

Eagle Feather NEWS

FREE

Harvey The Hero arrived just in time

Harvey Dorian was in the right place at the right time when he came across a youngster who had got himself into a pickle in a water filled ditch. Without thinking, Harvey did the right thing and entered the water to save the three-year-old. He has now become a reluctant hero with media interviews from across the country.

(Photo by Joylyn Erb)



By **Andréa Ledding**
For Eagle Feather News

PELICAN NARROWS – “Oh, you must be looking for Harvey the Hero,” said the secretary at Pelican Narrows’ Opawikoscikan School, when Eagle Feather News phoned to track down Mary Jane Michel.

Harvey Dorian’s mother, Mary Jane Michel, teaches at Opawikoscikan School and has been handling national media calls for over a week now. In fact she says it’s been almost overwhelming, the amount of attention coming his way.

The Pelican Narrows 10-year-old boy, now known to his community as “Harvey the Hero,” saved a three-year-old from drowning in a ditch in April.

“He’s downplaying everything – for him it’s forgotten, but I’m very proud and very happy,” said Mary Jane.

Harvey is the youngest of six kids and all of his siblings are in their twenties and thirties, so he was walking over to an older brother’s house around 5 p.m. when he came upon a car in the ditch.

Not your typical car-in-a-ditch scenario, this was an upside-down plastic red and yellow toddler car driven by a three-year-old who had, reputedly, been off the bottle, but was still a ways away from being a legal driver.

The pre-school driver was in over his head. Without thinking about it, Harvey waded in, having two nephews of his own who are one and five.

“He was drowning and I had to go save him,” Harvey said, noting the water level was up to his own eyes so the toddler in the car didn’t have much of a chance. He grabbed him and pulled him out, managing to get only his shoes wet.

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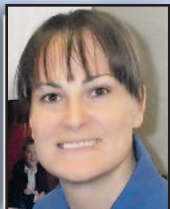
YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Students love to learn about science and they learned lots at the Potash Corp science fair. - Page 6



WELLNESS CENTRE

La Ronge stands a healthy chance of being able to construct and new wellness and treatment centre before long. - Page 9



WOMEN IN MINING

Women are starting to stake their claim in an industry that has been dominated by men. - Page 14



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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was a big hit with the large crowd when he made a stop in Fort Qu’Appelle - Page 24



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The busy JRMCC is about to get even busier once the expansion is complete. - Page 26

Sports, Mining & Youth Edition

Coming In June - National Aboriginal Day Issue

Supportive sister proud to see Tonya Hansen graduate from Hatchet Lake program

By Glen Strong
For Eagle Feather News

HATCHET LAKE – Tonya Hansen is turning 21 years old this year and will be exiting the Hatchet Lake Special Needs Education Program as a graduate. The graduation takes place July 30.

Tonya has Down Syndrome and has been working toward her education for many years. When Tonya was asked what she likes to do, she replied that she likes to sing, dance and make new friends. Tonya is quite the “social bug” as she loves to meet new people whenever they come to town or when they show up at her school.

I had a chance to talk to Taylor, Tonya’s sister, and I asked her what it was like growing up with Tonya. Taylor told me that she remembers, from a young age, helping out with bathing and dressing Tonya, getting her ready for school and events.

“It was easier when Tonya was younger because now that she has matured she wants to be independent and this requires added attention,” said Taylor. “Tonya is always happy and she is a loyal friend.”

Taylor plays guitar and sings and Tonya is very supportive of her sister.

“She’s right beside me singing along,” states Taylor.

When Taylor was asked about her sister graduating, she replied, “I’m happy for her but it also means that times are changing and we will both be out of school and into the world. I want to bring a national awareness to people with Down syndrome.”

When I asked Taylor how she would describe her sister Tonya, she replied, “She’s the best. She’s just awesome!”

I couldn’t agree more. Congratulations Tonya!



Tonya Hansen (far right) is graduating from the Hatchet Lake Special Needs Program in July. Her family, especially her sister Taylor, have been great support for her during her school years.

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CUMFI signs agreement with Saskatoon Catholic Schools

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – At one time, the history and culture of the Métis people was not taught properly in any school in Canada.

As the community evolved and partnerships emerged, curriculum improved and school boards started to do a better job. Now, with a five-year memorandum of understanding ending, officials from both the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) believe the time is right to strengthen their 10-year partnership in Métis education.

“We have a mutual concern for the well-being of our Métis students,” said GSCS Board of Education Chair Diane Boyko.

“The intent of the agreement is to support Métis students in their academic pursuits, as well as recognize and support their unique language and cultural heritage, their identity as Métis people, and the shared histories and relationships with all Canadians.”

The new Educational Alliance agreement was signed at St. Michael Community School on April 18. In 2015, St. Michael began offering a Métis cultural program that focuses on the educational outcomes and well-being of all students. It offers academic and cultural programming such as dance, drama and art, and introduces students to Michif, the indigenous language of the Métis people in Canada.

“When I was growing up, I didn’t have exposure to Michif, the language of my people,” said CUMFI President Shirley Isbister.



(Above) Rory R. and Lexus B placed their class project in the time capsule to commemorate the agreement. (Left) CUMFI President Shirley Isbister and Catholic School Board Chair Diane Boyko signed the Educational Alliance agreement in front of the staff, students and allies of St Michael Community School. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)

“Culture and language are so important. I’m so happy with our partnership and the progress of Métis education at St. Michael’s and throughout the whole school division. This new agreement is an important step in recognizing and celebrating the heritage of the Métis people in our com-

munities and our country. This is a day filled with pride and I look forward to when my grandkids get bussed here and learn the language so that they can teach me.”

Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. is a community-based, Métis-operated non-profit charitable organization representing thousands of Saskatoon Métis people that is a local and national leader in the area of urban Aboriginal issues and challenges.

The agreement establishes a working group and governance committee, information sharing protocols, and parameters for consultation and planning to help establish the necessary supports for learning, retention and success of Métis students.

“CUMFI has been very patient and generous with us,” added Diane Boyko.

“There is still a lot of hard work ahead but we are moving forward with the values of respect, participation and collaboration.”



“I’m proud to be one of over 2,300 Saskatchewan residents who work for PotashCorp. But I’m even prouder of this: For every person like me that PotashCorp hires, three more jobs are created. How’s that for positive economic impact? And they’re only in my backyard.”



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Best lessons found in sporting world

I always love the May issue that focuses on youth, sports and mining because all three things have been very influential in my life.

Before I fell into this newspaper/consulting gig, I was going to be a social worker. I had the sociology degree, had volunteer work and coaching in my background and I was ready to go out there and start befriending the troubled and saving young lives.

So I did. I had some contracts with social services and did some very valuable one-on-one work with some real troubled kids. Many of these kids were born into circumstances beyond their control and the impact on them by their surroundings was sometimes immense. But it seemed regardless of the challenges, if the kids had hope, they could weather the most difficult of times.

The social working was very difficult and I was more than happy to move onto my next career but I keep that contact with young people by coaching hockey or ball hockey or three on three or whatever sports the kids are playing when no other parent volunteers (that's why the kids soccer team I coached warmed up by doing the horseshoe drill from hockey...we always got weird stares).

And as often as I try to impart wisdom on youth, I find that they often inspire me ... the quiet kid in hockey making the big play or speech. Or performing a selfless act of bravery like our cover story hero Harvey or that first acting

performance by a young student at the Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre.

Or now that Grade 8 class from King George Community School donating over \$1,000 of their grad money to the evacuees

from Fort McMurray. Are you kidding me? Grade 8 kids? Very impressive. I love young people.

I also have a fondness for the mining industry too. My father was a personnel manager for Potash Corporation of America so mining has been in my family my entire life. I have seen the positive impact mining

has on employees and their families and now we see many mining companies in Saskatchewan embrace corporate social responsibility. My dad would be spinning in his grave if he saw the largess of the company that now owns his once humble mine just outside of Saskatoon.

Community investments from mining companies have made Saskatchewan a much better place to live. Sometimes these donations come with big naming rights and lots of media attention. But lots of what

mining companies do is also just day-to-day good citizen stuff.

It was heartwarming to see Athabasca Basin Development, a company that does millions of dollars in business with major mining companies in Saskatchewan, replace the \$1,000 the King George Students donated to Fort McMurray so they get to have a great grad after all.

Or like our friends at PotashCorp arranging for one of their suppliers to make 20 or so high school business club students a new suit for business plan pitching. That's good stuff.

And lastly sports ... I can never get enough sports. I love to golf (badly). I love to play hockey (deadly sniper with absolutely no desire to backcheck or work a corner). I swim like a fish. I play bocce ball with an assassin's eye and heart. Badminton, wicker. Basketball, Dr J they called me. Tennis ... OK as long as the knees hold up. And, of course poker, which they show on a sports channel so it must be a sport.

And besides me giving lots of assists in sport, I get lots back too. Young or old, I have learned leadership and how to win or lose. And I got lessons in humility and patience. And also lessons in controlling my temper and what to do if I lose it. Lots of good things from sport.

So, we hope you enjoy reading this issue as much as we enjoyed pulling together all these stories to inspire youth, promote sports and celebrate mining in Saskatchewan.



Students from King George Community School in Saskatoon raised over \$1000 for their grad but after hearing about the Fort McMurray fires, they decided to donate the funds to the Red Cross. Accepting on their behalf was Richard Kies, provincial development manager for the Canadian Red Cross. (Photo by Rob Kunz, Saskatoon Public Schools)

Eagle Feather NEWS

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Publications Mail Agreement No.: 40027204

OSSN #1492-7497

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

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

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This issue printed on: May 11, 2016 Next issue to be printed on: June 9, 2016

Life lessons from Game of Thrones

Everything I need to know about life, I have learned from watching Game of Thrones.

