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada since October 2004, has worked tirelessly and traveled nationally and internationally to educate people about the most critical issues facing Aboriginal women.

"I am humbled to receive this award. It means a lot to me to know that the work I do to benefit all Aboriginal women is being recognized at such a high level," said Jacobs.

"To receive the same award that has been given to trailblazers before me such as Bertha Allen, Mary Two-Axe Early, and Sandra Lovelace Nicholas is a tremendous honour." She also accepted the award in honour and remembrance of the spirits of those Aboriginal sisters who are either missing or found murdered. With hope and determination, Beverley Jacobs will continue her mission as president of one of Canada's national Aboriginal organizations to raise awareness on the myriad of issues affecting Aboriginal women, rally citizens, and inspire young Aboriginal women.

Remembering Now and Forever

Saskatchewan's premiere memorial products and services.

- Serving First Nations, Métis and Inuit
- Veteran memorials
- Granite and bronze statuary
- Personalized design
- Cemetery planning, inscription and restoration
- Pre-need memorial arrangements
- Granite and fibreglass grave covers
- Granite, bronze and marble monuments
- Vases and other products
- Delivery and installation anywhere in Saskatchewan



AMI
MEMORIALS

In partnership with
REMCO
MEMORIALS LTD.

Joseph Bear, President
t 306.332.4551 • email joseph.bear@ami-memorials.com
www.ami-memorials.com
For an authorized memorial councillor
call toll free 1.866.408.6264

Aboriginal owned and operated

B.C.'s Westbank First Nation generous in sharing knowledge

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Ten years ago the Whitecap Dakota First Nation was in massive debt, unemployment and welfare were the norm and there was no economic development at all. Now the Whitecap Dakota First Nation is one of the more progressive bands in Saskatchewan.

They have a land management framework that sees their land held outside of the Indian Act allowing them to develop and implement long term lease agreements so people can own their own home on reserve in fee simple, or lease some land and do some business.

Chief Darcy Bear and his council worked hard to get to where they are at, but they did get some help along the way.

"Over the years we have gone to visit many communities to see best practices," said Chief Bear.

"Westbank First Nation and Chief Robert Louie opened their doors for us to learn from them. They certainly have a good model with their retail development and their reserve has everything. We appreciated their sharing."

Chief Bear had Chief Robert Louie and his council from the Westbank First

Nation visiting their reserve to conduct some learning the other way.

"Darcy and I have worked closely together for many years and they have visited many times. We share information, knowledge, successes and what can be done better," said Chief Louie.

"I work with Darcy at the national level. Their community is now self-governing over land and resources and that is great. They also have a casino. We do not have gaming jurisdiction. We do not have a casino.

"We want to learn how it works in Saskatchewan. What regulations and jurisdiction, and we want to bring what we learn home and make an agreement with B.C. so we can have a casino."

The Chiefs took time to share during a banquet and cultural display hosted by Whitecap at the Dakota Dunes Casino. The event was held to acknowledge the relationship and help that is being shared between the two bands. There was an exchange of gifts and an awesome dance presentation by Buffalo Boy Productions.

The Westbank First Nation is one of the most progressive bands in Canada when it comes to self-rule and control over their own land. On April 1, 2005, and after two decades of community con-



Chief Darcy Bear makes a presentation to Westbank's Chief Robert Louie.

sultation and negotiation, their Self-Government Act came into effect.

Westbank First Nation's band membership totals 647 with approximately 59 per cent residing on-reserve along with 8,000 non-members. To support the needs of the expanding population base there are a number of malls that offer a wide range of retail and commercial services. Anchor tenants include: Zellers, Extra Foods, Blockbuster Video, Capitol Movie Theatre, Home Depot, Canadian Tire and several major fast-food outlets.

Both Chief Louie and Chief Bear want other bands in Canada to succeed.

"We try to get communities across this country into the mode of taking control of the land and resources without Indian Affairs being the decision makers," said Chief Louie.

"We are self-governing. It took us many years and now coming to Whitecap, watching it grow in leaps and bounds represents a strong signal to other First Nations as to what can be done. We share this information willingly. That is what we are about. The nations that have benefited want it to work for everyone"

Chief Darcy Bear is a strong proponent of sharing his message with other bands across Canada.

"By protecting your assets, there is confidence. That confidence turns into business on-reserve," said Chief Bear. "We have 320 members living in the community. Of that 14 are on social assistance. The casino alone has 470 staff and we have 590 jobs in our community. It should be 1,000 within five years"

And things will continue to snowball for the band as there are plans for hotel construction to begin in the spring and many more development deals coming down the pipe.

"We are no different than Chief Robert," added Chief Bear. "We share this information across North America. We want to work together. The more of our communities that are successful, we all win. It makes a strong region and it makes a strong province."



Whitecap councilor Dwayne Eagle, Chief Don Moses of Lower Nicola, BC, Whitecap Chief Darcy Bear, Chief Robert Louie of Westbank First Nation and Whitecap councilor Frank Royal pose for this photograph with the members of the Buffalo Boy Dance Troupe.

(Photos by John Lagimodiere)



**Celebrating
20 Years
of
Aboriginal
Communications!!**

**MBC Network Radio • Always close to home!
Now heard in Saskatoon and area at
104.1 FM**

Merry Christmas • miyo-manitōwīkīkanīk • Teyatle Gonezu • Miyo Nipayahmihaow



Message from the Minister

The word Christmas brings joy to my heart. It weaves a delightful spell of nostalgia over us as we gather with family and friends, sharing in the traditions of the season. May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, hope and love now and through the New Year.

Honourable June Draude
Minister of First Nations and Métis Relations



CHEP more than just apples and oranges

By Andrea Ledding
For Eagle Feather News

The Child Hunger Education Program (CHEP) was founded in 1989, responding to the issue of hungry kids at schools. But it expanded as the organization began to look at root causes.

"We realized the cost of income and housing were why kids were going to school without lunches," noted Karen Archibald, present director of CHEP.

They began to address family needs via other programs: collective kitchens, community gardening, and the Good Food Box, a selection of wholesale produce, much of it local, which anyone can order.

"Our work still includes hungry kids but we began working with moms and seniors too."

Archibald notes they've always worked with Aboriginal families and kids, and collaborate with reserves such as Mistawasis and One Arrow to help them access fresh, healthy foods.

"Currently there are six different First Nations accessing our Good Food Box/bulk food buying," Archibald said.

They are strengthening partnerships with Aboriginal organizations in the city – over the past five years, they have worked with Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) in both the office and apartment developments with produce, the Good Food Box, community gardening - whatever was needed.

"Now with their new office on Avenue M there's a bottomless basket of fresh fruit at the reception desk, done in partnership with CHEP. With more than 100 people a day coming in, it sends the message that CUMFI thinks eating healthy is important," says Archibald.

"CHEP has been a great partner for CUMFI," says Shirley Isbister, CUMFI's president.

They've collaborated on several projects including a fetal alcohol partnership, addictions services, collective kitchens, diabetes programs, all of which require nutritional support – and the office itself.

As we are on the phone, Isbister sees a girl enter the building, take an orange from the bowl at the front desk, and then leave again.

"One of the things about CHEP is

they truly are a committed community organization. With all of our partnerships in the building and the programs we house, we're able to provide access to fruits and vegetables and support healthy

ple, but especially students, in terms of eating healthy around time and financial constraints.

"That looks great," were some of the comments Amiotte heard when the first



CUMFI's Shirley Isbister says CHEP has become a great partner.

lifestyles."

Partnerships also exist at the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre, and CHEP is hoping to hire a cook, together with the centre, to provide meals to the men often there at supper time.

Another initiative just began this week with SUNTEP students at the U of S – Good Food Backpacks. For \$10, students get a large bag of fruits and vegetables – prepared, washed, cut, and organized in individual serving-size packages.

Nicole Amiotte of SUNTEP notes that it is often a challenge for most peo-

order arrived – fruits, pre-cut veggies, and a mixture of nuts/grains/seeds.

"Something they can throw into their backpacks and start eating more fruits and vegetables at a good cost – we're excited," said Amiotte. "Even as a non-student, I don't always have the time to cut up veggies to put in my lunch – and the temptations around aren't always the most nutritious – this makes it more accessible."

Lindsay Sutherland, a community nurse and clinic worker at One Arrow, uses CHEP Good Food Boxes as incen-

tives to members who attend community kitchens, or education sessions for diabetes or breast cancer. Elders, those with chronic illnesses, prenatal women, and breastfeeding mothers are also given a Good Food Box, as healthy eating might not be affordable otherwise.

Many community members purchase their own boxes, which the band picks up in the city every month. Sutherland notes people who might not have enough money to buy vegetables, or settle for cheaper but less nutritious canned or processed foods, get fresh produce at least two weeks of the month.

"We're an hour away from P.A. and Saskatoon, and many don't have transport," she adds; the limited produce in the on-reserve store tends to be pricey.

"The other good thing about the food box is it comes with different fruits and vegetables – sometimes ones they've never heard of – and there will be a recipe on how to cook it, and where it comes from, in the newsletter. This way they're introduced to a variety of fruits and vegetables – it's not just apples and oranges."

Other reserves, like Muskoday and Muskeg Lake, are working towards filling the Good Food Box – with organic farming practices and possibly fruit orchards.

With the government withdrawal of funding for Station 20 West, CHEP has been regrouping, hoping they can hang on to their borrowed office space in the St. Paul's Nursing Residence, which the health region needs. Building will ideally begin next spring; community support continues to pour in. CHEP already has two senior ladies who have pledged enough money for a kitchen facility in the new building – for community kitchens, and made-from-scratch baking and lunches for the in-store deli at the 'Good Food Junction' – their core neighbourhood grocery store.

"Preparing food is stressful enough for people who have enough money but not enough time – for those with no money, it's even harder," says Archibald. "We all need some support to be able to feed ourselves and our children healthily."

CHEP can be contacted at 655-4575; website is www.chep.org

A wish that the spirit of peace and joy touches you
and your family in a special way this Holiday Season.
Warmest Greetings and good health for the coming year.

Doyle Vermette, MLA
Tel 425-2525 Fax 425-2885
dvermette@mla.legassembly.sk



Merry Christmas and a
Happy, Prosperous New Year!

**ROB CLARKE MP
AND FAMILY**
1 866-400-2334
clarkr@parl.gc.ca



May the Creator Bless
you through the holidays
and in the New Year
from the
Native Access Program to
Nursing/Medicine.



The Nursing deadline is January 15, 2009.

PEACE HILLS TRUST

The staff of Peace Hills
Trust Wishes you a
Merry Christmas.

May the Creator Bless you.

Positive self-esteem critical to good health

Feeling good about yourself is an important part of VITALITY. Self-esteem is based on how you see your abilities and your worth as a person. People with low self-esteem are often shy, anxious, and depressed. They are negative about themselves and their abilities.

These words from Health Canada are worth paying attention to.

Because they don't feel worthwhile, they are more likely to do things that are not good for their health, such as going on starvation diets and smoking.

People with high self-esteem tend to be secure and confident. They see themselves and their abilities positively. Because they know it is important to take care of themselves, they are more likely to eat well and to stay active.

Comparing yourself to the perfect men and women you see on television and in magazines and movies is hard on your self-esteem.

We all know these images. Ideal women handle their jobs, homes, and kids with ease, and continue to be thin, well-dressed and beautiful.

Ideal men are big, strong and successful in life. When we compare ourselves to these 'perfect' people, we forget how little appearance really matters in life.

We may also believe that to be perfect we have to suffer – to go without enough food or rest or exercise. Then, when we do not develop the perfect body, we think we have failed and our self-esteem becomes even lower.

We all have a mental picture of who we are, how we look, what we're good at, and what our weaknesses might be. We develop this picture over time,

starting when we're very young kids.

The term self-image is used to refer to a person's mental picture of himself or herself. A lot of our self-image is based on interactions we have with other people and our life experiences. This mental picture (our self-image) contributes to our self-esteem.

Self-esteem is all about how much we feel valued, loved, accepted, and thought well of by others – and how much we value, love, and accept ourselves. People with healthy self-esteem are able to feel good about themselves, appreciate their own worth, and take pride in their abilities, skills, and accomplishments.

People with low self-esteem may feel as if no one will like them or accept them or that they can't do well in

time, self-esteem is not fixed for life.

So if you feel that your self-esteem isn't all it could be, you can improve it. Before a person can overcome self-esteem problems and build healthy self-esteem, it helps to know what might cause those problems in the first place.

Two things in particular – how others see or treat us and how we see ourselves – can have a big impact on our self-esteem.

Parents, teachers, and other authority figures influence the ideas we develop about ourselves – particularly when we are little kids.

