

INSIDE THIS WEEK



• The (almost) unbeatable Strikers lose championship title in Canada West volleyball tourney. See page 14.



• Objibway artist captures spiritual meaning of his paintings. See page 12.



• Tall Cree principal Howard Rasmussen loves the northern life. See page 8.



BLOW YOUR HORN

These Frog Lake students were only a few of 200 youngsters that took part in a Fishing Lake Performing Arts Festival recently. See page 6 for more jiggling and singing, performed by the talented students.

DIANE PARENTEAU, *Windspeaker*

Windspeaker

April 15, 1988

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Empire grows

Sawridge band buys hotel

By Mark McCallum



WALTER TWINN ...band buys hotel

The Sawridge band near Slave Lake became the owners of Fort McMurray's Ramada Inn on April 6 and plans are already being made to improve the hotel's poor economic track record.

"I think we got a heck of a deal," says Sawridge Chief Walter Twinn.

Although the hotel was in receivership before the band purchased it, Twinn is optimistic new management and upgrading will make the hotel a more stable and solid investment in the future.

"It's been in receivership twice in the past I think," says Twinn. But, he blames a "heavy debt loan" for the hotel's financial problems.

The Sawridge chief says the staff will remain the same with the possible exception of the hotel's general manager.

"There will be somebody from the Sawridge band working there," adds Twinn, noting that the hotel's name will be changed to the Sawridge Hotel. It joins what seems to be one of Alberta's fastest growing chain of hotels. The band also owns two other hotels in Jasper and Slave Lake, both called the Sawridge Hotel.

The 192-room hotel in Fort McMurray was purchased for an undisclosed amount of money. The interior of the hotel includes a luxurious dining area, restaurant, lounge, tavern and cabaret.

Twinn says future plans may also include a possible training program with Fort McMurray's Keyano College. He has met with representatives from the college who have expressed interest in starting a program that would train hotel personnel for the work force. "It looks interesting, but we'll have

to follow up on it," he says, adding they have not passed the verbal stages yet.

Twinn, who has been chief of the band for some 20 years, attributes the successful economic growth of the Sawridge band "mostly to a lot of luck." He explains the band was "fortunate enough to get rid of some real estate before hard times hit in the late '70s." Before the province began suffering economic turmoil in the wake of recession, he says the band sold a major parcel of land near Edmonton before prices hit rock bottom.

The band has since built up its assets. In 1970 it was worth some \$110,000 and today Chief Twinn estimates it has accumulated about \$50 million, tied up in investments for the most part. Along with the band's growing chain of hotels, Sawridge also owns a truck stop/gas bar on the reserve, apartments, some real estate near Leduc and is part owner (50 per cent) of a Calgary based oil company as well as holding majority shares in another Calgary oil company.

"I believe you can't stand still...big corporations have gone under in the last little while and I think we're just as vulnerable to that. We just have to try stay ahead and on top."

Gov't blocks land ownership says Federation president

By Dorothy Schreiber

Government lawyers are trying to "derail" a process which would see the lands of the right Metis Settlements entrenched in the Canadian constitution, says Randy Hardy, president of the Federation of Metis Settlements.

He alleges lawyers from the Attorney General's office have indicated it will be difficult for the government to pass a resolution which would constitutionally entrench the lands of the settlements while the federation is suing the province.

The federation filed a statement of claim against the government in 1976, claiming entitlement to monies accrued from the sale of oil and gas on settlement land.

In 1985, under the Lougheed government, a resolution was passed committing the province to propose a revised Metis Betterment Act, to grant 1.28 million acres of settlement land to the Metis and to have the land constitutionally protected. The resolution, known as Resolution 18, was made without prejudice to the federation's natural resource litigation case.

But Hardy says lawyers in the attorney general's office are trying to tie the

two (Resolution 18 and lawsuit) together and are "scuttling" the whole process, by trying to make a compromise.

"They have an opportunity to make a political agreement (and) a handful of lawyers are going to wreck it all."

When contacted by *Windspeaker*, an attorney general's department official declined to comment.

The federation president doesn't believe Premier Don Getty is aware of the department's actions and says he expects to meet with the premier sometime within the next week to discuss the situation. He feels the premier can help to separate the two issues and can hopefully help to "bust loose the jam."

But Hardy says last spring the premier asked "Are you (Metis) willing to settle out of court because it's going to be awful...hard to get this thing (Resolution 18) through if you're still suing us" and we responded...I thought we had an agreement in Resolution 18 that it was without prejudice."

However, the federation told the government it would consider settling the natural resource case out of court provided the province was willing to pay the settlements \$250 million for the sale of oil and gas

from settlement land. They also asked for beneficial ownership for mines and minerals.

The province responded six months later with two preconditions, says Hardy. One, that there would be no accounting of the sales of gas and oil from settlement land, to date, from the government. Secondly, they asked that the federation give up any claims to beneficial ownership to gas and oil sales.

In return, Hardy says the province would have been willing to negotiate infrastructure needs, social and economic needs, recreation needs and other financial needs for all eight settlements.

But the council which represents all eight settlements refused the government's offer.

"It was an insult, what they did. That's not settling out of court. That's dropping the lawsuit," says Hardy.

Resolution 18 was to be introduced into the legislature during this spring sitting and Hardy says he is still hopeful this will occur.