Spoiler alert – if you haven't watched the series yet, I'm about to spoil it worse than the spinach at the back of my fridge.

For those of you without access to cable or a ten-year-old's downloading skills, GOT is a movie quality show about warring families that may remind you of some band offices. It features lots of nudity and sex scenes and has reportedly inspired at least two porn parodies which seems redundant.

But GOT is not just a movie quality program starring dragons, buckets of blood and a seemingly unending source of flawless butts, it's also an opportunity for life lessons.

In the first season, I learned that even if things look hopeless that does not mean you should ever lose hope.

Like just when you think your life is ruined because you are being forced to marry a relative stranger, he turns out to be the love of your life, in the case of Daenerys Targaryen – or in the case of Cersei Lannister, a huge disappointment that drives you to drink wine by the barrels – also a win, in my opinion.

Another life lesson I've gleaned from the series is that you can say pretty much anything you want in life as long as you say it with style. Tyrion Lannister, aka the Imp, aka Tywin's least favourite child, aka my favourite character, has witty lines to burn.

My favourite burn of his: "I'm not questioning

your honour, I'm denying its very existence."

I often wish I had some Tyrion-worthy lines during the difficult moments in life like when someone butts in front of me at Timmy's instead of the rather wane, "Seriously?" Although as satisfying



as a good witticism is, sometimes there's nothing as satisfying as slapping the crap out of the Jofferys in your life and Tyrion has certainly proven that true to my unending glee.

I learned from Ned Stark that even when you're an honourable person with integrity to burn and you do everything right – somebody may still cut off your head. Which is not to say that you shouldn't be a good person, just don't expect the world to reward you for it –and stay away from sharp axes.

Here's some great advice from GOT: when you apologize to someone, you should always look them in the eye. This rather wise piece of counsel came from Ramsay Bolton as he was instructing Reek, aka Theon Greyjoy, aka the unluckiest dude in the entire Game of Thrones canon.

It's ironic that Ramsay was telling anyone how

to make an apology when he's pretty much the worst character ever invented. He makes Hannibal Lector look like Mary Poppins. But he's right, apologies really mean nothing if there's no eye contact – which is why I always look in my rear view mirror when I mouth "sorry" to someone I've cut off in traffic.

Something else I've learned is that in a cruel world, the best survival tactic is being yourself – no matter how much of an oddball you are. The nonconformists in the Game of Thrones universe are doing quite well – well, surviving which is actually success in that world – Tyrion, Brienne, Varys, Sam and Arya – none of them are typical heroes but they manage to save themselves and others.

This is a balm to the soul of a mom who secretly worries that I'm destroying my son's childhood because I suck at crafts whereas every other mom out there seems to be able to decorate cupcakes.

I've also realized from my viewing of this show that if you are ever unlucky enough to be deprived of your lands, rights or freedom, then do not lose faith for at some point a nice white lady will rescue you and declare herself your Queen.

And then you'll be like, "Uh thanks for the offer, lady, but we're a sovereign people."

Yup, everything I need to learn about life, I've learned from GOT – which is a lot better than when I learned all those life skills from The Walking Dead because stabbing someone in the head with a spoon almost never comes in handy.

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YOUNG SCIENTISTS

The 5th Annual PotashCorp Mini Science Fair for Saskatoon Tribal Council students from grades K – 4 was a huge success. Over 60 students participated with over 20 in depth science projects on display at the event hosted by E.D. Feehan Collegiate in Saskatoon. The students researched topics including dinosaurs, lava lamps, volcanoes, square bubbles and how to turn a tray of milk into a multitude of colours. They also spent time studying physics and robotics. The day wasn't all science as there was a break for pizza and a visit with Journey, the STC Rez Dog who came by for a visit later in the afternoon.

Photos by John Lagimodiere



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White Bear athlete scores two scholarships from North Dakota college

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

WHITEBEAR FIRST NATION – Eighteen-year-old Tori Strongeagle, from Whitebear First Nation, has made history by receiving athletic scholarships for volleyball and softball at Lake Region State College in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

But if it wasn't her for persistent mom Samantha, she might never have had a chance.

Strongeagle caught the eye of the coaches at a prospects camp at Assiniboia in February when she was among 200 other girls showcasing their skills for scouts all over Canada and United States. Strongeagle said it is nearly impossible to get into these camps and this year her mom, Samantha Strongeagle, went on the website every single day just to get her on the list.

"I was put on the waiting list and we found out a few days later before the camp that a girl dropped out and I got in there," said Strongeagle.

Samantha Strongeagle said she knew it was very important her children play sports and she and Tori's father did everything they could to get their children into organized sports.

"I think the importance of putting my kids through sports was to be able to experience everything it has to offer and what can be achieved from it. I have seen so many exceptional athletes that can make it to the next level of organized sports but without support and family it's very difficult," said Strongeagle.

Tori Strongeagle said she and her brothers are alcohol, drug and tobacco free and have their parents to thank for that.

"Keeping my kids away from influences was not difficult. Our reserve has the same issues as others do, it's visible and seen, we knew it was there. We basically kept our kids very close to us," said Samantha Strongeagle who added that extensive travelling to sporting events allowed her family to get really close to each other.

Tori said she is the first person from Whitebear to get two scholarships from the states and she proudly represents her community.

"I know next year, I'll be coming back to speak with a couple of schools, to talk about the first year of college, experiencing travelling all over the states," said Tori.

Strongeagle said she wants to be a role model and encourage children to stay away from alcohol, drugs and tobacco and instead go into sports. She said after when she succeeds in reaching her goals in getting a nursing degree and a coaching degree she will move back home to her community.

"I want to put on more camps for my reserve, because usually when you're from a small community, you have to go off the reserve to play sports. I want to be able to bring it to Whitebear," said Tori.

She says that kids in Whitebear don't get the same opportunities and she and her brothers want to change that.

Samantha Strongeagle is very proud of her children.

"We have tried our best to raise our kids the best we know how and I am proud of them all. Tori now has a new and exciting adventure ahead of her and I will do everything in my power to help her along the way".

Tori said after she graduates high school this summer she will be moving to Devils Lake in August.



Tori Strongeagle has earned a scholarship for volleyball and softball to Lake Region State College in North Dakota.
(Photo by Tiffany Head)

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Boyden shares his own story at Library Association conference

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

The Saskatchewan Library Association featured two Indigenous keynote speakers at its annual conference, Lindsay Knight (aka "Eekwol") who presented the 2016 Mary Donaldson Memorial Lecture and Joseph Boyden who gave a keynote address on the last day of the gathering.

Provincial Aboriginal Services Coordinator Amber Boddy noted that the Saskatchewan Public Libraries are actively working to deliver Aboriginal Library Services which include providing information and promoting the histories, cultures, and traditions of Métis and First Nations peoples of Saskatchewan. Knight and Boyden are two Indigenous artists at the top of their profession and were inspiring additions to the conference.

Knight, who originally hails from Muskoday First Nation, lives in Saskatoon where she's currently working for the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Having completed a Master's Degree at the University of Saskatchewan, she continues an award-winning career in hip hop. She included a performance with her lecture, "Indigenous Conceptualizations of Creativity," which was open to the public.

Award-winning author Boyden, who now splits his time between Canada and New Orleans, gave a lecture entitled "Three Day Paddle: My Journey to Becoming an Artist."

Welcomed to the stage by drum group "Young Bucks", Boyden was repeatedly met with enthusiastic applause, questions, and finally a standing ovation.

Separating the three acts of his lecture with harmonica and mouth harp stylings, he read excerpts from his writing and told stories about himself, his family and wider society.

"I'm beginning to understand the weight that comes with a name," noted Boyden, speaking of the Anishnaabe name Basil Johnston gave him, "He Who Enlightens" or "Shining Bridge". "It's not something that you pull out of your pocket ... it's something that you live," he stressed.

"I became a writer for a reason. This is not a comfortable place for me as a person to address large crowds," he observed, adding that it was a way to bring messages from his mixed-blood heritage and his own experiences and that of others, in order to build those bridges in himself and between others.

Speaking of an idyllic childhood, Boyden also shared some of his struggles with depression and suicide as a young man. His father passed away when he was eight years old.

"As a teen I really got into a lot of trouble. I wish I had found more of my traditional ways, but I almost died a number of times, literally. I attempted suicide on my sixteenth birthday in a very real and traumatic way to my family and to me," shared Boyden.

"I got into a gang, I was going with the wrong crowd, it was getting pretty bad. I almost ended up in prison a number of times and I'm thankful that I didn't. And the reason I share this with you all is that I've become an advocate for mental health issues in this country. I was suffering from depression and I didn't know what it was."

He now speaks, especially to Indigenous youth, about these topics because of his own personal understanding and experience, hoping that even if one life can be saved it is made worthwhile.

"It's not easy to show your weaknesses to strangers but I think it's vital," he noted. "I think we need to start looking at all sorts of mental health issues in this country with a lot more compassion."

His wife Amanda encouraged him in a more recent depression to focus on helping others, something which also helped him as he began to speak out. He emphasized the importance of not reaching "empathy burnout" as a society, and continuing to reach out to help one another.

He is developing a workshop now that would start in Attawapiskat with movie-making, then Attawapiksat youth would carry it forward to another community such as La Loche, who would then pass it on as well.

"It continues to move forward, so that's one of our ideas. We have to think outside of the box," noted Boyden.

"We have to recognize, too, where the trauma's coming from. Suicide was not an issue, pre-contact."