If parents spend more time criticizing than praising a child, it can be harder for a kid to develop good self-esteem. Because teens are still forming their own values and beliefs, it's easy to build self-image around what a parent,

critic, a voice inside that seems to find fault with everything they do. People sometimes unintentionally model their inner voice after a critical parent or someone else whose opinion is important to them.

Over time, listening to a negative inner voice can harm a person's self-esteem just as much as if the criticism were coming from another person.

Some people get so used to their inner critic being there that they don't even notice when they're putting themselves down.

Unrealistic expectations can also affect a person's self-esteem. People have an image of who they want to be (or who they think they should be).

Everyone's image of the ideal person is different. For example, some people admire athletic skills and others admire academic abilities.

People who see themselves as having the qualities they admire – such as the ability to make friends easily – usually have high self-esteem.

It's never too late to build healthy, positive self-esteem. Self-esteem plays a role in almost everything you do.

People with high self-esteem do better in school and find it easier to make friends.

They tend to have better relationships with peers and adults, feel happier, find it easier to deal with mistakes, disappointments, and failures, and are more likely to stick with something until they succeed.

It takes some work, but it's a skill you'll have for life.

Send me an email at s.ahenakew@yahoo.ca I love to hear from you. Merry Christmas.



If parents spend more time criticizing than praising a child, it can be harder for a kid to develop good self-esteem.

anything.

We all experience problems with self-esteem at certain times in our lives – especially during our teens when we're figuring out who we are and where we fit in the world.

The good news is that, because everyone's self-image changes over

coach, or other person says.

Obviously, self-esteem can be damaged when someone whose acceptance is important (like a parent or teacher) constantly puts you down. But criticism doesn't have to come from other people.

Some teens also have an 'inner

What are you giving for
CHRISTMAS ?



Enjoy an organic, toxin free Christmas with cosmetics, personal care products, detox services, and custom spa packages from

Boutique BeYouTeFul
154-2nd Avenue South, Saskatoon
373-0129 boutiquebeyouteful.com


A session on the TurboSonic machine and then in the Infrared Sauna not only leaves you energized but with a total all around great feeling...relaxed & stress free Diane F.

On behalf of my family, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations staff in Health and Social Development; the Office of Urban Development and the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association we extend to you warmest wishes for this holiday season and the best throughout the New Year.

As you meet with family and friends take time to consider the triumphs, trials and unforeseen challenges our First Nations face and remember the strength that comes from sharing. At this time and throughout the year, let us share in our successes and together we can find solutions that pay homage to past leaders and create hope for future generations.

I look forward to the opportunities the New Year will bring and I am honoured to contribute to your vision. May the Creator bring you blessings of peace, happiness and prosperity and keep you in the spirit of Christmas.

Glen Pratt, Vice Chief
FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

Police, volunteers, athletes and leaders honoured at FSIN Pow Wow and Cultural Celebration

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Annual Pow Wow and educational symposium was again a resounding success.

The Education Symposium featured keynote speaker, Olympic Athlete Waneek Horn-Miller, and her positive message.

Other sessions included healthy lifestyles, careers and cultural protocols.

At the pow wow, time was taken to honour the Saskatoon Police Service, Team Saskatchewan the 2008 North American Indigenous Games Champions, Delbert Wapass and Lyle Whitefish on their elections and all the volunteers that make the pow wow and community events possible.



(Below, left to right) Elisse Obey/Lavallee, Nadine Obey and Chantel Redman are regular visitors to the FSIN Pow wow. (Photo Faith Mclean)



Saskatoon Police Service Chief Clive Weighill receives, on behalf of his department, an Eagle Staff from Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph. The police service was honoured with the Eagle Staff as an acknowledgement of reconciliation, inter-governmental progress and continuing commitment to First Nation and Metis communities. The Police Service had a big presence at this years pow wow as members of Peacekeepers Pedaling for Aboriginal Diabetes were also honoured with a special. (Photo Saskatoon Police Service)



The dance floor was packed for this intertribal song. (Photo Faith Mclean)

Library
SASKATOON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Enrich your life

—Black Eye Images for SPL

Aboriginal Library Services

Saskatoon Public Library, supported by its *Advisory Committee on Library Services for Aboriginal People*, continues to work on a number of initiatives designed to increase awareness and use of library services by the Aboriginal community. Our efforts are assisted by a provincial government grant.

We have had an exciting year which has included strengthening current partnerships and developing new ones.

2008 highlights include:

- First Annual Provincial Round Dance (co-basted with White Buffalo Youth Lodge)
- Stories in the Park
- Aboriginal Student Page Summer Internship
- Michif Conversation
- Family Cree Conversation
- Literacy Outreach
- Aboriginal Storytelling
- Aboriginal rights and health care information sessions

In warm appreciation of our association, we extend our best wishes for a happy holiday season and a new year filled with peace, joy and success.

saskatoonlibrary.ca

Justice conference tackles problem of youth gangs

By Darla Read
For Eagle Feather News

A man trying to find solutions to the gang problem in northern Saskatchewan says we need to look beyond our province. Howard Halkett works within Justice for the Prince Albert Grand Council and has first-hand knowledge of the devastating impact of gangs.

A year and a half ago, his brother was murdered in Edmonton because of gang involvement. That incident has spurred him to do something.

This year he was one of the organizers of the second annual National Aboriginal Justice Conference in Saskatoon. For three days, people from across the country made presentations about what their communities are doing to make them safer, with a lot of focus on gangs.

Halkett says it's a very real issue, and of the 27 communities the PAGC represents, he says all of them have gang activity.

"Pelican Narrows is one of the ones that is higher. They have a really high gang activity going on right now," Halkett notes.

"Also Black Lake, one of our Dene communities, they have extremely high gang activity up there, too. It's hard to address these issues when you don't have proper programming in place. How do you deliver them? How do you help them out?"

Halkett says more money would be useful, but also communities just recognizing there is a problem and banding together to do something about it would help tackle the problem. He pointed to a northern Manitoba community that made a presentation at the conference.

He says the youth chief and council of the Pukatawagan First Nation are an example that people here should use because what they have done has been successful.

The council is made up of 10 councilors and one chief who go through elections similar to those at the band level except they are voted in by their peers. The council runs a youth drop-in centre that has activities and a place for the youth to hang out. Seventeen-year-old Tim Jorgenson is currently the chief.

"All my friends used to be a little on the bad side, I guess. We used to try and form gangs and stuff. After we started going to the drop-in, and started keeping ourselves occupied, we didn't have no time for that."

Jorgenson says he's fine with being a role model. He hopes he can teach the younger children in his community to be responsible and healthy.

That's why the program works, says Valerie Whyte, a band councilor who volunteers to help out the youth and works at their drop-in centre.

"They can impact their peer group, too. That also gives them an opportunity to keep youth out of trouble as well because they can talk to their young people at their level, right? So the benefits are really enormous," Whyte says.

Pukatawagan, a community that has been plagued by addictions and social problems like many other remote reserves, has seen real results.

Youth violent crime has dropped by 66 per cent, and youth offenses overall have dropped by 44 per cent. Whyte says the RCMP in her community credit their program, which has won awards.

Halkett says a program like this is doable in Saskatchewan and says it would help in reaching the youngest children, whom he says are already impacted by gangs.

"It's unreal how knowledgeable they are in this whole area of gangs. In one of the communities that we visited, they actually gave us a number. You know, a little seven or eight-year-old boy gave us a number of how many active members they have in their community.

We don't even have a number. But they knew," he marvels.



Wanuskewin to receive \$2.8 million

The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority will receive \$2.8 million in additional support from the provincial government in the coming days. The funding will enable Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority to complete phase one of a capital renewal project that was put on hold earlier this year when the Park's finances would not permit the completion of the project. The Park will be closed until the renovations are completed in a few months.

"With cold weather setting in, it is imperative that the building be secured for winter," Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport Minister Christine Tell said.

"As a condition of funding, the Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority board provided the province with a new operating and strategic plan, including a plan for improved governance. Ministry officials will continue to work closely with the board and the federal department of Canadian Heritage to stabilize the organization and to secure further funding for a series of other improvements to the building and the site itself," Tell said.

"The Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority board wishes to express its gratitude and appreciation to Graham Construction for its patience and understanding over the last nine months," Wanuskewin Heritage Park Authority board chair Lloyd Beazley said.

"The board looks forward to Graham Construction's return to the Park to complete the construction phase of the renewal project. The added and redesigned space will enhance Wanuskewin's ability to engage Saskatchewan First Nations and the broader community in the interpretation and presentation of First Nations cultures to the world.

Wanuskewin Heritage Park is an important cultural legacy and a major visitor attraction for the province. It represents a unique partnership with the University of Saskatchewan, Meewasin Valley Authority, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, and various levels of government.

Chief John Rockthunder,
Council &
Staff of the
Piapot First Nation

wishes everyone
Season's Greetings and
May the Creator bless you
through out the New Year!



Piapot First Nation

General Delivery
Zehner, Saskatchewan
S0G 5K0
Ph: (306) 781-4848
Fax: (306) 781-4853

Strong Saskatchewan showing in National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Fourteen exceptional achievers, coming from diverse backgrounds, both culturally and geographically have been named recipients of the 2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, the highest honour the community bestows upon its own achievers. Six of those outstanding recipients have strong roots or ties to Saskatchewan. They include Denis and Melanie Jackson, the Gemini Award winning couple who produce animation and documentaries, lawyer Delia Opekokew, Rev. Stan Cuthand, journalist Carol Morin and educator Cecil King.

“Every year the jury selects an extraordinary group of recipients who reveal such outstanding talent and dedicated service,” said Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.

“I know that by honouring their achievement we will continue to inspire many others, just waiting to demonstrate their potential – that’s why the work of the Foundation in providing bursaries to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students is so essential.”

The other nine recipients are Special Youth Award Chelsea Lavallée, Business and Commerce Allan C. McLeod, Culture, Heritage & Spirituality, Stephen J. Augustine, Environment and Natural Resources Gordon W. Prest, Health, Candace Grier-Lowe, Politics Paul Okalik, Public Service Joan Glode, Sports Adam Sioui, Technology and Trades Mervin J. Dewasha.



STAN CUTHAND

The 14 recipients will be honoured at the 16th Annual event, on March 6, 2009 at the Centennial Concert Hall, in Winnipeg, Manitoba taped live, to be televised at a later date on both the Global and APTN television networks. It will be hosted by Adam Beach and Tina Keeper.

Lifetime: The Rev. Stan Cuthand, B.Th., Cree, Little Pine First Nation

Stan Cuthand saw in the church an opportunity to get a higher education, to be of service to his people, and a means of bridging cultural and language barriers. He seized that opportunity and it became his life. Throughout his life Rev. Cuthand’s command of the Cree language acted to facilitate change and engage Cree-speaking peoples in decision making processes both large and small. Working in his early years as an interpreter for Elders and Chiefs at meetings with Indian Affairs, his advocacy has spanned decades, highlighted by his involvement drafting the first constitution of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians. The first person to teach Cree at the University level, Rev. Cuthand has translated the speeches of Big Bear and Poundmaker, and contributed to the curriculum of First Nations and History departments.

Media and Communication: Carol Morin, First Nations, Cree/Chipewyan

Voice of the North, award-winning-journalist Carol Morin is best known as a television host on three major broadcast networks, CBC, CTV and APTN. Becoming the first Aboriginal woman to anchor a national news broadcast in Canada on CBC NewsWorld, Morin has helped make First Nations peoples of Canada more prominent and visible to the general public. As an avid drummer, visual artist and writer, Morin uses these forms of expression to build connections with her culture and her community.

Arts (Shared): Melanie Jackson, Saulteaux, Sakmoy First Nation

Writer, director, and editor of animation projects and documentaries for Dark Thunder Productions, Melanie Jackson is breaking ground for a new generation of storytellers. Contributing to different productions such as Voices of Aboriginal Youth, Ekospi Namew - At the Time of the Surgeon, and the 2007 Gemini Award winning Wapos Bay, Jackson’s natural storytelling talents are creating valuable outlets for First Nations narratives and dialogue.

Arts (Shared): Dennis Jackson, Cree, Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation

Using broadcast media as a means for not only culture and language retention, but rejuvenation, Dennis Jackson is the Gemini Award winning producer and president of Wapos Bay Productions. Specializing in children’s animated television programs that showcase Aboriginal peoples and their stories; Wapos Bay is leaving waves of change in its wake, netting a 2007 Gemini for ‘Best Children’s or Youth Fiction Program or Series.’

Education: Cecil King, First Nations, Wikwemikong, ON

A lifelong educator, Cecil King has fought hard to see his belief that First Nations children need not sacrifice their culture and teachings in school begin to come to fruition. Retired Professor Emeritus of Queens University, King became Dean of the Saskatoon Campus of the First Nations University of Canada. He currently works as a resident Elder, teaching Ojibwe and writing and translating Ojibwe texts.

Law and Justice: Delia Opekokew, First Nation, Canoe Lake Cree Nation

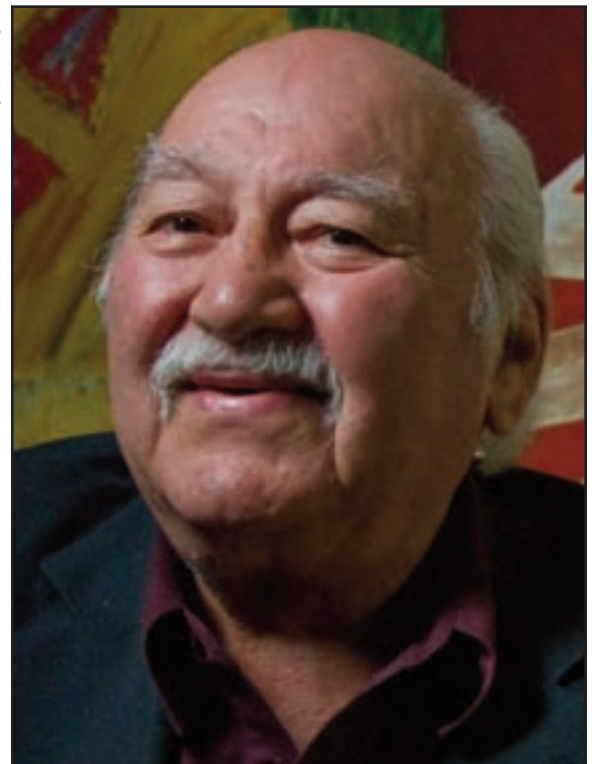
Delia Opekokew was eight years old before she learned English, making her current private law practice in Toronto a testament to her ability to adapt. Meshing urban lawyer and scholar with tradition, Delia has used her upbringing to ground her work as she furthers the cause of justice for Aboriginal people, and the civil liberties and human rights for all Canadians. Representing Dudley George’s family, fighting for the compensation and redress of First Nations land claims as well as First Nations war veterans, Opekokew’s work speaks for itself in its scope for change.



CAROL MORIN



MELANIE JACKSON



CECIL KING



DENNIS JACKSON



DELIA OPEKOWKEW



CASH FOR THE FOOD BANK

Chief Lawrence Joseph of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations once again hosted the Nehiyaw Chiefs Gala in support of the Saskatoon Food Bank. The evening of songs and fun was held at the Dakota Dunes Casino. Entertainment was provided by the Voices of the North. The food was top notch and there was a huge amount of money raised. Last year it was around \$50,000 and this year the total was even more amazing and came in over \$90,000. Chief Joseph has hosted the event for two years running because he knew what it was like to be a kid and to not have enough food at Christmas time. Obviously, his efforts to give back have been very successful. From left to right are Vice Chief Morley Watson, SIGA CEO Zane Hansen, Chief Lawrence Joseph, Food Bank CEO Paul Merriman, Vice Chief Delbert Wapass and Vice Chief Glen Pratt.

Santa's visit a 'big deal' in isolated communities

• Continued from Page One

She says it means so much to the entire community because of its isolation, and she says Santa's visit makes them feel a little less isolated.

"First when they came in, it was quiet. And I told them Santa landed, and they all were so excited and singing. I said, you know, 'I'm not going to allow him in until you're singing loud.' So that's what they did. You can feel and see the excitement here."

That same excitement was evident in all four communities. When the plane landed in Fond du Lac, children were waiting outside the terminal building, eyes glued to the plane for Santa to step out. When he was inside the terminal, a

throng of children rushed him, nearly pinning Santa and his helpers against the wall.

Children stood behind the fence at Stony Rapid's runway, chanting "Santa! Santa! Santa!" once the plane landed. And, Black Lake's packed gym was bustling with energy and carols when Santa arrived, more than an hour late.

Lisa Macdonald is a teacher at Black Lake and says the 784 children who showed up to see Santa had been waiting for a long time but it didn't matter because the trip is so important to them.

"It means a lot to the community in general. We're pretty isolated, so this is a big deal. Most of the community is here," Macdonald said.

WAITING FOR SANTA

Over 800 children crammed the gym in Black Lake to have a visit with Santa Claus. (Photo by Darla Read)



Thank you northern Saskatchewan

The partnership between northern Saskatchewan communities and Cameco has made Saskatchewan a world leader in uranium mining. We have been working together for more than 20 years to build the skilled work force and capable businesses needed to prosper in a challenging industry.

Cameco was awarded the first-ever Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce Aboriginal Business Award. This would not have been possible without the years of support we have received from northern Saskatchewan communities.

Happy holidays and best wishes for 2009.

cameco.com



BOYD AUTOBODY & GLASS

A COAST TO COAST COLLISION CENTRE

- Courtesy Cars Available
- Lifetime Written Guarantee
- Complete Auto Glass Service
- Expert Colour Matching

Located at #225 - 103rd Street East 374-4585

Merry Christmas from the staff

Quality Rates
Auto Body
Repair

Certified First Network



A VISIT WITH SANTA

Three-year-old Stacy Joseyounen is just a little apprehensive during her visit with Santa Claus. Jolly St. Nick made a special trip throughout Northern Saskatchewan recently, paying a visit to communities including Wollaston Lake, Black Lake, Stony Rapids and Fond du Lac. The trip was made possible by the good folks at Transwest Air. The Saskatchewan airline promises to make the trip again next year, when it will be the tenth anniversary of Santa's jaunt around Saskatchewan's North. (Photo by Darla Read)



Canadian Cancer Society / Société canadienne du cancer

If you have cancer, you are not alone.

We are here to help.

The Canadian Cancer Society can provide information about cancer in 17 Aboriginal languages from our national information centre in Saskatchewan.



1 888 939-3333 • www.cancer.ca



New Years Bash

Music Provided by DJ

Great Prizes

3030 Diefenbaker Dr. 384-6633 Season's Greetings & Happy New Year



Grace Beyer
RRS, ABR
306.222.9601
www.gracebeyer.com
gracebeyer@sasktel.net



"Helping Families Find Homes & Homes Find Families"

Season's Greetings!

Happy Holidays

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year!

Hon. Lynne Yelich, P.C., M.P.
Member of Parliament for the Riding of Blackstrap
Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification
1.800.263.6071 www.lynyelich.ca

CAREERS WITH A FUTURE

Saskatoon Co-op is currently looking to fill part time and full time positions in our Home Centers, Grocery Stores, and Gas Bars.

Some of the many benefits of working at the Saskatoon Co-op are:

- A great team environment
- Opportunities for advancement
- Competitive wages with regular wage increases
- Flexible hours
- Excellent extended health and dental benefit coverage
- One of the best pension plans out there
- Staff reimbursement program of 5 percent
- Training opportunities
- An employee referral program

Apply today and you could be part of the dynamic and growing Saskatoon Co-op Team!

Forward your completed application form to the location nearest you or to Human Resources.
311 Circle Drive West
Saskatoon S7L 7C6
Phone 933-3810
Saskatooncoop.hr@sasktel.net

CO-OP EXCELLENCE PEOPLE

SAFE TRAVELS

SASKATOON INN

HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

PHONE: 306.242.1440 TOLL FREE: 1.800.667.8789 2002 Airport Drive, Saskatoon

Introducing the best wireless plans in Canada



Get more of what you need with new wireless plans from SaskTel

- **UNLIMITED** local and long distance calling with all 485,000 SaskTel wireless customers
- **UNLIMITED** local and long distance evening and weekend calling starting at 6:00 p.m.
- **MORE** local and long distance daytime minutes
- **LOWEST** rates when roaming in Canada and the United States
- **UNLIMITED** incoming text messages
- **BEST** wireless coverage

Unlimited Talk
\$20/mo*

Unlimited Talk North America
\$40/mo*

*Plus a monthly system administration fee of \$6.25 and a 911 fee of 59¢. Some conditions apply.



LG Voyager
touchscreen
coming soon



Samsung Instinct™
touchscreen



BlackBerry® Curve™
smartphone



Bundle & Save!
Visit a SaskTel Authorized Dealer or SaskTel Store
sasktel.com | 1-800-SASKTEL



Unlimited Talk and Unlimited Talk North America Plans are available to new and existing customers on a monthly, one, two or three-year term. New customers signing a three-year contract on an Unlimited Talk Plan will receive two months of unlimited anytime in Saskatchewan and the \$10 Long Distance Pack (covers CD calls made or received within Canada to or from any North American number only). New customers signing a three-year contract on an Unlimited Talk North America Plan will receive two months of unlimited anytime and long distance in Saskatchewan (covers LD calls made or received within Saskatchewan to or from any North American number only). At the end of the two months, standard terms and conditions of the Unlimited Talk and Unlimited Talk North America plans apply. Unlimited Talk customers receive Unlimited Evening Calling Monday to Friday, from 6pm to 8:59pm & Unlimited Weekend Calling starting Friday at 6 pm to Monday at 6:59pm. Unlimited Talk customers must be within Canada when making or receiving a call to qualify. Airtime is included. Long Distance charges are extra. Unlimited Talk North America customers receive Unlimited Evening Calling Monday to Friday, from 6pm to 8:59pm & Unlimited Weekend Calling starting Friday at 6 pm to Monday at 6:59pm. Unlimited Talk North America customers must be within Saskatchewan when making or receiving a call to qualify. Long distance and airtime is included. All new and existing customers are eligible for two months free of any new Feature Pack. Customers who wish to discontinue the Feature Pack or \$10 Long Distance Pack after the two months must call or visit a SaskTel Authorized Dealer or SaskTel Store, or call the SaskTel Customer Relationship Centre. All features require capable devices. Unlimited Talk plan customers receive free anytime on all call-to-call calls with other SaskTel cell customers for the duration of their term when the call is made and received in Saskatchewan. Long distance charges still apply. Unlimited Talk North America plan customers receive free anytime and long distance on all call-to-call calls with other SaskTel cell customers for the duration of their term when the call is made and received in Saskatchewan. Charges for long distance and roaming are not included in the Unlimited Talk Plan. Charges for additional service features and applicable taxes are extra on all plans. Offers are subject to change without notice. Offer available from October 16, 2008 to January 31, 2009. See a SaskTel Authorized Dealer or SaskTel Store for details. Phones shown are available while quantities last and may not be available at all locations. A \$25 fee applies to each new activation, change or upgrade of a device. Research In Motion, the RIM logo, BlackBerry, the BlackBerry logo and Java Type are registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and may be pending or registered in other countries. These and other marks of Research In Motion Limited are used under license. LG is a trademark of LG. Samsung is a trademark of Samsung.

A REZ CHRISTMAS

SNTC has launched its annual Christmas play *Life is Wonderful A Rez Christmas Story VII* and the old girls from Kiweetinook are at it again. From left, Waylon Machiskinic as Seegoose Sinclair, Jennifer Bishop as Zula Merasty, Arron Naytowhow as Claire Bear and Curtis Peeteetuce as Betsy Paul rip it up in this guaranteed to laugh seasonal comedy. The premise this year is who is going to be Elder of the year? And if it is really important. Come enjoy the hilarity.



Get the lead out ... it's Christmas

By Terry Wasylow
For Eagle Feather News

A lump of coal in the Christmas stocking? It happens far more often than one would think. All decked out in pretty packaging and appealing claims, your lump of coal hides in cosmetics, lotions, hair products, skin care, nail products, toothpaste, and deodorant.

Take a look at the ingredients list on your personal care products, chances are you will need a dictionary to understand what they are. Here's a headstart, a list of common ingredients to avoid:

THE NO-NO LIST

Toxins & Chemicals to Avoid Ingesting!
Alcohol, Isopropyl (SD-40): drying, irritating solvent
Mineral oil: pore clogging
Propylene glycol: synthetically derived from petroleum, highly toxic
Lanolin: pesticide
Sodium lauryl sulfate (SLS, SLES, ALS, ALES, TEA, DEA): strong detergent
Cocomide DEA: possible carcinogen
Tallow: animal
Collagen: animal
Isopropyl myristate: pore clogging
Talc: possible carcinogen
Imidiazolidinyl & Diazolidinyl urea: formaldehyde preservative, carcinogen, toxic by inhalation, contact dermatitis
Camphor: irritant
Bovine extracts: animal
Perfumes/Fragrance: irritant
Walnut shell/apricot pit: irritant
Mercury: banned by order of the FDA!
Toluene: POISON! DANGER! Fatal if ingested
FD&C synthetic based colors: from coal tar, carcinogenic
Formaldehyde: known carcinogen, irritating to skin and mucous membranes
Dibutyl Phthalate: linked to birth defects in males
1,4-dioxane: carcinogenic
2-bromo-2-nitropropane-1,
3-diol (Bronopol): toxic, causes allergic contact dermatitis
Anionic Surfactants: possible carcinogen
Benzalkonium Chloride: highly toxic, skin irritant
Paraben Preservatives (methyl, propyl, butyl and ethyl): highly toxic
Polyethylene Glycol (PEG): petroleum derived, potentially carcinogenic
Quaternium-7,15,31,60 etc.: toxic, irritant

We are all familiar with 'the patch' used for replacing nicotine while trying to stop smoking as well as for medications both prescription and over the counter. What we put on our skin goes in. Why pay good money to poison our bodies and tax our immune system? This year I'm asking for lipstick (unleaded please!)