Joseph Boyden reacts with a laugh as Colleen Charlette gifts him with a family photo of her and her daughter. (Photo by Andrea Ledding)

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Trudeau's support adds to La Ronge leadership's confidence wellness centre will be constructed

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

LA RONGE – It has been talked about for years, but now, plans for a wellness, healing and recovery centre in La Ronge are gaining momentum.

“Once it’s a reality, I think it’s going to make a big difference,” says Miles Ratt.

Ratt is the Chair of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band (LLRIB) Advisory

Council on Mental Health and Wellness. The council, consisting of representatives from the six LLRIB communities, contributed to a mental health strategy and feasibility study completed last summer.

After consulting with hundreds of stakeholders and visiting similar centres in Western Canada, a 100-page report with 20 recommendations was prepared by Dr. Margaret Kress White in July, 2015.

“All stakeholders participating were unanimous in the support of a healing centre focused on recovery services and outreach wellness programs, addictions counselling, cultural services and land-based initiatives,” the report states.

“There’s a high need for mental health services,” says LLRIB Chief Tammy Cook-Searson, noting the proposed centre would also provide addictions services that would complement not duplicate, existing detox services. She emphasizes that one of the main messages they heard in their community meetings was the need to focus on the younger population.

Two phases of facility development have been proposed. The first would be a wellness and healing centre with an attached recovery unit for young adults. The second would include a leisure and recreation centre with an indoor pool that could potentially service the entire community and surrounding area.

Cook-Searson says that \$2.3 million has already been set aside for the project by the Band’s Health Services. The first phase alone could cost upwards of \$17 million. While the gap may ap-



During his visit to Saskatchewan, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed to Lac La Ronge Indian Band Chief Tammy Cook-Searson his interest in a proposed wellness, healing and recovery centre. (Photo by Bobby Cameron)



Chief Tammy Cook-Searson stands on one of the potential sites for the wellness, healing and recovery centre in La Ronge. The site was once home to a residential school and a hospital and also has a cemetery on the grounds. But it also is central in the town of La Ronge, an urban reserve, and has a spectacular view of the lake. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

pear daunting, Cook-Searson is optimistic that once a location has been confirmed and a coordinator is in place, there will be significantly more progress.

One of the options being considered is to construct the facility on the Kiskinwumatowin (Urban) Reserve on La Ronge Avenue, where the Anglican Mission School and the La Ronge Hospital once stood.

Health Canada has provided funding to hire a project coordinator whose duties will include working with partners to fundraise for the centre. Potential funders include governments, corporations and individuals.

“We’ve been really patient,” says Cook-Searson. “But everything takes time. I guess it will be up to the will of

the people and also the will of the decision-makers that will help us support our project in moving it forward.”

Cook-Searson has already had the opportunity to present the report to Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs, and to Ralph Goodale, Minister of Public Safety. Cook-Searson said that when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was in Saskatoon on April 27, he expressed interest in the project, observing “he seemed to genuinely care”.

While Cook-Searson recognizes that there is still more work to be done, working with officials and building partnerships, she has always maintained her belief that the centre will be built.

“I know that it’s possible, and we can do it.”

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ORDER OF MERIT

Lieut.-Gov. Vaughn Solomon Schofield announced the recipients for the 2016 Saskatchewan Order of Merit, the province's highest honour. Included in the esteemed group are former Treaty Commissioner George Lafond (right) and Social Worker and Children's advocate Isabelle Impey. "It's a great privilege for me to present the Saskatchewan Order of Merit to 10 such accomplished individuals," Schofield said. "They have each made enormous contributions to our province, and are most deserving of this prestigious honour." The other 2016 recipients are Jo Anne Bannatyne-Cugnet, Valerie Creighton, Steve Dechka, Keith Downey, Eldon McIntyre, Wilf Perreault, Gordon Rawlinson and Dr. Anne Luke. Established in 1985, the Saskatchewan Order of Merit recognizes excellence, achievement and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the province and its people. It acknowledges individuals who have made their mark in the arts, agriculture, business, industry, community leadership, occupations, professions, public service, research and volunteer service. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit takes precedence over all other provincial honours and awards. The Saskatchewan Order of Merit ceremony will take place on May 24 in Regina with Solomon Schofield presiding. Look for a feature on inductees George Lafond and Isabelle Impey in our June National Aboriginal Day edition.



Provincial Métis Housing - Making a Difference



SASKATOON - At least 235,000 people a year use a homeless shelter and at least 35,000 Canadians are homeless on any given night according to a report the State of Homelessness in Canada 2014. According to the same report states homelessness costs the Canadian economy 7 billion dollars annually in the use of emergency shelters, social services, health care and corrections.

The human cost is unmeasurable. In Saskatchewan at least one person dies each year due to homelessness and the use of emergency shelters and food banks is growing. Poverty, mental health issues, addictions, low vacancy rates, the high cost of rent and low social assistance rental supplements contribute to the complex risk factors that encompass homelessness. Aboriginal people make up a disproportionate number of homeless people in Saskatchewan.

The Provincial Métis Housing Corporation (PMHC) is trying to make a difference. PMHC is in the third year of administering more than 5.8 million dollars over a 5-year period through the Homelessness Partnering Strategy to support projects that help prevent and reduced homelessness

among Aboriginal people in Saskatchewan.

Since 2014 PMHC has provided funding to 20 different projects throughout the Province. Each year PMHC administers nearly one million dollars in funding for homelessness projects located off reserve. Regina and Saskatoon administer their own Aboriginal HPS funding for projects to address aboriginal homelessness within their respective cities.

PMHC working in conjunction with community groups, friendship centres, aboriginal housing corporations and emergency shelters have provided capital projects in Yorkton, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Blaine Lake, and La Loche. PMHC has also provided support services through our Housing First component to projects in Prince Albert, North Battleford and La Ronge.

Aboriginal homelessness is a serious problem in Saskatchewan. In November of 2016 PMHC will once again be putting out a Request for Proposals (RFP) to address the problems of homelessness. We encourage your community to get involved. For more information, please feel free to contact us by phone 306-343-8240, fax 306-343-1700 or email methousing@sasktel.net.



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Strong Language warning

Trappers trying to catch the attention of youth

By Linda Mikolayenko
For Eagle Feather News

LA RONGE – When the Northern Saskatchewan Trappers Association gathered for their 2016 convention and annual general meeting, they began with their first-ever Youth Day.

“We want the youth to carry on the organization and make the industry strong,” said organizer Robin McLeod.

The Youth Day was held at the Lac La Ronge Indian Band’s Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre on April 21.

“Youth have always been welcome and encouraged to come,” said Simon Bird, who acted as MC for the day. “The purpose of the Youth Day is to make sure they have a place.”

Among the guest speakers for the day was Mylan Tootoosis of the Poundmaker Cree Nation, a PhD student at the University of Saskatchewan doing research on climate change.

are the ones that have their ear to the ground.”

In addition to listening to presentations, the young people had the opportunity to view displays and participate in a number of hands-on activities including skinning a beaver, fleshing an otter pelt, and making wooden stretcher boards.

Lyndon Cook is a student in the Northern Teacher Education Program who came with his Cree language class. Cook took a turn at helping to skin a beaver, something he had only done once before, and not for a long time.

A few of the tips he picked up, he said, included “how to angle the knife and how to put your hands under the fur, so that you don’t cut through the fur.”

When he finishes his studies, the 25-year-old from Southend hopes to return to his home community to teach Cree and show his students how to trap and fish.

To obtain a trapper’s licence in



Caleb Roberts of Stanley Mission stands proudly with his Saskatchewan Trapper Exam, which he passed. The exam was administered and marked by Conservation Officers Derek Keast (left) and Mark Oliver at the NSTA Youth Day.

humane standards. That’s an encouraging sign for the future.

“If trapping is to be sustainable, we

need to bring along the youth,” said Bird.

The day concluded with karaoke,

animal calling, and jiggging competitions.



At the NSTA Youth Day, Austin McLeod of Stanley Mission (left) and Lyndon Cook of Southend take a turn at skinning a beaver, as Ambrose Sandpoint looks on.

“My main message was to motivate the youth,” said Tootoosis, “to encourage them to maintain who they are and their vital connections to landscape, and the traditions involved with that.”

“In my research, the climate is changing very rapidly. Our young people really need to be engaged with the land and the land-based practices, and be aware of what our old people and our traditions tell us.”

When it comes to changes in the environment, says McLeod, “Trappers

Saskatchewan an individual needs to complete a Hunter Education Course and have a Humane Trapper Certificate, says Ministry of Environment Conservation Officer Mark Oliver. The Humane Trapper Certificate can be obtained by completing a course or by taking a Saskatchewan Trapper Exam, which requires a minimum of 70 per cent to pass.

That day, a number of youth successfully challenged the exam which consists of 50 multiple choice questions on traps, fur, wildlife identification and



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Technology brings world closer to Black Lake

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

BLACK LAKE – The students at Father Porte Memorial Dene School in Black Lake fidgeted a bit as they stared at the screen that was going to change their educational experiences forever.

The students were on hand for the launch of the Connected North Program into Black Lake, an event that included a live, virtual visit to the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta, followed by an interactive literacy exploration between the Father Porte Memorial Dene School and West Point Grey Academy in Vancouver.

“It is a priority in our community to ensure the children of Black Lake receive a well-rounded education,” said Chief Rick Robillard of Black Lake Denesuline First Nation.

“Connected North is a powerful way to help us achieve this goal, by both introducing students and teachers to a new world of opportunity, while also providing an outlet to share their pride in our culture, tradition and values.”