Terry is an owner of Boutique BeYouTeFul in Saskatoon.

A BRIDGE TO YOUR FUTURE

MBA: A BIG STEP FORWARD

An MBA builds confidence and credibility. The Edwards School of Business at The University of Saskatchewan is committed to addressing the specific needs of Aboriginal students and their communities.

GETTING READY

A critical requirement for entrance into the Edwards School of Business MBA Program is completion of the Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT) with a score of 500 or more. We'll help you get ready.

The Scotiabank Master of Business Administration Bridging Initiative is a 5 day course providing enhanced GMAT preparation, an introduction to the MBA Program and the U of S, and professional networking opportunities.

Successful applicants will be fully sponsored, including the provision of a housing bursary, if required. **The next course is February 23rd-27th, 2009.**

CONTACT

Leanne Bellegarde, LLB
306.966.1307
bellegarde@edwards.usask.ca

306.966.8678
mba@edwards.usask.ca
www.edwardsmba.ca

I WILL LEAD

CERTIFICATE IN INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP

INTERCULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (ILP) GIVES UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE FOR LEADERSHIP IN AN INTERCULTURAL WORKPLACE.

ANNETTE ERMINE AT (306) 790-5950 EXT. 3233 aermine@firstnationsuniversity.ca www.firstnationsuniversity.ca



Robert Cote Jr.(Tony's Grandson), Premier Brad Wall and Elder Tony Cote after Elder Cote was invested into the Order of Saskatchewan. (Photo by Rob Cote)

Tony Cote receives province's highest honour

Let-Gov. Dr. Gordon Barnhart recently invested eight people into the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in Regina.

"It is a tremendous privilege to present Saskatchewan's highest honour to such outstanding citizens," Barnhart said.

"Each of the 2008 recipients has made remarkable contributions and is most deserving of this prestigious provincial award."

The 2008 recipients are:

- Mr. Edward D. Bayda, Q.C., LL.D., retired Chief Justice of Saskatchewan, Regina;

- Dr. Eli Bornstein, Professor Emeritus and Artist, Saskatoon;

- Dr. Elizabeth Brewster, C.M., Professor Emeritus and Poet, Saskatoon;

- Elder Antoine (Tony) Cote, Veteran and retired Chief of the Cote Nation, Regina;

- Mrs. L. Irene Dubé, LL.D., Business Entrepreneur, Saskatoon;

- Mr. Leslie D. Dubé, LL.D., Business Entrepreneur, Saskatoon;

- Mr. Bob Ellard, Architect, Calgary;

- Mr. Gavin Semple, Business Entrepreneur, Regina.

The Saskatchewan Order of Merit is the province's highest honour. It recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the province and its residents.



Happy Holidays!

The management, staff and board of directors of Affinity Credit Union wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

“



”

Saskatoon: 934.4000

Toll Free: 1.866.863.6237

www.affinitycu.ca

Affinity
Credit Union

Life spoken here.

CONGRATULATIONS!

2008 SIGA FIRST NATIONS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS



Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority

"Sharing Success"

\$5,000 WINNERS

Jennifer Campeau
Yellow Quill
First Nation
MBA, University of
Saskatchewan



Gabrielle Scrimshaw
Hatchet Lake
First Nation
Edwards School of
Business, Marketing,
University of
Saskatchewan

\$2,500 WINNERS

Cassandra Opikokew
Canoe Lake First Nation
BA, Journalism,
University of Regina;
Indian Communication
Arts Certificate, FNUC



Heather Crain
Muskoday First Nation
Edwards School of
Business, Accounting,
University of
Saskatchewan

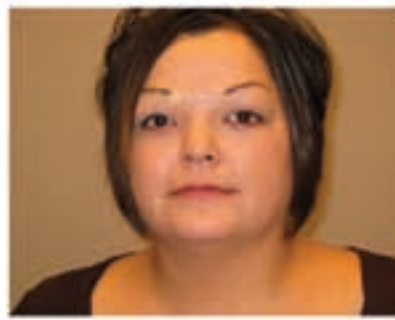
\$1,000 WINNERS



Amanda Armstrong
Red Pheasant First
Nation
Education, U of S



Anthony Blackburn
English River First
Nation
Nursing, U of S



Carrie Isbister
Muskoday First Nation
Indian Social Work Program
FNUC



Christopher Chipak
Red Pheasant First
Nation
Education, U of S



Jessica Wesaquate
Piapot First Nation
SUNTEP, U of R



Kendra McKay
James Smith First
Nation
Nursing, U of S



Lisa Francis
Piapot First Nation
Nursing, SIAST



Omeasoo Butt
Saddle Lake First Nation
PhD, Indigenous History,
U of S



Rhonda Wuttunee
Red Pheasant First Nation
Education, U of S



Shane Keepness
Muscowpetung
Seaulteaux First Nation
Pre-Dentistry, FNUC



Students and community members erect tipis on the Dr. Lloyd Barber Academic Green as part of the ASC's First Annual Tipi Raising.

Aboriginal Student Centre a valuable resource, but who will provide funding?

By Cassandra Opikokew
For Eagle Feather News

The future of the University of Regina's Aboriginal Student Centre is still unknown. The centre was created in 2006 and is 100 per cent funded by donor funding from the Crown Investments Corporation and CIBC. The donors' financial commitment to the centre is scheduled to end in 2009.

There are no clear plans about what the centre will do when the funding runs out.

"Right now with our funding, who knows what's going to come around the corner? I've been told that we are guaranteed that there will be an Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Regina next year but you never know," said Sabrina Sparvier, the centre's manager.

"Base funding would give us some stability and legitimize our position on campus as a crucial service."

While the U of R student centre relies completely on donations, at the University of Saskatchewan, the Aboriginal Student Centre is funded by both core university funding and donor funding.

"We have always been core-funded since the centre was created and then we have been able to grow our budget through donor funding," said Kathleen Makela, manager of the centre. "I think right now the funding is split between both sources about 50/50."

Makela understands why a lack of core funding for certain university services can send a negative message.

"I think there's a concern that it seems like it's not a priority. It's the whole idea of an institution putting its money where its mouth is."

At the University of Manitoba, the Aboriginal Student Centre is funded mainly by the university with only an estimated 15 to 20 per cent coming from donors for special events.

"If a university doesn't fund its centre, I would say that university is not committed to Aboriginal education," said Kali Storm, director of the U of M Aboriginal Student Centre.

"You can't do long-term planning or leadership if you don't know what's happening year to year."

After the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College, now known as the First Nations University of Canada, moved to its new building in 2003, there was a gap in Aboriginal-specific services for students registered only through the U of R. The Aboriginal Student Centre was created to fill the gap and provide services for Aboriginal students at both campuses in a culturally supportive environment.

Since then, the university admits it is playing catch-up in providing services for Aboriginal students.

"Yes, I do think we're a little behind. I think we need to get in step with what other universities are doing," said Judy Amundson, associate vice-president of student affairs.

"I agree that it really demonstrates a university's commitment to Aboriginal growth. This university will really have to go (toward core funding) to demonstrate its commitment, in my opinion."

Amundson says the U of R plans to explore providing some base funding. Meanwhile, the university will continue to look for outside funding opportunities, although how much money can be raised is still unknown.

The centre's budget for 2008-09 is \$261,600.



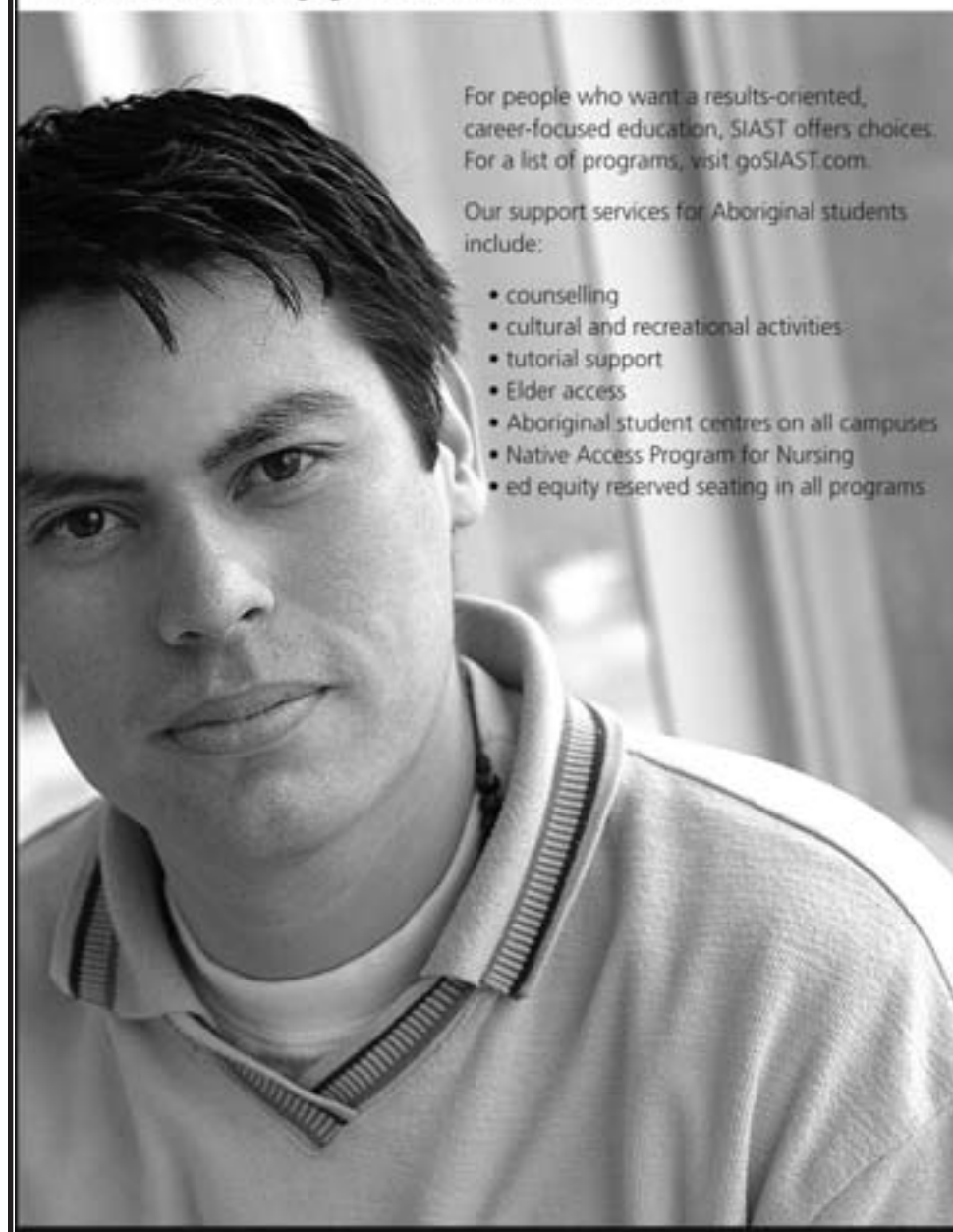
Students take in a presentation at the Aboriginal Student Centre at the University of Regina. (Photos courtesy of the ASC)

Keeping the home fires burning

The Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming (SCYAP) Inc. was commissioned to paint the home fires mural on the gym wall to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre. Pictured here are all of the artists and support staff from SCYAP that helped bring the image to life.



Make it happen with SIAST



For people who want a results-oriented, career-focused education, SIAST offers choices. For a list of programs, visit goSIAST.com.