Connected North delivers immersive and interactive virtual education and mental healthcare services to remote Indigenous communities through Cisco’s high-definition two-way video communication and collaboration technology. The aim of the program is to offer a fresh

approach to student engagement, allowing teachers and administrators to expose their students to people, experiences and ideas that bring learning to life.

The Connected North program began in Iqaluit in September 2013 with a single school and has since grown to include 15 schools including the Father Porte Memorial Dene School in Black Lake – the first in Saskatchewan. Connected North is founded on three key principles: Customized content for each school, two-way student exchange and high quality video experience.

“Travel is limited for the children, so video sessions like this provide a unique opportunity for students to be exposed to new people, places and ideas, and also share their culture with others to build understanding,” said Steve Thatcher, Principal, Father Porte Memorial Dene School.

Cisco provided the video collaboration technology and overall ecosystem management while SaskTel donated the Internet connection and service required to power the video connection. Cameco, AREVA Resources, and Athabasca Basin Development donated the funding to cover the programming costs, and West Wind Aviation supported the air travel required for the installation of technology.

“SaskTel has always maintained a strong commitment to investing in remote Northern Saskatchewan communi-



Students from Father Porte Memorial Dene School in Black Lake check out the screen that had them connected with Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver and the Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Alberta. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)

ties,” said Ron Styles, SaskTel President and CEO.

“The enhanced connectivity and access to technology this program brings will enrich the community of Black Lake from an educational, economic and social perspective, while providing much needed services to local youth.”

“We’re thrilled to bring together so many committed partners to deliver high-quality content to engage Black Lake students” said Jennifer Corriero, Executive Director of TakingITGlobal.

“Through professional learning and virtual classroom connections, educators will also have opportunities to collaborate nationally and globally to bring the world into their classrooms.”

During the launch event, youth at Black Lake performed a traditional dance and drum song. The Royal Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller did a session on the T-Rex and students in Vancouver demonstrated origami ... all on one shared screen connecting three very diverse and distant parts of Canada in one unified lesson.



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Kathryn DeBruyne at her office at Cameco's Cigar Lake mine. (Photo supplied)

**By Angela Hill
For Eagle Feather News**

The reasons are different: looking for a new challenge, wanting to make a difference, caring for the environment, but one thing is certain, more women are getting into mining.

And what they find when arriving in their career is helping to break down stereotypes of an industry.

"Being an Aboriginal woman in the private sector, I wasn't sure what to expect," said Lisa Mooney.

She went from working in not-for-profit organizations and the public sector to work as the senior Aboriginal relations

specialist for Potash Corp.

"The mining sector is known for having a low representation of women."

Mooney said what she found was impressive.

"Everyone I have met has been kind, genuine, open to learning, and willing to make the positive changes to have the most impact."

That's why Mooney wanted to get into the mining sector to begin with, to make a difference at the pace of business.

"I can really see the impact that our company and our programs are making," whether in increasing Aboriginal engagement or increasing the

Women staking their cl

participation of women.

The drive to do something different and have a positive effect with her job is what attracted Kristy Jackson to her role as the director of marketing and communications with Athabasca Basin Development.

"I really liked this company and I liked the direction they were going in and I really thought that I could do a lot of good here," she said.

While Jackson doesn't work directly in mining, she has found the industry to be a bit of a different world than the jobs she has had previously,

"The biggest thing I've noticed is when I attend functions the ratio of men to women is a lot different than what I'm used to. Sometimes I can count the number of women in the room on one or two hands."

At the beginning, it was a bit intimidating, but it isn't any more, Jackson said.

"I haven't had any Mad Men kind of moments," she said and laughs.

"I haven't had a lot of the challenges I guess that maybe some have gone through, others have paved the way for folks like me, who have entered into it relatively recently. Things are pretty good now."

On the mine sites, there are still significantly more men than women, but with

15 years' experience there Kathryn DeBruyne doesn't really notice it anymore.

DeBruyne is an environmental specialist at Cameco's Cigar Lake operation. She works an hour flight from her home, and family, in La Ronge.



Lisa Mooney and a colleague at PotashCorp experiment at the STC science fair.



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Sustainable Development

Yancoal Wants to Hear From You

On March 7, 2016 Yancoal Canada received notification from the Saskatchewan Environmental Assessment Review Panel that the technical review of the Southey Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was complete. The review concluded that the report sufficiently addressed potential issues and it documented acceptable engagement activities as part of the project planning process. The EIS details the environmental assessment completed for the Southey Project and provides all of the information required to make an educated decision regarding the future of the project.

The EIS has been released by the Ministry of Environment for public comment. At this time, the Ministry of Environment is collecting comments from the public. These comments can either express concerns about the project or support.

Yancoal Canada invites the public to contact them directly regarding any questions, concerns or requests pertaining to the Southey Project. Also, please feel free to come visit us at the Earl Grey site office located at 103 Bates Street on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm or call to make an appointment at your convenience.

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aim in mining industry

"It's totally male dominated, but I'm used to that," she said.

"This is basically all I've really known, and when I took engineering (that's) mostly male dominated, so I don't really even notice."



Corp Milton Greyeyes check out a student's
(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

She started as a summer student at Cigar Lake and then was an environmental monitoring technician, before starting her environmental engineering degree with the support of the Cameco. They gave her 80 per cent of her salary plus tuition and books, and DeBruyne made the commitment to return as an environmental specialist after graduation.

When it comes to her role on the mine site, she said she doesn't think she is treated any differently because she is a woman.

All three women, DeBruyne, Jackson and Mooney said that women should look at getting into the mining sector because of the diverse opportunities available.

But the benefit can go both ways.

"I think the mining industry could benefit with having more women in the industry. Women provide new perspectives," DeBruyne said.

When it comes to the question that women face about work/life balance, all three women have found ways to make it work.

Mooney's two girls are now 23 and 20. She says that Potash Corp makes it easier to be a single parent because they are family friendly and there isn't a lot of fly in/fly out work. A parent could work,



Kristy Jackson, left, with Athabasca Basin Development Board Chair Anne Robillard at the corporate offices in Saskatoon.
(Photo supplied)

be part of the community and still be home in time to coach their child's softball team, she said.

As a mom living and working in Saskatoon, Jackson said that her job is similar to many working moms, it's difficult to achieve a perfect work-life balance.

"I think we all feel like, 'holy cow the week's a whirlwind' and at the end of the day we are quite glad we survived it, but it's a heck of a lot of fun too," she said.

Flying-in/flying out mining can make parenting daunting for some, but

DeBruyne relied on family support when she started out. Now her 11-year-old is used to their schedule. They facetime on the nights that she is on-site and when she gets home she has a singular focus. Her son gets all of her devotion.

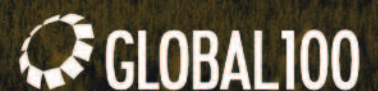
"All of my attention when I am home, you know what I mean, I'm not distracted because I've had a long, hard day at work and I have to make supper."

She has one piece of advice for women looking towards their future.

"Just set your goals, even if you have children, you can do it."



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Potential workers given a chance to experience mill life

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

Eight northerners with drive, determination and great resumes have just graduated from a training program that will enhance their career trajectory.

The Mill Operator Trainees program runs at McClean Lake by Areva where the eight students have spent the last 12 weeks learning all about the McClean Lake mill through both academic and hands-on work. They developed an abundance of skills and knowledge that will serve them well in their careers.

"Most of the students who we take into the program have no prior experience and they have absolutely no idea what goes on in a mill," says Gary Winkel, the current lead instructor of the program.

Winkel has vast experience in the industry, having worked as a mill operator for 34 years. For the last eight years he has worked as a mill supervisor and has been with AREVA for just over a year.

Rather than focusing on teaching specific skills to the trainees, the program takes on a more comprehensive approach.

"My goal is to give the students a good understanding of the mill's inner workings, what the work entails, and see if it something that they are interested in doing in the future," says Winkel.

The program is an orientation where the students learn all about radiation protection, safety and how to use equipment such as the skid-steer and fork-lift.

The opportunity offered to the eight students isn't lost on them. They go through a lot to qualify. This year the Mill Operator Training program had over 200 applicants. Eighteen of the applicants made it to the interviewing stage, which meant coming out and staying overnight at the camp.

From there, eight were chosen to take part in the program. Although most trainees do gain employment at AREVA following the program, it is not guaranteed. Students who are successful in completing the program still have to wait for a job opening to get hired at McClean Lake.

Winkel explains that the great thing about the program is that it is very flexible and becoming a mill operator is not the only choice upon its completion.

Garret Robillard came to the program from Stony Rapids where he was born and raised. He found out about the McClean Lake Mill Operator Training Program from a friend who shared it with him on Facebook. Robillard wanted to take the program to gain more real world experience, no matter where it may take him in the future.

He enjoyed the program and has really liked getting to know many people.

"They are good people," he says.

He likes that the program gives him experience in each section of the mill, helping to give him perspective on its overall operation. Robillard also enjoys that each trainee has a distinct experience as the program caters to each trainee's strengths and interests.

"It is individualized," he explains. "The biggest challenges were the 12 hour days and remembering everything they taught us."

Winkel explains that although working at a remote site took some getting used to for him and the trainees, the culture at McClean Lake certainly made it easier.

"People are really great to work with in whatever position here," says Winkel.

"I really value the opportunity that this program presents to northern students and I would definitely teach it again," he says.



The eight graduates are Brennan Vancoughnett, Garret Robillard, Shawn Merasty, Carmen Laliberte, Tisha Ballantyne, Lee Shinkewski, Wendall Clarke and Vernon Bonelye .



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Terry Bird, Onion Lake Cree Economic Development honoured

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

The reason why Terry Bird was named Economic Development Individual of the Year is in the numbers.