Our support services for Aboriginal students include:

- counselling
- cultural and recreational activities
- tutorial support
- Elder access
- Aboriginal student centres on all campuses
- Native Access Program for Nursing
- ed equity reserved seating in all programs

1-866-goSIAST
www.goSIAST.com



Métis talent honoured at '08 Saskatchewan Book Awards

By Sylvia Peequaquat
For Eagle Feather News

Aboriginal writers were prominent at the recent 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards held on Nov. 29, in Regina. There were 14 categories, including First Peoples' publishing, scholarly writing, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Aboriginal writers were nominated in almost every category.

The guest speaker was Maria Campbell and renowned Métis fiddler John Arcand fiddled the nominees into the awards ceremony and provided Campbell with background music during her speech.

The Saskatchewan Book Awards are in their sixteenth year, and this year Métis

people were being recognized for their achievements and contributions to Saskatchewan. There was a silent auction in which Red River carts, made out of glass with a Métis sash attached, were auctioned off in the silent auction. There were 400 writers, sponsors, publishers, and community members in attendance.

With the Métis theme, it was fitting to have a representative from the Métis community as the guest speaker. Maria Campbell is an accomplished writer, playwright, storyteller, activist and Elder.

Even as an accomplished writer and activist, who has received recognition by receiving many awards throughout her career, she still gets nervous "in front of her people, the Métis people, and in front of

writers," she said.

She addressed the listeners in a clear, soft spoken voice, with the accompaniment of John Arcand's fiddle and laughter from the audience as she shared her stories. Along with her speech, she incorporated a very funny story called "He's a hell of a song" from her 1995 book "Stories of the Road Allowance People."

Her storytelling was enriched by fiddle music by John Arcand – sultry during one stage of her reading and upbeat at another to emphasize the tone of her story. Her blend of storytelling with John Arcand's fiddle music was a great mixture of Métis heritage and culture for the audience.

The evening was elegant and graceful.



LOUISE HALFE

Seeing so many supporters; writers, sponsors, publishers, community members and their families was exciting.

Campbell was gratified to be a part of a night that was dedicated to Métis people, and she noted that Gabriel Dumont Institute Publishing was one of the sponsors.

"(I was) proud to showcase my people because we (Métis) are always invisible people in the milieu of things."

"Writing ... storytelling is one of the most important things for us. When you look at the oral traditions of our people, the keeper of those oral traditions is the old first grandmother. So I think that stories really belong to the women. It was how they ... how our old people taught us and so they are an important part of our culture.

"I think if stories are gone and women stop telling stories, I think then we'll really be lost," she said.

Aboriginal award winners were former Saskatchewan Poet Laureate Louise Bernice Halfe who was a double winner for her book of poetry, *The Crooked Good*, which received both the Saskatoon and First Peoples' Publishing Awards. Veteran writer James Youngblood Henderson received the Scholarly Award for Treaty Rights in the Constitution of Canada.



Journalism student Sylvia Peequaquat meets her hero, legendary Métis author Maria Campbell who signed a copy of her book, *Half-Breed*. Campbell was the guest speaker at the 2008 Saskatchewan Book Awards.

Season's Greeting and
Best Wishes for the
New Year



Whitecap Dakota
First Nation
Chief and Council



AWASIS 2009

Box 20005
Saskatoon, SK S7L 7K9
Phone: (306) 249-9586
Email: awasisconf@sasktel.net



Call for Presenters

The Awâsis: Aboriginal Education Council is calling for presenters for the upcoming annual conference. The Awâsis Education Conference 2009 is scheduled for April 29, April 30, and May 1 at the Saskatoon Inn, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The council's primary goal is to ensure and to assist in the continued growth and improvement of Aboriginal education. The council's mandate emphasizes the commitment to deliver information in a 'wholistic' approach consisting of four strands: wellness, spirituality, culture, and education. A variety of proposals for adult and youth oriented workshops which are geared to meet any of these strands are encouraged.

Log on to the website address below to retrieve the 'call for presenters' application form. Note that the deadline for applications may be extended if deemed necessary.

Website: <http://www.awasis.com>

Eight First Nations languages heard loud and clear at conference

After months of hard work the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre wrapped-up its annual Language Keepers Conference in December. From the opening reception and book launch, participants were immersed in language and cultural programming ranging from the latest in language technology to workshops facilitated by Saskatchewan Elders.

Authors Regina Shingoose and Darryl Chamakese, read aloud their newly published books to a receptive crowd.

The illustrations from the books formed

the basis for a silent auction, with proceeds going towards the SICC Adopt a Family Fundraiser.

This unique program provides Christmas gifts and Christmas dinner for two single mothers and two Elders.

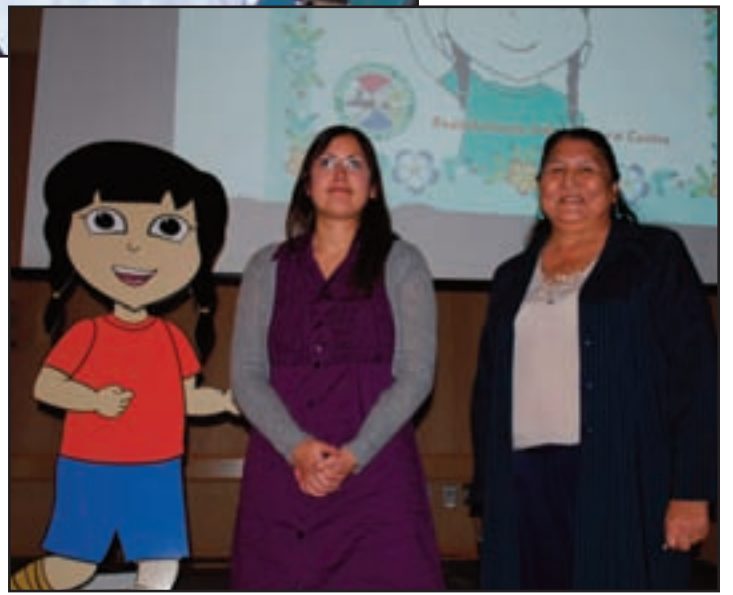
On Thursday, Dec. 4, the opening set of workshops focused on this year's theme of 'Kinship.' Each of Saskatchewan's eight First Nations' languages resonated throughout various locations of the Saskatoon Inn, as Elders stressed this very important First Nations concept.

Plenary and keynote addresses highlighted themes such as, 'Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage', 'Kinship and Teachings' and 'Best of Both Worlds'.

Each year this annual conference grows and plans are already underway to make next year's conference bigger and better.



(Above) A large crowd participated in the SICC's annual Language Keepers Conference. (Right) The books were brought to life through the artwork of illustrator Joi Arcand. That's her on the left joined with author Regina Shingoose. (Left) Isaac Chamakese had the highest bid of the night at the silent auction. Could it be because it is a picture of his wife? His son Darryl wrote the book and one of the characters is his mother, Isaac's wife. Here he receives the art work from SICC President Dorothy Myo.



(Photos courtesy SICC)

Happy Holidays from the Staff and Students at SIIT

www.siit.ca

1-800-667-9704



SASKATCHEWAN
INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGIES



Shane Belcourt (background) seen here with Lorne Cardinal produced *Tkaronto* on a modest \$25,000 budget.

Tkaronto, a debut feature film by Métis director and writer Shane Belcourt, was recently screened at Aboriginal Film Focus at the Broadway Theatre. The University of Saskatchewan's Native Studies Department, in partnership with Gabriel Dumont Institute, presented six days of unique Aboriginal film from Nov. 28 to December 4.

Other films featured were *The Exiles* and *Club Native*.

"The subject matter has special interest for us, so we are more than happy to be a partner in this wonderful event" said Roger Maaka, department head of Native Studies at the University of Saskatchewan

Although I wasn't able to attend the Saskatoon event, I was in Toronto recently and was able to attend a screening and question and answer period with Belcourt, followed by a workshop with he and his distributor the following day.

Tkaronto explores a profound sense of loss by its two main characters – both Ray

and Jolene (played by Duane Murray and Melanie McLaren respectively) are dealing with confusion regarding identity and their place in the world.

Ray is a light-skinned Métis guy who is also struggling with the upcoming birth of his first child – a problem for him since he has yet to realize his dreams of being a successful screenwriter. Like many new fathers, Ray feels being a parent will ultimately end his creative life and he'll have to get a 'real' job in order to survive.

Jolene is a First Nations artist whose work is highly touted throughout North America. When she's given sweetgrass by an Elder she's working with (played by Lorne Cardinal), Jolene is unsure what to do and is devastated when she realizes she has no idea how to pray.

Their lives collide when Ray ends up staying at his friend's apartment on a trip to Toronto to pitch his TV series *Indian Jones* to ignorant, and, as it turned out, hilarious producers. Ray's friend turns out to be Jo-

Tkaronto: The little film that could

lene's sister ... and she's also staying at the apartment. They end up hanging out over the course of a couple of days and discuss their hopes, dreams, fears and failures – all the while becoming more and more attracted to one another.

At first unimpressed with *Tkaronto*, I was swayed when Belcourt revealed the film was made with a budget of \$25,000 and shot over 17 days. Even more impressive was the fact that Belcourt took out a line of credit to do it – and convinced his wife to do the same. *Tkaronto* seemed very personal and afterwards, Belcourt admitted it was.

"It (the story) is semi-autobiographical, kind of based on my own life and struggles," he told the crowd at a funky bar called Camera in downtown Toronto.

"I actually wanted to shoot a different script but realized there was no way I could do it with the money I had."

The need to make a feature stemmed from Belcourt's own dream of being a filmmaker. With a kid on the way and feeling like his window of opportunity was closing, Belcourt and his good friend Duane Murray (who plays Ray) came up with a story idea that fit their budget and schedules.

"It was four months from the time we decided to write *Tkaronto* until we started shooting. A lot of writing of the script also spilled over into production ... I didn't really get much sleep."

In the end, Belcourt and his team managed to stay on budget, with most of the money being paid to the actors. He is the first to admit the film had glitches and sound problems but you don't need to ask him if its success surprised him. You can see it in his eyes.

Not intending to make a dime at first, Belcourt was happy with paying his crew and, if possible, paying back the line of credit both he and his wife took out – anything else was gravy. Now sold to Air Canada, *Tkaronto* is also creating quite a buzz at film festivals and theatrical releases across North America.

Aboriginal Film Focus at the Broadway



Theatre was excited to host one of those releases.

"This is the right time and the right city to present such special films. We're excited that Gabriel Dumont institute is also involved, making it possible to have Shane Belcourt, the director of *Tkaronto*, join us on opening night," said Broadway Executive Director Kirby Wirchenko.

The Exiles, a 1960s film about Indians leaving reservations to live in 'glamorous' LA, and Canadian filmmaker Tracey Deere's documentary, *Club Native*, an award-winning National Film Board production, were matinee screenings.

In case you were wondering, Belcourt not only paid back the lines of credit, he also started making a little money of his own.

Moccasin Gets Impressive Gig with Native Earth

Playwright, actor, teacher and director **Simon Moccasin** recently got a role, perhaps the biggest of his promising career, with *Native Earth's* production of *A Very Polite Genocide or the Girl Who Fell to Earth*. The play is about a young woman's struggles with identity as a result of residential school. It runs from Dec. 6-21 at **Buddies in Bad Times Theatre** in Toronto. If you know Simon but can't make it to Hogtown, send him an email of encouragement. (I think he's nervous). On another note, I meant to congratulate my old friend Mr. Moccasin on winning the pitch event at the **Mispon Aboriginal Filmmaking Festival**. He received some cash and the use of pro equipment to shoot scenes for *The Scoop*, a story about First Nations children adopted out from their birth parents in the '60s and '70s.



The Centre Mall | Golden Mile Mall
Saskatoon, SK | Regina, SK

Movie Info: 955-8642 | Movie Info: 359-5250
 Theatre: 955-1937 | Theatre: 359-6353

Tuesday: \$2.00
Matinees: \$3.00
Evenings: \$4.00

www.RainbowCinemas.ca

320 - 20th St W
Saskatoon, SK

Movie Info: 955-8642
 Theatre: 665-0552

Thursday: \$2.00
Sat & Sun Matinees: \$3.00
Fri - Sun Evenings: \$4.00

Open Thursday - Sunday
www.RoxySaskatoon.ca

Book Your Next Event: 665-0552





Back Row (L to R): Brad Karpan, Laurence Paskemin, Dean Fetch, Marty Spreacker, Wanda Wilson, Sharon Sugar

Middle Row (L to R): Barb Tawpisin

Front Row (L to R): Caroline Maze, Tally Dufour, Marcel Thorhaug, Cherie Ahenakew

Missing: Angela Desnomie (maternity leave)

SEASON'S GREETINGS

"To you and your family..... Have a Safe and Happy Holiday"
 From the Board & Staff at the Saskatchewan Indian Equity Foundation

SAEN providing an artistic outlet

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Saskatoon Aboriginal Employment Network (SAEN) is a group of employment development practitioners who work with First Nations and Métis clients in Saskatoon.