In his role as lead advisor, First Nation and Métis Initiatives for K+S Potash Canada, Bird has helped facilitate over \$300 million in contracts to Indigenous suppliers which has also led over 350 Indigenous people working on the Legacy mine site near Bethune.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network Chair Milton Tootoosis announced the recipients for the 2nd Annual SFNEDN Awards for the 2016 Economic Development Individual and Community of the Year during the 'Economic Diversification Forum' held at the Dakota Dunes Casino in April.

The Onion Lake Cree Economic Development, an extension of the Onion Lake Cree Nation government, received the Economic Development Community of the Year.

"What Terry and the Onion Lake First Nation have accomplished is worth celebrating," said Milton Tootoosis.

"You can tell that K+S have bought into the whole engagement process and Terry has been a strong lead. And for Onion Lake, they saw they were reliant on oil and gas and have now started to diversify and encourage their citizens to get into business. That is leadership."

Terry Bird, a George Gordon First Nation citizen, recognizes that his success is tied to his company's success.

"I am both humbled and very proud to have received the award because it recognizes our company's solid efforts and accomplishments to include First Nation and Métis businesses within our mining supply chain," said Bird on the honour.

"We understood that there is a list of ingredients needed for real First Nation and Métis supplier inclusion and we were able to leverage our companies First Nation & Métis Procurement Policy into action. And it makes all kinds of sense to do so.

"We think it makes good business sense to walk across the rural road to shake hands and build mutually beneficial relationships with local First Nation and



Saskatchewan First Nation Economic Development Network board members Milton Tootoosis on left and Rob Woods on right presented Terry Bird of K+S Potash with the award for Individual Economic Developer of the Year. (Photo by April Roberts)

Métis communities and their suppliers."

K + S also committed over \$500,000 in community for sport, youth and cultural events in Treaty 4 territory.

Onion Lake supports its entrepreneurs by providing a long list of support services such as mentorship, business plan development, financial accounting training, credit rebuilding and small business management workshops. The Onion Lake Economic Development arm has assisted 77 small business owners get started of which 95 per cent are located on the reserve. Twenty-one of the business owners are fluid haulers and they

own their own semi-trailer units and haul for local transport companies.

The Onion Lake Cree Nation leadership is a strong believer that making one's own livelihood was promised under treaty and is proud to see the self-employment tradition reignited in the spirit of 'pimâcihisowin' (making one's own living).

"Both Onion Lake leadership and Terry Bird and K+S are role models in business and we need more of that," said Tootoosis.

"If you look at the accomplishments of the two, it is impressive what they have done."

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Mining Association members talk shop in Saskatoon

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – The second annual Developing, Diversifying and Evolving the Mining Supply Chain Forum helped kick off the 8th Annual Saskatchewan Mining Supply Chain Forum at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon.

The overall forum focuses on overviews of operations by Saskatchewan mining companies, provides information on opportunities and processes to supply equipment and services to the mining industry and also hosts a trade show with over 200 mining and supplier companies.

But it is the Developing and Diversifying Forum that has been the talk of the gathering for the last two years. The forum has become the go to event for suppliers and Aboriginal industry groups to get together and talk about partnership opportunities and discuss strategies on improving Aboriginal participation in all aspects of the mining industry.

Last year, the suppliers started to hear the message from the major mining companies that Aboriginal employment and ownership in the supply chain was important to them, so now it has to become important to the suppliers.

The second annual forum brought in speakers who had experienced first-hand what is happening in the industry.

Geoff Gay is the CEO of Athabasca Basin Development and he spoke of how his company was once heavily reliant on the mining industry for their revenues. And that can be both a good thing and a bad thing.

“We know that the industry can be cyclical like we are seeing this year,” said



Jim Nowakowski, CEO of JNE Welding in Saskatoon, Darrell Beaulieu, the CEO of Denendeh Development Corporation in the North West Territories and Geoff Gay CEO of Athabasca Basin Development all gave insights into Aboriginal ownership of mining and mine supply companies at the Saskatchewan Mining Association's 2nd Annual Developing, Diversifying and Evolving the Mining Supply Chain Forum.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

Gay. “That’s why we have diversified our group of companies in the past few years.”

Now the company owns parts of a dozen businesses with percentages of ownership varying from 22 per cent to outright and their businesses include a Pepsi distributorship, an airline, an electrical company as well as construction, catering and security.

Jim Nowakowski is the owner of JNE Welding, one of Saskatchewan’s largest, full-service fabricators serving mining, construction, petrochemical and power generation clients across North America. He has been looking to mentor someone into his business as he intends to retire in the next few years.

He gave an in depth presentation and lesson on the process he went through when a majority share of his business was

sold to Des Nedhe Developments and the Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation.

“Be prepared to be patient,” said Nowakowski on the process. “What seemed like a simple deal took a full year from letter of intent to finish. That was a surprise to me. But the deal made sense for both partners.

“We are now in a situation in Canada where if a business is Aboriginal owned, it has better value. I feel like our business will be in good hands.”

The keynote address was delivered by Darrell Beaulieu, CEO of Denendeh Development Corporation in the North West Territories. Beaulieu has decades of experience in the mining industry as well as a Skookum Jim Award for excellence in mining.

He shared how important resource

development is for his people in his territory.

“The Tlicho government receives 95 per cent of all federal income taxes collected from residents in Tlicho communities,” said Beaulieu.

“So the more taxpayers living in Tlicho, the more taxes we receive. And the more high paying Tlicho mining jobs, then the more income tax we receive.”

The involvement of Aboriginal people in business and in mining in his territory is almost overwhelming.

“There are over 500 Aboriginal owned businesses in NWT and at least 60 of them serve the mining industry,” added Beaulieu.

“And every First Nation and region has a business arm plus many joint ventures. So I ask you this, who says that Aboriginal people are against development?”

During the forum, networking breaks saw people chatting up potential deals and exploring areas of mutual concern. And it was all good news to Saskatchewan Mining Association President Pamela Schwann.

“Our members have been asking for exactly this type of forum where they could meet potential partners and to learn best practices. Geoff Gay and Jim Nowakowski both spoke very well to that,” said Schwann.

“And to have a Skookum Jim Award winner like Darrell Beaulieu summarize it all was outstanding.

“I think our members received some very valuable information and the overarching theme was that Aboriginal owned helps bring value to a company.”



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K+S Potash Canada

Breakfast program kickstarts the day

PRINCE ALBERT – Four schools in northern Saskatchewan will be starting breakfast programs using ONEXONE's First Nations School Breakfast program.

The national program, which currently runs successful breakfast programs in 35 schools across six provinces, is a program that aims to provide daily breakfasts to school age kids for \$1 per child per day. Four schools in Saskatchewan's Athabasca region have been approved with everything in place ready to go for their program.

Father Gamache School in Fond du Lac, Father Porte Memorial Denesuline School in Black Lake, Ben McIntyre School in Uranium City and Stony Rapids School in Stony Rapids have a combined 400 students who will all be receiving daily breakfasts under the program.

"On behalf of Stony Rapids students and staff, I thank ONEXONE and Athabasca Basin Development for supporting our nutrition program," says Kevin O'Brien, Principal of Stony Rapids School.

"Through this generous contribution, we are providing nutritious meals to our students on a daily basis."

"The kids really enjoy the home-made breakfasts every school day," added Douglas Preikschat, Principal of Ben McIntyre School.

"Eggs and fresh fruit are a welcome

nutritious treat in an isolated northern community like ours."

In 2015, Athabasca Basin Development donated \$40,000 to kick-start a breakfast program in the Athabasca region, and will be contributing another \$40,000 in 2016.

"One of our investments, Arctic Beverages, has provided support for ONEXONE through donations and fundraisers for many years," says Geoff Gay, CEO of Athabasca Basin Development.

"We saw that ONEXONE was doing great work in providing an excellent and sustainable breakfast program in First Nations across the country. And since there was strong interest from the Athabasca communities in having breakfast programs in their schools, we saw this as a natural fit for our donations program."

"We are so pleased to support this program, and excited to be seeing the programs launch in schools in the Athabasca communities so that children in the region will have access to good, nutritional breakfasts each day to help support them now and into the future," Gay said.

"We are excited to be partnering with Athabasca Basin Development to launch breakfast programs in Saskatchewan's Athabasca region," says Joelle Berdugo Adler, Founder of



These students from Uranium City's Ben McIntyre school are benefitting from nutritious breakfasts that start the school day. (Photo supplied)

ONEXONE Foundation.

"First Nations children suffer the greatest levels of poverty among all children in Canada. One in three First Nations children live in poverty as compared to one in nine Canadian children on average. In remote communities, this number is often higher.

"Children do not always know where they will find their next meal and they are unable to consistently access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for a healthy life. We've seen positive outcomes in terms of improved student behavior, better health, and im-

proved concentration leading to better learning outcomes, and we'd like to thank Athabasca Basin Development for coming on board as a sponsor for this important initiative."

ONEXONE's First Nations Breakfast School Program is open to any school with First Nations students, pending application and acceptance, and funding availability. The program is community driven, and includes funding for food, as well as planning, training and support to run the program.

For more information, please visit www.onexone.org

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Environmental Impact Assessment Notice

Yancoal Canada Resources Company Limited (Yancoal) is proposing to construct and operate a new potash mine, 60 kilometres north of Regina in the R.M. of Longlaketon No. 219. The new solution mine will produce up to 2.8 million tonnes of potash per year for up to 100 years.

The public is invited to provide comments on Yancoal's Environmental Impact Statement and the Technical Review Comments, which incorporate the requirements of the provincial environmental assessment process and identifies the key issues and studies addressed in the EIS.

To review project documents, visit saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment, the administrative offices of the: R.M. of Longlaketon No. 219, R.M. of Cupar No. 218, Town of Southey and Town of Strasbourg, the Environmental Assessment Branch, Ministry of Environment or the Legislative Library in Regina.

Deadline for written comments has been extended to June 6, 2016.

For more information contact:

Aimann Sadik (306) 787-7706

environmental.assessment@gov.sk.ca

saskatchewan.ca/environmentalassessment



Dirk's mom deserves a parade or shrubbery

There we were, touring the brightly lit avenues and boulevards of Saskatoon on a hot Saturday afternoon. There was no destination in particular and I desperately wanted to stick my head out of the driver's side window.

Why? I like the wind in my face, like a puppy imagining he can run like the wind without any of the effort. Or maybe like the Joker in that Batman movie, when he busted out of jail. From the back seat of the car, the Munchkin complains as I roll the window down, "Dad, that's embarrassing!"

Well, one of us has to be the adult here. I guess.

Given that the next day is to be Mothers Day, I ask, "So, what did you get your mom for tomorrow?"

"I made her a paper flower bouquet," she replies, "but I forgot it at school."

One of us has to be the adult, indeed.

A moment of reflection later she adds, "Dad, could we buy her something?"

My brain making processes kick into a higher gear and the smell of rubber appears from nowhere. A thought asserts itself that: While I really don't

have to buy my ex-wife anything, it would be a harmless gesture.

"Well, what does she want?" I ask. Besides, when it comes to putting a smile on the Munchkin's face, the Dirkster cannot say no, he will not say no, and he cannot say no. She cheerfully pipes up, "Mom said she would like a nail spa."

Unable to resist making a joke I responded, "I didn't know your mom has taken up carpentry. Hey, lets go to Canadian Tire. They have a section with bright, shiny nails and we'll get her a nice pail-full."

I can see her in the rear view mirror. The Munchkin's expression is blank, as she stares intently at the back of my head. It's as though she's trying to puzzle out whether her dad is daft or truly clueless.

She plays is straight. "No, dad, I mean a place where they paint your nails and stuff," and as she rolls her eyes she takes her gaze to the street outside.

Admittedly, I know nothing about

nail spas, so I issued a plea on Facebook for recommendations. Some of the suggestions were promising. I was ready to pull the trigger but the Munchkin changed her mind. She wanted to get her mom flowers.

Easily done. Cradling the plant-terrarium thingy in her arms the Munchkin beamed at me, saying, "I'm really happy with this purchase, daddy."

With a kind and soothing fatherly voice I patted her head and said, "Ahh, I'm just being awesome my girl."

As I reflected upon this simple gesture of my usual thoughtfulness and overwhelming sincerity for my daughter, a familiar sensation welled up inside me. I call it decency, but I've heard others call it chivalry and heroism.

You may rightly wonder, from whence did this enormous and big sense of honour and stand-goodingness come from?

I owe my adult-like character to my mother.

That's right. Contrary to popular belief, Dirk was not delivered to this

realm by angelic Viking princesses riding white Arabian war horses charging down a mythic rainbow of flowers and sunshine.

No, he has a real, human mother who made sacrifices and raised, dare I say it, the ever so humble writer that stands before you. Well, technically, I'm seated at my laptop, but she did in fact raise me.

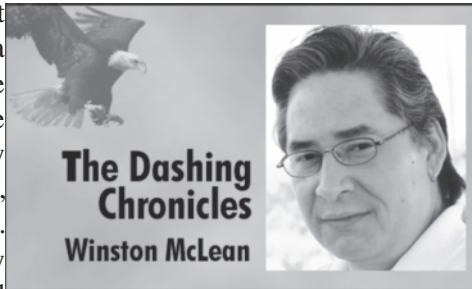
She's the true hero. Having grown up on the road allowance on the north end of my home reserve, she was wooed by a swarthy Cree athlete who would take her to see the world and help bring into this world four children ... only one of which is worth mentioning.

It's sad, but my siblings are stunningly, boringly average. But she at least got one right.

So when you see her say, "Thank you so much for the inspiration that is your son, Dirk's Mom." That's all you got to do.

Me? I helped buy her a shrubbery. 'Cause I'm an adult. Or something.

Dirk says, I'm pretty sure mom will have mixed feelings about this month's column. Not sure the siblings can read, so no worries there.



The Dashing Chronicles
Winston McLean

Hero averted what could have been a tragic outcome

• Continued from Page One

The boys sat and panted by the water-filled ditch, and then another woman arrived on the scene, asking what had happened. Harvey told her, and then calmly went home to change his wet shoes as the woman offered to return the toddler home. He told his mother what had happened as well, but she was quite busy and didn't fully absorb the tale.

In fact, Mary Jane wasn't really aware until she found a post in a private group on Facebook she uses to track down what her youngest son might be up to, if he's out past curfew, describing him as a typical rough-and-tumble boy who likes biking, playing hockey, and staying active.

From the post, she learned Harvey had saved a life and was being commended.

She commented on the post, which was from the woman who had been second on the scene and returned the toddler home after Harvey's heroics. The woman quoted Harvey as saying he "almost had a heart attack" at the time, probably from all the adrenaline!

The story then made its way around the community, and eventually the media picked up on it too. The ditch has since been drained, to prevent any further need of heroics.

The whole community is proud of Heroic Harvey, and his mother Mary Jane is happy he took action how and when he did.

"I'm just happy and proud of him. You hear a lot of negativity about First Nations communities and I think this is a very good story," she said. Kids saving kids – it doesn't get much better than that.

"I tell him to emulate his older brothers, be respectful, and work hard," noted Mary Jane.

"He's polite and well-mannered to me because that's what I've taught him. People who don't even know him are talking to him on the street, praising him for saving a life. That little boy is still in diapers, he averted something that could have been very tragic if he wasn't there."

As for Harvey, he just has a one word reply about how it felt to save the younger child's life.

"Good."

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Appropriately qualified teachers with valid Saskatchewan teaching certification, are advised to complete an online teacher application form. This can be accessed at:

<http://www.applitrack.com/Saskatoon/onlineapp/>.

Saskatoon Public Schools provides high quality education to over 24,000 students in 44 elementary schools, 11 secondary schools, two associate schools and one alliance school through its more than 2,400 professional and support staff.



Saskatoon Public Schools wish to thank all applicants for their interest. However, only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



Saskatoon Public Schools
Inspiring Learning

Business club girls enjoyed all the perks during city visit

SASKATOON – A group of 11 young future business leaders recently spent a day in Saskatoon getting pampered.

The girls are all Business Club students from One Arrow, Mistawasis, Muskoday, Yellow Quill, and Kinistin and they were fortunate enough to get makeovers before the Literacy for Life banquet where they witnessed keynote speaker author Joseph Boyden speak about life.

The girls were first taken to Marvel Beauty School where they got new dos then they were off to shop for a new outfit (courtesy of the club) for the evening.

The makeover and banquet were made available by PotashCorp. And PotashCorp has arranged to get them brand new business suits courtesy of their supplier Cintas. As part of the Club, the girls also get to go to Winnipeg for a conference and learn how to pitch their businesses.

Bailie Germs is a Grade 12 student in Tisdale and she had a great day with the girls.

“I honestly enjoyed getting my haircut. It was nice to have it done and looking healthy again. After this, we went shopping and I bought four outfits plus a pair of shoes and seriously only spent \$65.

“I was amazed and can thank the business club for helping me learn how to budget,” said Germs.

“The highlight for me was getting to express myself and find what I was comfortable in for business attire. First time ever shopping for business attire and I was amazed to find things I could actually wear,” she added.

“The girls had a great day,” said Lisa Mooney, Senior Aboriginal Relations Specialist at PotashCorp.

“It was hard keeping up with them. We are all really excited for the next step when we get them into their business suits and send them out to pitch their business ideas. Providing suits for the business club girls was one of the investments Cintas made as part of their Aboriginal strategy.

“It was important the girls have professional clothes to wear when conducting business and competing in business plan competitions.”

The tips that Germs has learned in the business club have given her a perspective on her future career.

“I enjoy creating ideas for business and getting to follow through with them. I am hoping I can start a pilot program for business for underprivileged-low income inner city schools that don't get the opportunity to be exposed to business,” said Bailie Germs.

“I didn't get the chances I had now while living in the city and I strongly believe that every child should get the chance to explore their ideas and hopefully get them going off the group. I also believe that every child should get the chance to fly somewhere at least once in their lives, and the business club is the perfect opportunity for this.”



Business Club students had a blast at Marvel getting their hair done. Tasha Sokwaypnace knew exactly what hairstyle she didn't want and Bailie Germs, top right, really enjoyed the hair cut. (Photos by John Lagimodiere)



The hair makeover was followed by a day of shopping and then a group shot before the Literacy for Life banquet and speaker Joseph Boyden. (Photo by Joe Taylor)



CONTINUING OUR JOURNEY NIB Trust Fund

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Deadline June 24, 2016 5:00 p.m. EST

Entrepreneur finds the recipe for success in pizza franchise

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

SASKATOON – Don Ross wanted to get into business but he didn't quite know what business to choose. Then a couple of things turned him in the direction of Papa Murphy's Take and Bake Pizza.

"First we walked into a Papa Murphy's in Phoenix when we were on holidays. I was immediately taken by the design and menu and then we ate the pizza. It was fantastic," said Ross.

"Then I was watching a CFL game and there was a commercial for Papa Murphy's franchises across Canada. I researched it out and then sat down and talked to my son and asked if he would be interested in leaving the company he was with, managing several restaurants in Regina, and I told him I wouldn't do it without him. He told me to go big."