The practitioners of the group each provide labour force development programs and services to individual clientele groups in the city.

Each year, the good people at SAEN plan and deliver job fairs and the Artisan's Craft Fair. This year was SAEN's fifth Annual Artisan's Craft Fair.

For the craft fair, SAEN takes over the main floor of the SIIT building in downtown Saskatoon and they turn it over to local artisans to come and sell their goods.

The artisans are provided a table to show their wares, and the tables are provided free of charge, certainly a hand-up to artists who often do not make a lot of money.

"I do this for my livelihood and this is a great promotion," said artist Darren

Pratt. "Each community that you go to is a bit different, but coming here is great. Lots of people shopping and I get to meet and discuss business with other artists."

Myrna LaPlante has taken the lead on the craft fairs for the last five years.

"We at SAEN also consider the self-employed and by bringing the self-employed artists together, we can help them network or increase their sales," said LaPlante.

One aspect that stood out this year was the number of youth that had goods for sale. There were students from a beading program, Nutana High School and Oskayak High School.

"I love to see the youth out," added LaPlante. "It is a great opportunity to meet the more established artisans and see what they do, and also just to sell their stuff and make some money for Christmas. Their high schools are doing a great job for them."

This year's craft fair was a great success with a few artisans selling their entire stock, and many asking to come back next year.



Whitney Daniels was representing the Oskayak High School travel club. They sold treats they made themselves to raise money for a trip to Disneyland. She was cheered on by Maureen Belanger who was cutting crafts.



Wilbert Shott (left) bought this beautiful piece from artisan Darren Pratt. The painting, which has an arrow mounted on it, will be a Christmas gift for Wilbert's friend ... so try to keep it a secret all right? (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



Andrea Menard performs with Robert Walsh.

Andrea Menard releases third album

In between shooting movie roles, a half hour TV show series and co-hosting national award shows, Andrea Menard took some time recently to write, record and launch a new album. It is a Christmas album, no less, that will be accompanied by a three-city tour.

"I called this album Sparkle, because that is my prayer for the winters ahead - to allow the spark within us to burst into flames and ignite a grand illumination all across the globe," says Menard. "So sparkle, my friends."

Menard, an acclaimed singer, writer and actor, often finds her summers dedicated, fortunately, to shooting TV shows. This leaves a bit of a gap in her agenda to pursue her true love of singing and performing.

"What better way to spend my winters and Christmas time than going on the road and touring with a Christmas theme show, but where I can also mix in some of my favourites," said Menard.

"People celebrate Christmas all over the world and maybe I will be taking this overseas or to Australia in the following years."

The original songs, written with

long-time collaborator Robert Walsh, cover a wide spectrum. Sparkle describes the crisp, clear winters, "full of icicles, stars, snow, tinsel, and crackling fires," she says.

Yet it also contains songs for all seasons including Evergreen, which will be released as Menard's first music video.

The title song, Sparkle, invites all of the human family to unite. My Winter Song has been translated into Cree by award-winning writer Maria Campbell.

A humorous, jazzy duet with actor Lorne Cardinal (Corner Gas), called The Christmas Slump, will surely become the next 'Baby, It's Cold Outside.' And parents of all ages will relate to Santa, I'm Broke.

Sparkle showcases Menard's powerful, lyrical voice and is a refreshing change from the same Christmas albums and standards that we listen to every year.

You can see Menard live in concert during her three stop tour Dec.17 in Prince Albert, Dec. 18 in Yorkton and Dec. 19 at the Dakota Dunes Casino on Whitecap Dakota First Nation.

For ticket information go to www.andreamenard.com

Where The
AUDIENCE
BECOMES THE STAR
OF THE SHOW!!

Hypnotist
Scott Ward

Performing LIVE at:

Now Taking Community & Conference Bookings for 2009!

(Receive 10 % off when mentioning this Ad)
Call Toll Free: 1-877-347-0663
www.scottward.ca

Don't be shy, just keep writing advises Lisa Wilson

Lisa Wilson has been on a bit of a tear lately. She recently won first place in the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild Short Manuscript Awards for a short story she wrote about a Métis guy, known only as Mister X, and the girl he leaves behind when he unexpectedly gets killed. She also was accepted into the Aboriginal Emerging Writers program at the Banff Centre last year, through the Canada Council for the Arts, and this year she has a Canada Council grant to finish her book. For a writer, that is a phenomenal year. Our Andrea Ledding caught up to Lisa between gigs to find out how this Métis writer feels about her recent success.

EFN: Tell us about yourself...

LW: I consider myself an urban Métis. I was born and raised in Saskatoon with a family that adopted me. I've worked at the Gabriel Dumont Institute now for over 11 years and am really blessed to have the opportunity to work in a Métis environment on Métis issues every day. I'm married now to a guy who's an Irish immigrant and together we have seven kids, which keeps me busy enough.

EFN: Writing accomplishments so far ...

LW: Most recently I won first place in the Saskatchewan Writer's Guild Short Manuscript Awards (Oct. 2008) for a short story I wrote about a Métis guy, known only as Mister X, and the girl he leaves behind when he unexpectedly gets killed. When I got the call about winning that award I literally did a little dance. I've had stories accepted to literary magazines like Grain, spring, and Dalhousie Review. I have a story in an anthology of Aboriginal love stories called Zaagidiwin is a Many Splendoured Thing. I was lucky enough to get accepted into the Aboriginal Emerging Writers program at the Banff Centre last year, through the Canada Council for the Arts, and this year I have a Canada Council grant to finish my book.

EFN: What first drew you to writing ...

LW: I've been writing on and off for years, but not very seriously. Every now and then I'd jot down a (usually bad) poem or dust off a long, in-progress story I'd been working on forever. But then day-to-day life would take over and it would all go back into the drawer. Then about six years ago I took an extensions class at the U of S in creative writing. After the class was over a few of us started a writing group. That writing group is really what has kept me writing and kept me involved in writing.

EFN: Favourite writers/influences ...

LW: The first books I ever read by Aboriginal writers were critical to me. Of course Maria Campbell's Halfbreed, and Beatrice Culleton's April Raintree were big ones, when I was younger. I remember "discovering" The Rez Sisters by Thompson Highway and wanting everyone I knew to read it. More recently, Joseph Boyden's Three Day Road made a big impact on me. There are just so many great Métis and First Nations writers; I could go on all day.

EFN: Any comments about the writing scene in Saskatoon/SK?

LW: For a while I felt like there wasn't enough support for a Métis writer like myself. I want to write contemporary literary fiction, and I like to sometimes experiment with format and structure. I sort of felt like maybe editors either wanted you to not write Aboriginal content or they wanted you to do it a certain way. I found it kind of discouraging. But then I started to find out more about myself as a writer and decided to just let the writing speak for itself. And I received good advice along the way from other writers that has given me more confidence. Now I repeat to myself advice given to me: even if only one person "gets" what I'm trying to do with a story then it's a success. As for the writing scene in Saskatchewan, I'm pretty new to it, but my impression, it is really strong here. We're lucky to have so many talented writers in Saskatchewan and in Saskatoon. One thing I'd like is to see more of my Métis counterparts – there are so many talented writers and story tellers out there whose stories really should be published.

EFN: What are you working on so far ... your favourite genres ... goals?

LW: I love the short story. It's such a challenge to get it right and to apply just the right economy of words without cutting away too much. Future goals include getting my first book (collection of short stories) finished and finding a publisher for it. I would love to continue to write only short stories but getting a novel out there is what most publishers expect. So I've started a YA book about an urban Métis girl who finds out about her culture through an encounter with Rougarou. So far, that one has been a ton of fun to write.

EFN: Advice for writers, young people, and especially First Nations/Métis writers...

LW: My advice is, first of all, keep writing and don't be shy about it. Find a writing group. Submit your writing to magazines and other places. It's hard, but you have to figure out how to promote our own writing because, for the most part, no one is going to 'discover' how talented you are. Apply for the writing mentorship program through the Saskatchewan Writers Guild. Apply for the AEW program through the Canada Council. Get involved in the writing community by going to workshops and retreats. But most of all, keep writing!



Lisa Wilson has been writing for many years but only recently began to take it seriously. She enjoys penning contemporary fiction.



YOUR BUSINESS IDEAS CAN BE WORTH BIG DOLLARS!

STEP 1: REGISTER AND SUBMIT AN IDEA

STEP 2: RECEIVE PROFESSIONAL FEEDBACK AND MENTORING TO DEVELOP YOUR IDEA

STEP 3: WIN CASH TO ADVANCE YOUR BUSINESS IDEA

WWW.AYIC.CA

OPEN TO SASK. ABORIGINAL YOUTH AGED 16-35




SCYAP ART FOR THE PUBLIC

The Saskatoon Community Youth Arts Programming (SCYAP) Inc. is a not-for-profit charitable organization established in order to address the social, educational, and economic needs of youth who face multiple barriers to employment. SCYAP receives numerous requests to undertake community art projects. Murals have replaced former eyesores with attractive works of art. The Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan, and Boychuk St. Pump House mural, as well as the downtown-muralized City of Saskatoon traffic control boxes are just a few examples of SCYAP's anti-graffiti initiatives. Murals at the Mayfair Lawn Bowling Club and the Saskatoon Tribal Council were designed in conjunction with community groups and individuals. Photo at right was taken in front of a mural that Affinity Credit Union commissioned and was donated to the City of Saskatoon for its 100th birthday. That mural is on the back of the Starbucks building in downtown Saskatoon.




SaskTel High Speed Internet
**Half price
 for six months***

- Parental controls • Wireless networking • E-mail virus scanning
- Spam filtering • 24/7 Help Desk Support

Bundle & Save!

Visit a SaskTel Authorized Dealer or SaskTel Store
 sasktel.com | 1-800-SASKTEL



SaskTel 
 > ahead by a century
 1908 - 2008

* Offer ends January 12, 2009 and is available on SaskTel High Speed Plus Internet Self-install (regularly \$44.95/mo.). High Speed Classic and Plus Internet includes free wireless networking. Additional hardware such as wireless cards and adapters not included. SaskTel High Speed Internet is available in certain areas of the province. Some conditions apply.



(Left) Elma Shoulak Senior Vice President Human Resources for SIGA receives the Job Creation Award from Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce President Dale Lemke. (Right) Hon. Christine Tell presents the Aboriginal Business Award to Gary Merasty VP Corporate Social Responsibility for Cameco.

SIGA, Cameco and Mosaic rewarded at SABEX

The Mosaic Company, one of Saskatchewan's largest potash producers, was named Saskatchewan's "Business of the Year" at the 25th Annual Achievement in Business Excellence (ABEX) Awards Dinner.

The Mosaic Company was also the winner in the "Community Involvement" category.

"We are proud to name the Mosaic Company as Saskatchewan's Business of the Year," noted Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce CEO Steve McLellan.

"The "Business of the Year" is an exclusive award recognizing success and potential in a variety of areas.

"Mosaic has both of these qualities in spades and we are eager to see what their future has in store."

Over 800 people from across the province attended the 25th Annual ABEX Awards which were held in Regina on Oct. 25.

The ABEX Award for the Job Creation Category was awarded to SIGA for demonstrating exceptional performance in creating new permanent jobs, taking into account the relative size and nature of the business.

Operating in five Saskatchewan markets, the Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority employs 1,700 people having added 500 full and part time jobs in 2007.

With their expansion into the Swift Current market occurring late this year,

the company will employ over 2,000 people of which over 70 per cent are First Nations.

SIGA is currently ranked 33rd in Saskatchewan's top 100 companies with annual revenues of \$190 million and net profits of \$60 million.

The Aboriginal Business Award is presented to a business or individual who has demonstrated leadership and commitment to the growth of Aboriginal businesses in Saskatchewan.

Primary emphasis is given to businesses or individuals with established practices, a record of support, proven accomplishments and a commitment to the highest ethical standards and practices.

Cameco Corporation, this year's Aboriginal Business recipient, is the world's largest uranium producer with most of its production coming from Northern Saskatchewan.

Cameco strives to create opportunity for northern residents – the majority of whom are Aboriginal.

They have achieved this in such ways as giving northern residents priority when hiring, supporting projects and programs in the community, supporting education and training, and giving preference to northern companies.

Cameco is proud of its Aboriginal connection and proud to be celebrating 20 years in Saskatchewan.