And with that, Don and his wife Bonnie set out to meet with the Papa Murphy people and soon enough Ross became President of Papa Murphy's Saskatchewan and in the last year has opened up shops in Regina and Saskatoon.

"This franchise is perfect for us. It was rated Number 1 in the U.S. for quality and taste and it is the fifth largest pizza chain. So the management system was very appealing.

"And also the cost of getting in was affordable compared to other franchises. It is simple enough to get into. Plus we don't have any cooks. I didn't want a restaurant. I didn't want wait staff or servers," Ross explains.

"I didn't want to deal with that side of the business. Just like the business, we keep it simple. Good product. Good brand."

At Papa Murphy's you order your favourite pizza and they prepare it right in front of you and wrap it. You take it home and cook it fresh in your own oven.

"I used to live in a rural community," added Ross. "And bringing a pizza home from the city was a treat but by the time I got home, the pizza was cold. Our pizzas are as good as it gets."

If not for the Clarence Campeau Development Fund and the Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation, there would only be a store in Regina.

"CCDF and SMEDCO were imperative in starting this business. You need to have working capital or you won't succeed. CCDF and SMEDCO both helped. Without them we wouldn't be in business. Traditional banks, even though we had equity, they would not support us.

"Without SMEDCO and CCDF we wouldn't be able to do the business we do."



Don Ross and his son Derrick show off the fresh pizzas at their Papa Murphy's Take and Bake location in Saskatoon at the corner of 8th Street and Louise Avenue. Their Regina store is one of the top franchises in sales in Canada and celebrates one year in business next month. The Saskatoon location is six months old.

(Photo by John Lagimodiere)

So far things are ticking along well for the business. The Regina location is one of the top stores in Canada and the one in Saskatoon is becoming better known. And one thing that makes Ross quite proud is so far they have 14 employees with over half being First Nation or Métis.

"Being members of George Gordon's First Nation and with my wife Bonnie being Métis, we wanted to ensure our family business represented the community," said Don.

"First time jobs for some of these kids and if we don't give them an opportunity then who will. I love seeing our young kids working wherever I go.

"The most rewarding is getting the feedback from

customers and having them praise our employees for good service or how great the food is. That is what I like to hear.

"And they refer us. That's the best marketing."



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Indigenous fashion designers celebrated at Regina show

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – With music blasting, fashion models walked the runway and you couldn't help but dance in your chair as you admired the designs the models wore.

The fifth season of the International Indigenous Fashion Week (IIFW) featured 11 established and emerging designers in Regina.

There were live performances by singing group Pretty Indian girls, rising First Nations Femcee/Model Kara Jade and award winning Juno artist Jordon.

Lani Elliott, one of the three organizers of the event, said one of the company's mandate is to promote the talents and efforts of young Indigenous designers and models so they would be able to showcase their talents on a global scale.

"We want to give them that sense of encouragement and sense of hope that they do have a place in the world and they do have a place in the fashion industry," said Elliott.

Elliott mentions that one of her fellow organizers, Chelsa Reil, is a Canadian ambassador for Indigenous fashion in three of the major fashion venues, New York, Paris and London. She says it is a huge opportunity to "have those connections and to be able to provide those connections to indigenous designers."

Leia Jody is a menswear fashion designer from Ottawa who likes to manipulate fabric. She revealed her first menswear collection at the 2015 annual Grand Premiere Fashion Show. She also won "Couturier of the Year" for her third year collection.

"I go to the fabric store and see what inspiration of what I want to create, I see it in my head and I create it, I don't even sketch, it's all in my head," she said.

Tracy George-Heese owns her own business, Timeless Shadow Apparel and she's been her own boss for four years creating her own styles.

"I've been sewing for the last 30 years, and been in business for 20 years but I've always worked for somebody else so this time around now I work for nobody but myself," said George-Heese.

She says she keeps doing fashion shows to push herself to create something different.

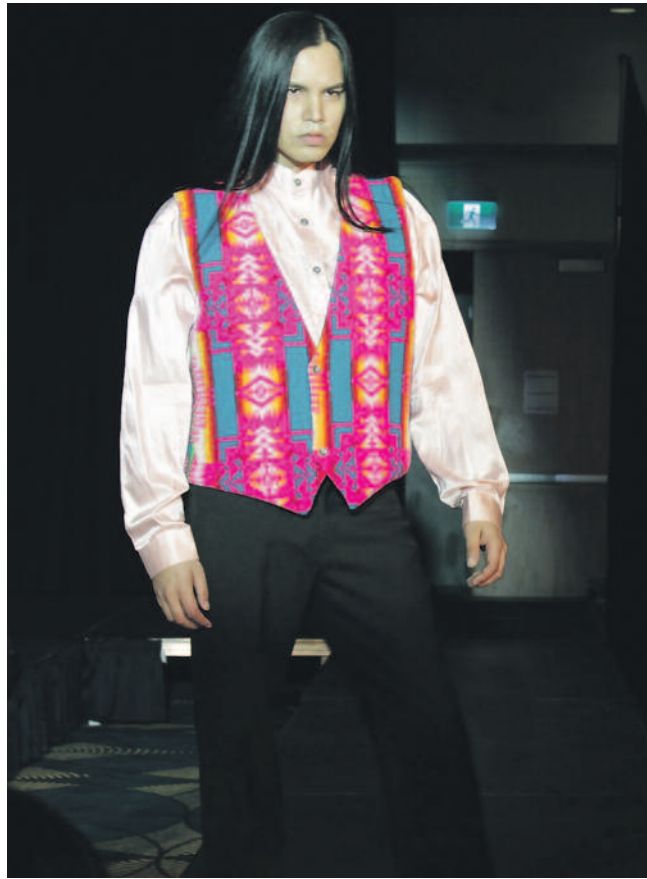
"I have participated in fashion shows in the last 20 years. It has to do with keeping my name out into the public and if people are aware that this is what I'm still doing, they can approach me. I've done a lot of custom and commission work and I also do sewing classes," said George-Heese.

She likes to design traditional and contemporary clothing, especially for men

"There's something so attractive about a well-dressed man and a man that's put together," said George Heese.

Elliott said that there has been a lot of designers out there who appropriate indigenous fashion and cultural appropriations unfortunately is a huge thing in the fashion industry.

"We think it's important that we offer authentic Indigenous designs," said Elliott.



This model is wearing a trading cloth vest, designed by Tracey George Heese while this model shows off a stunning red dress. (Photos by Tiffany Head)

First Nations Provincial Spelling Bee

"Believe and Achieve"

Congratulations to the 3 finalists who will go on to compete at the Spelling Bee of Canada (SBOC) Championships/Nationals in Toronto on Sunday, May 15, 2016!

Primary Age Category (Age 6-8) **William Kaysaywaysemat Jr., Chief Kakewistahaw School**
 Junior Age Category (Age 9-11) **Makayla Cannepotato, Chief Taylor Elementary School**
 Intermediate Age Category (Age 12-14) **Alexander Johanson, Saulteaux Heritage School**

We wish to express our gratitude to all of you for sharing the FNPSB experience with us! Your kind and generous support (financially, in-kind services, in-kind donations) help to make this a very positive and successful experience for our youth and visitors. We would also like to thank all the many volunteers and officials and the wonderful guest speakers.

Thank You!

Spelling Bee Committee - Pauline Favel, Deena Paules, Nicole Jordan, Marlene Chickeness, Priscilla Moyah, & Chaz Albert

Trudeau a hit with huge crowd in Fort Qu'Appelle

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

FOR QU'APPELLE – Despite the unpleasantly cold day, hundreds of people waited outside the Treaty 4 Governance Centre in Fort Qu'Appelle in anticipation



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is greeted by seven-year-old Keslee Bear from Muskowpetung as she presents him with flowers. (Photo by Tiffany Head)

of the arrival of a political rock star.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's arrival was a bit delayed, but when he arrived the people gathered around him and greeted him with respect and applause.

A drum song was sung for him before he was whisked away to a private meeting with the 11 Chiefs and council of File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC), along with Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) Chief Bobby Cameron and As-

sembly of First Nations (AFN) Chief Perry Bellegarde.

"The meetings like the one we had today are an important part of rebuilding relationships between Canada and Indigenous peoples and I'm honored to be part of this ongoing dialogue," said Trudeau.

After the meeting, Trudeau made his way down to the tipi room where he would make his announcement. Trudeau spoke about the stories of heartbreak and hopelessness from communities like Attawapiskat and that the elders, young people, parents, victims and survivors all deserve to be heard before any action is taken and that it is critically important for politicians to take the time to listen.

"I don't want to pretend that any of us have the answers to the challenges facing Indigenous people in Canada but what I will tell you that as a country we can build those answers," said Trudeau.

Trudeau said his government remains committed to lifting the two per cent funding cap for First Nations programs and the investments of the 2016 budget sets it well on the path.

"We will work with First Nations in the coming year to lay the groundwork for a new fiscal relationship; one that gives First Nations communities funding that is sufficient, predictable and sustained. As I said, there is much work still to be done," said Trudeau.

He announced that over the next five years his government will invest \$8.4 billion in improving the lives of Indigenous people in Canada.

This includes the \$2.6 billion towards improving primary and secondary education on-reserve and nearly \$970 million dollars in repairing, building and main-



Trudeau with student delegates, Kaliegh Starblanket, Karina Starblanket and Asiah Starr, from Starblanket First Nation. (Photo by Tiffany Head)

taining new schools on-reserve.

"Over the next two years we'll focus on improving social infrastructure that means more housing and better health care facilities on reserve," said Trudeau.