SASKATOON INDIAN & MÉTIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE


*merry christmas
and happy new year*

**from the Staff and Board of the
Saskatoon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre.**

*Build a Career...
Shape a City!*



www.saskatoon.ca

**For complete employment details, go to
www.saskatoon.ca, visit us at Human Resources -
City Hall (222 Third Avenue N), or call 975-3261.**


 While the City of Saskatoon sincerely appreciates the interest of all applicants, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.
 



The son of a prominent First Nations leader, Ron Crowe has been named deputy minister in the department of First Nations and Métis Relations.

Crowe named deputy minister for FNMR

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Ron Crowe comes from a long line of leaders. His father, Roland Crowe, was Chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians at the time of the Treaty Land Entitlement signing and is still a Senator. Ron followed his father into politics. At one time he was the Tribal Representative for File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council. His career also included service with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations as Chief of Staff. Crowe's experience in Indian government gave him a solid base that made him desirable to the province. He joined the First Nations and Métis Relations Ministry in 2007 as an Assistant Deputy Minister and in October he was named Deputy Minister of First Nation and Métis Relations. Ron Crowe is a member of the Piapot First Nation. We cornered him at a conference recently to see how the new gig is going.

What is the biggest difference between working in Indian government and the province?

I think it is the perspective that the province has on issues. Much is derived from legislation and policy. There is a different environment and I am trying to understand the process and make it meaningful for First Nation and Métis communities.

What is the biggest challenge in the new job?

The biggest challenge and opportunity is the duty to consult. How are we going to engage First Nation and Métis communities in consultation to make sure they are involved in the economy. This is a good way to achieve outcomes if we do it right.

What are you going to do different from the rest?

I want to engage the leadership. We are open to work with the leaders. There are areas we can do a better job, but where there is a willingness... we have to ensure there are good relations as that leads to dialogue.

From your background, did you ever see yourself as deputy minister of First Nation and Métis Relations?

To be honest, no, I did not. If I look back on experience and roles I had, I would never expect to have this post, but I also look at the environment today and there is an opportunity. There is genuine sincerity from government to change the kind of relationships that happened over the years. I hope to be part of developing that relationship for the long term. Sometimes it will take tough discussions and decisions but at the same time we have to ensure the relationship goes the best that it can.

I am honoured to serve as Deputy Minister. There is a tremendous amount of responsibility to provide a lot of advice to government. I want to contribute to the betterment of Saskatchewan and to our First Nation and Métis communities. That's where I come from. I am from a First Nation family with many Métis relatives. We have to work together and find what we can build on for all of our communities.

Province provides consultation funds to MNS

The Government of Saskatchewan is providing a \$200,000 grant to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan (MNS) and its regions to ensure participation in activities surrounding consultation.

The government has a responsibility to ensure that Métis people have the capacity to express their views during the consultation process.

With limited human and financial resources, it is difficult for the MNS to effectively engage government, its 12 MNS regions across Saskatchewan, more than 100 Métis locals, Métis citizens and industry to discuss consultations and other strategic interests.

"The Province is pleased with the co-operation and respectful relationship we have with the Métis in our province," First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude said.

"It is essential that the views of the Métis people are heard in the consultation process."

As our economy thrives due to the strong demand for our natural resources, it is crucial that Métis and First Nations communities are involved in the developments occurring across the province.

"We are very pleased to receive this funding from the Province," MNS president Robert Doucette said. "This money will assist the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, and the regions in providing additional capacity to participate in the consultation process."

The Supreme Court of Canada's rulings on Duty to Consult said the Crown should provide reasonable capacity to enable a First Nation or Métis rights-bearing community's par-



ROBERT DOUCETTE participation in government-initiated consultation.



Full Time help wanted
some split shifts
Counter and Kitchen help
\$10.75 per hour to start!

Meal allowance

Contact Estella with a resume at either our Midtown Plaza or Avenue G and 22nd Street locations in Saskatoon

PeoplePower.

SASKPOWER CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Looking for an Exciting Career? - SaskPower has it!
POWER LINE TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP POSITIONS

SaskPower's Power Line Technicians play a vital role in bringing electricity to homes and industry in Saskatchewan.

Would you like to work outdoors, learn to climb power poles and become part of our team at SaskPower? SaskPower is looking for people interested in joining our team as Apprentice Power Line Technicians. Successful apprenticeships will result in Journeyed status and allow for a variety of career opportunities within SaskPower.

Minimum qualifications include: Grade XI with Grade XI Math and Science or Grade XII [or equivalent] with Grade XI Math and Science. You must be physically fit to meet the challenge of physically demanding work in all types of weather, be capable of working at heights on poles, willing to relocate anywhere in the province, and possess a valid Class 5 Driver's Licence.

Apprentice salary for this position starts at \$22.48 per hour plus benefits. Journeyed status salary starts at over \$37.00 per hour.

SaskPower offers challenging careers, attractive benefits, workplace development and great opportunities for employees to become involved in their communities.

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The closing date for this competition is January 12, 2009.

Please submit applications online at saskpower.com or send to: SaskPower Recruitment, Attention Sheila, 10th floor, 2025 Victoria Avenue, Regina, SK S4P 0S1, making clear reference to Position #CAAR-544301

To be considered for this opportunity, a copy of your high school transcripts and a valid driver's licence must accompany your resume. If applying online, please mail a copy of your transcripts and driver's licence to the above address or fax a copy to (306) 566-2087 no later than January 20, 2009.

SaskPower values and supports employment equity and workplace diversity. SaskPower hires on merit and welcomes applications from all interested and qualified individuals.




Hockey legends share their special memories

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Freddie Sasakamoose was the first Canadian Aboriginal player in the National Hockey League. He grew up in Ahtahkakoop and learned to play at the Indian residential school at Duck Lake.

In 1953 he was named the most valuable player in the Western Canada Junior Hockey League. He made his debut in the NHL for the Chicago Blackhawks at Maple Leaf Gardens in 1954. He played with the Blackhawks during the rest of the 1953-1954 season, and in following years in the minor leagues. In 2002 he was honoured by the Blackhawks at a home game. After retiring from hockey he became a band councillor on his home reserve and later chief for six years. He has also been extensively involved in the development of sports programs for Aboriginal children. We caught up with Freddie at the Regina Pats First Nation and Métis appreciation night and surprised him with a quick quiz on everything we wanted to know.

What is your favourite music or band?

Country! I like Hank Williams.

Favourite hockey team when you were a kid?

I would say the P.A. Mintos.

Who is your favourite hockey team now?

The Chicago Blackhawks

Describe your biggest sporting achievement.

Being in the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame.

Describe your best goal ever.

That would have been at New Westminster when I was playing semi-pro. I scored two in a game and I remember them both.

Who would win a fight between former Regina Pat, the six foot seven inch Derek Boogaard, now of the Minnesota Wild, or Dave Schultz formerly of the Philadelphia Flyers?

Dave Schultz for sure! (Laughs)

Did you fight when you were a player?

Not particularly. We had more respect back then and didn't wear helmets so there weren't a lot of fights.

Who was the best hockey player you ever played with?

Sandy Hucul from Yorkton.

Best hockey player of all time?

Gordie Howe

What is the craziest thing you ever saw a teammate do?

When I was a rookie, you had to do everything for the older guys. One of the old fellas made me pack his clothes, pack his gloves, pack his equipment, carry it to



Two hockey legends from different eras continue to be great ambassadors for the game of hockey. Reggie Leach (left), who gained fame as a member of the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers and Fred Sasakamoose, who grew up in Ahtahkakoop and went on to play for the Chicago Blackhawks recently attended a Regina Pats game and participated in a First Nation and Métis Appreciation Night. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

the dressing room, tape his stick, wipe his skates ... everything. That was crazy.

Who is the best player in the NHL today?

I would have to say ... there are so many of them. I have to go with Sidney Crosby.

Who is going to win the Stanley Cup?

Not Detroit. I would say the Minnesota Wild.

Do you have the ultimate tip for young guys who want to make it to the big leagues?

It is all about hard work and sacrifice. You have to have discipline. No going out. Hard work that's all you gotta do.

Reggie Leach was the hero to Flyer fans through the 1970s. Nicknamed 'The Riverton Rifle', Leach was drafted third overall by the Boston Bruins in 1970. He played 934 career NHL games, scoring 381 goals and 285 assists for 666 points. His best season was the 1975-1976 season when he set career highs in goals (61), points (91), game-winning goals (11), and plus-minus with a +73 rating. The 61 goals gave him the goal-scoring title for the season. He is best remembered as being one of a very few number of players to win the Conn Smythe Trophy as the MVP of the playoffs as a member of the losing team in the Stanley Cup finals, playing with the Philadelphia Flyers when they were defeated by the Montreal Canadiens in 1976. He is the only non-goaltender to win this award in a losing cause. Leach won the trophy after setting the NHL record for most goals in the playoffs (19), a record that stands to this day. He is currently the head coach and director of hockey operations for the Manitoulin Islanders of the Northern Ontario Junior Hockey League. We caught up to Reggie at the Pats game, as well, and fired some quick questions at him. Here are his sage words.

What is your favourite band or music? Band?

How about the Barrens River band, the one I belong to! (laughs) But for music I like Willie Nelson.

Who was your favourite hockey team when you were

a kid?

The Riverton Lions

Who is your favourite hockey team now?

The Manitoulin Islanders

Describe your greatest sporting achievement.

Probably winning the Conn Smythe Trophy in 1976 after leading the National Hockey League in goals.

Describe your best goal ever.

I had a whole bunch and can't remember them all! But I would say an overtime goal against the Toronto Maple Leafs in the 6th game in Maple Leaf Gardens in 1975.

Who would win a fight between former Regina Pat, the six foot seven inch Derek Boogaard now of the Minnesota Wild or Dave Schultz formerly of the Philadelphia Flyers?

Probably the six foot seven guy.

Ever get into fights when you played?

I actually only fought ten times in the NHL but I used to fight a bit in junior. The poor guys I fought in junior, I ruined their career cause they broke their hands hitting me!

Who is the best player that you ever played with?

Bobby Clarke hands down.

Who is the best hockey player ever?

Gordie Howe and Wayne Gretzky are close, but it goes to Gretzky.

What is the craziest thing that you ever saw a teammate do?

I hit my fellow teammate Larry Goodenough with a slap shot in the bum in front of the net and he shit his pants on the ice at the Montreal Forum. True story. It was messy.

Who is the best player in the NHL?

I would have to go with Crosby. He is good and good for the game.

Who is going to win the Stanley Cup this year?

I would like to see Montreal win because of their 100 year celebration, but it is probably going to be a toss-up. Probably someone no one would expect. I would like to see the Flyers win, as it has been a long time ... it is a toss-up between them, the Blackhawks and the Toronto Maple Leafs. I'll pick Toronto.

Who was your fiercest rivalry when you were a player?

Probably Montreal. Their 1976 team was the best team I have ever seen.

Any tips for young guys who want to make it to the big leagues?

Today in hockey, to play the game, you have to be in shape. You can have all the talent in the world, but if you are not in shape, you will not play in the NHL. 75 per cent of it is conditioning. When we played we smoked between periods and would not have survived in this era ... at all.

Regina Pats welcome Aboriginal culture

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The Brandt Centre was packed with Indians the other night and it wasn't the First Nations University Pow Wow like you thought. It was actually First Nation and Métis Awareness Night at the Regina Pats Western Hockey League home game against the Spokane Chiefs. And the Pats went all out in welcoming the community.

They opened the game with a centre ice, ten minute display of hoop dancing by the legendary Terrance Littlelent. Hockey dignitaries like Freddie Sasakamoose and Reggie Leach made their way to centre ice on the red carpet. They were joined by other dignitaries like First Nations and Métis Relations Minister June Draude, Tribal Rep Edmund Bellegarde, and Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco.

Then Stacey Cyr, a fourth year student from the First Nations University of Canada, blessed the game by belting out a stunning rendition of O Canada in Cree while Elder Howard Anderson, stood by her side, headdress on, eagle staff in hand, proudly at attention.

"It was Howard that made this happen," said Cliff Mapes, director of corporate sales and marketing for the Pats.

"One game last year he came to me and asked why we sang the anthem in English and French but not in Cree. I said, 'I don't know but tell ya what Howard, when the season is over come talk to me about next year.' Well, the day after we lost out last year, Howard was there in my office asking for an anthem in Cree. It grew fast from there."

Howard Anderson has been a Regina Pat season ticket holder for two years and it bugged him that the anthem was never sang in Cree.

"I had seen Stacey sing the anthem at functions all over," said Anderson. "And I thought it would be a great idea to have the anthem at a Pats game. All I really wanted was the anthem sung, but the Pats put a lot of effort into the night and made me really proud with the opening ceremonies, the dancer at centre ice and the ceremonial puck drop."