He also said that it would mean greater facilities and programs that support early learning and childcare, and more funding for cultural and recreational centres.

"We also know the victims of violence need more help and starting this year we are making significant new investments to repair, build and support shelters for victims of family violence in First Nations communities" said Trudeau.

FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron said that the chiefs were optimistic about everything that Trudeau's government promised to do during their campaign.

"It's a down payment, of course we need more, but at least it's a good start," Cameron said about the budget.

He is glad that the prime minister is listening and implementing these recommendations coming from the chiefs. For his part, he said they had invited him to their FSIN assembly as they are a unified body.

"He has committed to coming to one of our assemblies so we look forward to that," said Cameron.

Trudeau has emphasized that his government is focused on building a healthy partnership with Indigenous people and building a future.

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THE TOE TAG CREW

(Left to right) Carla Orosz (Set and Costume Design), Dalton Lightfoot (actor), Aaron Shingoose (Stage Manager), Osemis Isbisterbear (GM), Marcus Merasty (Actor), Aaron-Marie Nepoose (Actress) Kate Herriot (Actress) Charlie Peters (Director) Ingrid Gomez (Actress) and Jeremy Lavalley (SGI REP)



GTNT play points out consequences of dangerous driving decisions

SASKATOON – Decisions made behind the wheel can lead to a lifetime of consequences. That’s the message SGI and the Gordon Tootoosis Nikaniwin Theatre (GTNT) are demonstrating firsthand this spring with a live performance aimed at youth in high schools across the province.

The performance, titled *The Toe Tag Crew*, written by playwright Dawn Dumont, profiles the lives of four young people looking back on how dangerous driving decisions resulted in dire consequences. The performances focus is on key road safety issues impacting Saskatchewan teens, including seatbelt use and impaired, distracted and aggressive driving.

“Motor vehicle collisions are the leading cause of injury and death for Saskatchewan youth,” Saskatoon Stonebridge-Dakota MLA Bronwyn Eyre said on behalf of Minister responsible for SGI Don McMorris.

“Too many drivers – especially teens – think it will never happen to them, but the truth is collisions on our roads can and do happen and many of them have a lifetime of consequences.”

The performance underlines a key issue in the province. In 2014, 15 teens were killed and 748 were injured in vehicle crashes on Saskatchewan roads. SGI commissioned the performance, written and performed by the GTNT, specifically to reach high school youth. It incorporates the use of hashtags and social media to engage students.

“TV shows or movies are one thing, but through live performance we can reach and connect with students in new ways,” said actor Dalton Lightfoot who plays the role of Liam, one of the teens in the performance.

“After the show ends we interact with students and continue to share the important message of road safety.”

The travelling performance kicked off May 9 in Saskatoon and wraps up on June 3 in Regina. Over its month-long tour, the performance will visit a total of 22 high schools in 21 communities and reach approximately 5,000 youth.

Visit SGI’s website at www.sgi.sk.ca for more information about road safety. Follow SGI on Facebook and Twitter for safety tips to #TakeCareOutThere.

Urban Canvas is Back!



SCYAP Urban Canvas XI Closing Ceremonies Art Show & Media Event

Please join us:
Friday May 20, 2016 @ 10:00 am

Snelgrove Gallery @ University of Saskatchewan
Come one, Come all, your support is Paramount to our success. This will be a very special time for these youth; they will feel pride like never before. Having your support on their special day will only add to what could be and for most will be, the proudest day of their young lives.

Special Guests:

- His Worship Mayor Don Atchison – Greetings from City Hall
- The Honourable Gord Wyant
- The Honourable Jennifer Campeau
- MLA Paul Merriman - Greetings from the Honourable Premier Brad Wall
- Founder of Eagle Feather News – John Lagimodiere – Sponsors Greetings
- MP Sheri Benson – Bringing words
- MP Kelly Block
- MLA David Forbes
- Saskatoon Fire Chief Morgan Hackl
- Saskatoon Police Service Superintendent Dave Hays – Greetings from Chief Weighill
- Saskatoon Police Service Superintendent Brian Shalovelo
- More Dignitaries to be announced

URBAN CANVAS 11 PARTICIPANTS:
Sam Bird, Lenny Bolton, Tristan Favel, Keesha Johnstone, Lisa Lam, Chlarissa-Martell, Winnie Marie, Hope Rosie, Christopher Scott, Alexander Zimmerman.

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Broadway Theatre
Tuesday, May 24. 7:30 p.m.
Admission is free.



NatureCity Festival
Keynote Event

www.wildaboutsaskatoon.org

Above: Waterspirit Woman by Leah Marie Dorion. The NatureCity Festival is made possible through the financial support of EcoFriendly Sask, City of Saskatoon, Saskatoon Nature Society, and Sask Outdoors. The Festival is an initiative of Wild about Saskatoon.

Arena expansion icing on the cake for La Ronge

By John Lagimodiere
Of Eagle Feather News

LA RONGE – If you are looking for action, pick any day of the week and walk into the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre on the Lac la Ronge Indian Band reserve.

On this day to visit Kevin Roberts, the Director of Sports and Youth Recreation for the band, the entry way was jammed with students taking a food safety course, supplies were being unloaded into the gym and a dozen construction workers banged and cut and welded all over the recent expansion.

“We are hoping to be done by September,” said Roberts of the \$3.6 million renovation.

“And we expect the place to stay just as busy. We have really outgrown it.”

The renovations will increase the capacity of a building that can only be described as the hub of the community. Once they are done there will be new arena seating, board room space, a bus garage, walking track and an expanded fitness centre that will accommodate more equipment and change rooms.

“This arena runs flat out from September to the end of April for leagues and tournaments and we have many events in the gym for the community and our fitness centre is overwhelmed right now.

“We actually raise quite a bit of our budget for programs by selling memberships, renting the hall and even by selling programs at minor hockey games,” said Roberts of the challenges and opportunities in running the complex on his \$1.4 million budget.

“Most importantly we provide opportunity for kids to be involved and receive the physical, mental and social benefits of sports and recreation. We want to give them the option to not even be part of negative things. We want kids to go home at the end of the day after they did some exercise or participated in a program and they feel good about themselves.”

Another important role for the centre is as a hub of communications and gathering when there are evacuations.

“Ever since we built the community the hockey talent has gone up. Our kids are competing locally, regionally, nationally and internationally,” said Chief Tammy Cook-Searson who also competes in the King Trapper competitions held in the gym.

“But this place also turns into our main hub area when we have evacuations. It has so many purposes and serves the community so well the expansion is welcomed. The building is well used.”

They are also installing a new generator to power the building in the event of power outages being that the JRMCC serves as the emergency center.

Chief Cook-Searson knows the benefit of sport and hopes people take to the indoor walking/running track. She went from an overweight snuff chewing smoker to a person now running half marathons.

“When you exercise it helps you with your mental health. It helps you deal with stress,” added Chief Cook-Searson.

“We all win with sport.”

And a win it has been for the sports department at the Lac La Ronge Indian Band. Their teams have been on or near the top of many hockey tournaments across Saskatchewan and sports programs are expanding.

But to Roberts, it is not just about building winning teams.

“I am leaning more towards developing good people over NHL stars. It also comes to academics too,” said Roberts.

“A lot of top hockey players don’t even graduate high school. That does a disservice to recreation programs where you try to produce NHL players but not good young people. We need to turn some of that focus around and get kids to take leadership roles, go to school and give back to the community.

“That’s what I think sport and recreation is all about.”

And they can come learn about all that every day at the newly expanded Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre.



Kevin Roberts in the overcrowded and soon to be expanded gym at the Jonas Roberts Memorial Community Centre. (Photo by John Lagimodiere)



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On left, students check out the Service Canada booth and on right three young men get information from Sask-Tel.
(Photos by Tiffany Head)

Stepping up to success

By Tiffany Head
For Eagle Feather News

REGINA – Youth between the ages of 13 to 30 years old from Regina and surrounding area attended the 16th annual Stepping Stones Career Fair (STCF). It's the largest fair of its kind in the province offering over 80 career and education exhibits.

Mark Gettle, the STCF committee member says the career fair grows bigger every year.

"There are 1,650 lunches we have to hand out to students, so that's how many students will be coming in," says Gettle.

He says they want students, especially First Nation students, to be aware of all the opportunities out there and the goal of the committee is for students to continue on with their education.

"These are all these opportunities that are open to you if you really take education and grasp it," says Gettle, in his message to the students who attend the event.

"Treat education with respect and you work really hard, you can be this, this and this."

Exhibitor Rae-Lynne Carriere, accountant manager for Peace Hills Trust, says they give information to students on the type of jobs they offer and what kind of education is required.

"We are giving them the emphasis to stay in school and further their education," says Carriere.

As a bonus this year, the STCF will be hosting a talent show where five young entertainers will perform for the students.

"We're going to ask the students in the audience to judge them with a sound meter, with the applause, and we're going to give a prize out for that," says Gettle.

The winning performer will be given a monetary prize of \$1,000. On top of the entertainment the students are given an activity to encourage them to approach exhibitors. They are given a bingo card that they must get stamped and once they make a blackout they fill out the evaluation form and their name is entered for the door prizes.

Sheldon Williams Collegiate student, Cheyanne Bitternose, 15, says there are so many choices she can choose from when she graduates from high school.

"I was thinking, more like getting into photography and stuff like that but coming here it's really nice, it opens my eyes to new jobs," says Bitternose.

Darcy Desjarlais, 29, says he has been looking for work this past week and the work preparation program he attended told him there was this job fair happening and he figured he would check it out.

"It's actually been pretty awesome, a lot of information and I talked to a few booths and they are interested in getting my resume," said Desjarlais.

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