Both Reggie Leach and Freddie Sasakamoose were impressed with the hospitality of the evening and really happy at how far things have come for Native kids in junior hockey.



"I never would have seen a night like this," said Sasakamoose. "We had nothing. But great for them now. Times have changed. You see those sticks they use. Light as a feather. I wish I had that when I played," he laughed

Leach, who coaches junior hockey in northern Ontario, says the opportunities are there for the kids today, but they have to take them.

"It is a long process. I coach a junior team and we started with ten or twelve native kids and I am now down to three. The ones who make it are dedicated. It is what is in your heart that is what you have to do. Many want to take the easy way out and you can't do that in life anymore."

Leach, aside from coaching, also tours and talks to youth, and is a regular visitor to Regina where he is the co host of The Oskana Cup Reggie Leach Hockey Challenge.

"It is my pleasure coming back to Regina, with the Oskana Cup every year raising money for inner-city kids to play sports," said Leach.

"We have a great time at the tournament and I talk with kids. With the youth, it has to be positive for them. They are our future. It is different now. The world has changed. Within the Aboriginal com-

The ceremonial faceoff at centre ice took place after a ten-minute display of hoop dancing by Terrance Littlelent. (Regina Pats photos)

munity, we are working together more and you see it in events like tonight."

Leach and Sasakamoose also spent time signing autographs near the giant teepee that was on the concourse.

The night of Aboriginal all-stars, culture and friendship was a huge success for the Regina Pats.

"We wanted to bring a little bit of the First Nation culture to our hockey fans and hopefully educate them a little bit," said Mapes.

"I know through this process I have been educated a lot. I have a much better understanding of their culture and lifestyle. We have two players with Aboriginal ancestry, Graham Hood and Damien Ketlo.

"It is tough for First Nation kids to get to this level of hockey and if there is anything the Regina Pats can do to be involved in the future, we want to do it."

Howard Anderson and his simple push to have the national anthem sung in Cree really started something and in the process created memories for many that will last a life time.

"When I was a kid, I watched Hockey Night in Canada with my dad," said Stacey Cyr.

"And then to stand at centre ice with Howard beside me and to sing the anthem in Cree, it allowed me to share that pride that exists in a nation. It was so nice of the Pats to make a night like this happen. We really feel a part of it."



Saskatoon Police Service Recruiting Information Sessions

If you want an interesting and exciting career, look no further.

The Saskatoon Police Service will be holding regular recruiting information sessions in the new year. Everyone is welcome. The sessions take place at the Saskatoon Police Service headquarters located at 130 4th Avenue North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Please register to write the entrance exam or to take the physical abilities test by submitting your full name, date of birth, address and phone number to:

recruiting@police.saskatoon.sk.ca or call (306) 975-8282. www.police.saskatoon.sk.ca

New information session dates will be announced in the new year.



#1 In Credit Rebuilding
IS YOUR Credit
ALL Screwed Up or Not
Looking for a new or used truck or van
I CAN HELP!
Don't Delay Call Today!

GOOD CREDIT, BAD CREDIT,
WHATEVER YOUR CREDIT HISTORY IS,
WE CAN GET YOU ESTABLISHED

JACK ESHELMAN

Credit Specialist
"I specialize in Aboriginal credit help!"



Home • 204-334-0979 or 204-338-1964
24 hours Toll Free: 1-866-999-2499
Fax Line: 204-334-1813

New or Used Vehicles



Corey Matthews is dedicated to improving the lives of his young players through the power of sports.

Corey Matthews helps boys meet the world

He may not be a famous TV star but this Corey Matthews is definitely a celebrity at Scott Collegiate. When he showed up at Scott Collegiate in 2003, the school didn't even have a basketball program. It had been defunct or 15 years.

Matthews immediately turned that around. He started up the junior basketball program and has since gone on to win two city basketball titles.

In addition to the team at Scott, Matthews also coaches and runs the North Central Lakers community basketball program. This program has been very successful and allowed Matthews to dream bigger.

He is in the process of developing an Aboriginal Basketball Academy, which would be the first of its kind for the province. A sort of top 50 camp, with kids coming from all over the province.

Matthews has numerous goals he hopes to attain through the program. He wants to expose these kids to elite coaches, and have them become integrated into Basketball Saskatchewan programs. It is also a great way to develop Aboriginal coaches and their skill level.

His own development received a major boost when he was recently named

Aboriginal Apprentice Coach for Team Saskatchewan at the 2009 Canada Summer Games. The opportunity is not lost on Matthews and he is looking forward to the coaching, but more so the learning. He says he would like to "take the knowledge he has learned from this experience and take it back to the Aboriginal community programs."

Despite being just 31, Matthews has been coaching for about 15 years and enjoys the time he has to learn from others.

"It's nice to take a step back, sometimes, and learn different things," he explains

Matthews says he has always felt at ease on the basketball court, it is a place where he belongs. And through sports he hopes to provide many of the youth he works with that same feeling. A sense of purpose not related to struggles off the court or off the field. He is helping to build better human beings, not just better athletes.

Through all that he does, this Laker is becoming a real Trailblazer.

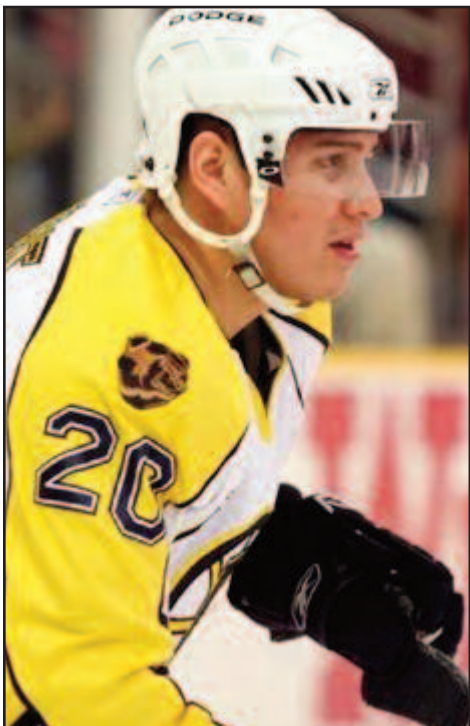
If you would like to contact Corey he can be reached at the North Central Lakers Club at northcentrallakers@yahoo.ca

Rabbit on the loose in Providence

Former Saskatoon Blade Wacey Rabbit has been playing with the Providence Bruins of the American Hockey League for the last three seasons. His career since going to Providence has been a steady climb up the team's depth chart. And he still has his sights set on making the big club, the NHL's Boston Bruins, some day.

Following his stint with the Blades, Rabbit was in Providence for the first 22 games of the 2006-07 season before being sent back to the WHL and his new home in Vancouver where he wound up playing for the Giants.

It was there that Rabbit won the Memorial Cup and was the club's second leading scorer during their playoff run. The time on the West Coast, he says "was great for my playing career".



WACEY RABBIT



ketball. The first year Manitoba Bison and Saskatoon product is in the top ten in scoring and assists. And is the league leader in three-pointers made this year.

But during his first visit back to Saskatoon the Huskies were unwelcoming hosts. They made life miserable for Dixon and he shot just five for 15 from the field and had five turnovers.

The Bisons have a 4-12 record and are struggling this year. Dixon will hopefully be there to help steer the Bisons towards some more wins sooner rather than later.

Random Thoughts

I'll be the first to say it around the province, but the Riders should definitely not pursue Jason Clermont if he would cost them more than 80 G's a year ... I've gone to see them and can now officially say that the Saskatoon Blades are awesome again ... Jay Triano will turn the Raptors around ... Man those Sharks really look like they can win the Cup this year! Ha ha ... Biggest Idiot of the year award easily goes to Plaxico Burress. Your team is a winner, check. You make millions a year, check. You could have hired two security guards year round with the money you make, check. I carry a gun and shoot myself, ruining my year and possibly a career, check!

What a loser!



SASK SPORT INC
A Division of Professional Sport Consulting Services



SASKATOON SPORTS COUNCIL

Aboriginal Community Sport Grant

What is the Aboriginal Community Sport Grant?
The purpose of the Aboriginal Community Sport Grant Program (ACSGP) is to provide greater sport participation and development opportunities for Aboriginal youth in Saskatchewan. The program will assist and support the implementation of organized community sport programs to increase sport opportunities for youth in the Aboriginal community, specifically in urban, rural, on-reserve, isolated and northern communities.

- The Aboriginal Community Sport Development grant will focus on communities and building their capacity to offer quality, organized sport programs** for Aboriginal youth.

Who can apply?

- Organizations that provide services with First Nations and Métis people and are registered under the Saskatchewan Non-Profit Corporations Act are eligible to apply (these organizations must have been incorporated and in existence for a minimum of one year); or
- Communities are eligible to apply provided endorsement is received from a Bonded Authorized Officer (i.e. Mayor, Reeve or Chief);
- Applicants must have appropriate levels of participants insurance covering projects, events and activities that fall under its sanction;
- Ineligible communities or organizations may partner with eligible communities/organizations to apply for support and deliver activities that meet the objectives of the program;
- Individuals and provincial organizations may not apply for funding assistance through this program;

How much funding is available?

- Recipients are permitted to apply for more than one community sport initiative; however a separate application per initiative is required. If an organization or community is submitting more than one application, consideration will be given to the second or subsequent application(s) after all other community submissions have been reviewed.
- The maximum eligible amount a community can receive per initiative is \$5,000 per year. The minimum application amount to be considered is \$1,000 per initiative, per year.
- For approved sport initiatives, grant recipients will be eligible to apply for additional funding support in subsequent years. Initiatives can be funded for up to three years but the maximum eligible amount a grant recipient can receive is \$10,000 per initiative, over the three years.

Upcoming Grant Deadlines

Fall Programs-	June 1 st , 2008
Winter Programs-	November 1 st , 2008
Spring/Summer Programs-	February 1 st , 2008

For more information or to receive your application form/workbook please contact the Saskatoon Sports Council 975-0830 or saskatoonsportscouncil@shaw.ca

The ACSGP is jointly funded through Sport Canada's Aboriginal Participation Bilateral the Province of Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund for Sport, Culture and Recreation.



Canadian Heritage



Patrimoine canadien



Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport



Saskatchewan LOTTERIES

Lorna and Eugene Arcand honoured by sports community



Lorna and Eugene Arcand have played key roles in the world of sports.

People often say the Aboriginal community is great for honouring its people, but it is often after they have passed. Sometimes we forget to thank people for their great work when they can feel the appreciation.

Well, the community recently took steps to honour two of its living and breathing sports ambassadors, Lorna and Eugene Arcand.

This dynamic duo has been involved with sports their entire life. They are often the driving force behind the incredible success of Team Sask at the North American Indigenous Games. In British Columbia this year, Lorna and Eugene Arcand were presented with an Award and honoured for their contribution to NAIG and their involvement since 1990. Eugene and Lorna joined the ranks of other founding members Willie Littlechild, Charles Wood and John Fletcher in being honoured.

Eugene was the first Aboriginal person to be named

citizen of the year in Prince Albert. His skills in organizing big events and bringing in sponsors is legendary. He is also a member of the Saskatchewan Indian Sports Hall of Fame as a builder.

Lorna is the busiest woman around. Her energy helps bring to life the FSIN Annual Pow Wow, the First Nations Summer and Winter Games and of course, the

North American Indigenous Games where this year, she fittingly carried in the Saskatchewan sign. Her hard work is greatly appreciated.

It is through the tireless efforts of people like Eugene and Lorna Arcand that many of our youth in Saskatchewan have excelled in sport and have gone onto bigger and better achievements in their careers.



From RBC® to your family and business, we wish you a happy holiday season.



® Registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.



Credit unions offer a simple solution.

We know financial planning is not always at the top of your priority list. Yet in the back of your mind you know it's something that needs attention.

If you spend just a short time with us, we can put together a plan that makes sense for you.

No matter what your age, a sensible financial plan will help you feel more secure.



saskcu.com



Saskatchewan Credit Unions

Clarence Campeau Development Fund

*Season's
Greetings!*



Serving Saskatchewan's Métis
www.clarencecampeau.com

The mission of the CCDF is to improve the economic circumstances of Saskatchewan's Métis by providing funding for business development, community economic development and development of management skills and assistance to new and existing Métis owned businesses.

Loan/Equity Contribution Program

Community Business
Development Program

Support for Aftercare Program

Development of Management
& Marketing Skills Program

Business Plan Assistance Program

Large Scale or Joint Venture
Project Program

Please contact us at:

www.clarencecampeau.com

email: info@clarencecampeau.com

2158 Airport Drive

Saskatoon, SK S7L 6M6

(306) 657-4870

Fax (306) 657-4890

Toll Free: 1-888-657-4870