He likens his situation to problems experienced by the Lubicon band who have been trying unsuccessfully for the past 48 years to settle their land claim.

"Lawyers and bureaucrats are holding it back," he says.

Jobs found in joint Indian, Metis project

By Lesley Crossingham

Members of the Bigstone Indian band and the Calling Lake Metis community have joined together to form a unique employment project that has already raised the employment rate from 80 to 90 per cent in less than a year.

Community liaison Victor Gladue says the community has formed a training and job development program that allows community members to receive allowances while training for such jobs as secretarial work, heavy equipment management, along with

other trade work.

"We are on a three-year plan funded by the NEDP (Native Economic Development Program)," says Gladue. "We will be receiving \$45,000 each year for three years plus other funding from social services."

One of the major projects currently being undertaken is a new elementary and junior high school.

"That is going to be built this summer starting in June. It's a major project and there will be lots of jobs for everyone," he says.

The school will serve

both the Metis community and the band and is being funded by both the provincial and federal governments.

The project is serving about 550 community members from both the Metis community and the band.

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Provincial

Hobbema Chamber of Commerce

Marketing plan will keep \$'s on reserve

By Lesley Crossingham

Hobbema band members spend more than \$100 million each year in the nearby communities of Wetaskiwin and Ponoka, but the recently formed Hobbema Chamber of Commerce would like to see that money remain in the community.

"This is one of the

reasons we have organized this trade show," says chamber secretary/treasurer Glenda Omeasoo. "We want to encourage band members to support our local trades people."

The Hobbema business and trade fair takes place April 29, 30 and May 1 at the Panee Agri-plex and will highlight about 100 local businesses and entrepre-

neurs.

"This show promises to be lively and interesting, but best of all there is no admission (charge)," says Wilson Okemaw, chamber board member and organizer.

The show will also feature workshops, seminars and marketing strategy discussions as well as fashion shows, daily live

entertainment and door prizes, says Okemaw.

The chamber formed in late 1986 because so many local businesses were struggling to survive on the reserve.

"The councils of the four bands are also concerned that when our natural resources run out, that we'll return to the welfare rolls and poverty," says

Omeasoo.

The chamber is now negotiating with the towns of Wetaskiwin and Ponoka on the trade zones between the two communities.

"I don't see why Hobbema can't have its own trade zone," says Okemaw. "As it is, they (Ponoka and Wetaskiwin) are fighting over the reserve."

Omeasoo points out that few, if any, band members are employed in the businesses in the two towns despite the fact that most band members shop and purchase large items such as cars and major household appliances from them.

"Our dollars (royalty payments) are just not being circulated within the community," says Okemaw. "We eventually would like to see more self-sufficiency on the reserve. There is no reason why large dealerships and large franchises cannot

move onto the reserve, hire our own people and keep that money within the community."

The chamber is only the second of its kind on a reserve in Canada and the only one that encompasses four bands.

"We are also a member of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and we are looking into joining the Alberta Chamber of Commerce," says Omeasoo.

The chamber is registered under the Societies Act and has more than 50 paid members. A recent annual assembly saw the election of president Curtis Ermine-skin, vice-president Tom Goodson, secretary/treasurer Glenda Omeasoo, board members Pat Buffalo, Wilson Okemaw, John Crier, Terry Capp, Colleen Buffalo and Wilton Little-child.

Natives called on to protect future

By Dorothy Schreiber

Native and non-Native people may come from different backgrounds, but all want to keep the earth and future generations safe from nuclear annihilation.

This message was delivered by Metis Elder Joe Cardinal who said a Cree prayer to open a talk by disarmament activist Helen Caldicott at the Jubilee Auditorium on April 10.

"We are different people but we have one Creator," Cardinal told about 2,700 audience members. "We are all concerned about Canada, the rivers...and our beautiful lakes," he stated, adding that the land and people are connected.

As a Second World War veteran who landed in France on D-Day, he said he was fortunate to have "pulled through." As a witness to war, his concern is for the future of our children and grandchildren.

Main speaker Helen Caldicott pointed out Natives "worship the land

and we're destroying it. We should be sitting at their feet and learning (from them).

"We didn't inherit the earth, we borrowed it from our ancestors — that's what the Native people know," she said.

Caldicott is on a national speaking tour to support the Canadian Peace Pledge Campaign and is urging Canadians to vote for politicians who will work toward stopping the nuclear arms race.

In Alberta, the cruise missile (a first strike weapon) has been tested over the northern part of the province since 1983.

Caldicott believes that marches and demonstrations are no longer enough to stop activities like cruise missile testing and points out that people must make peace and disarmament election issues.

"If you can't change a politician's mind, then change the politician."

She also urged Albertans to fight against the Canada/America free trade

agreement which she says signals the end of Canadian sovereignty and as an extension of the United States she believes we would become vulnerable to having nuclear weapon silos and missiles erected on Canadian soil.

This election (federal) is the last chance for Canadians to vote out free trade and "Reagan clone" Brian Mulroney, said Caldicott.

The Australian pediatrician says the American government believes that by 1992 they will be capable of fighting and winning a nuclear war, but Caldicott says there is no such thing as a winnable war because no one will escape the damage and destruction.

In describing the horrors of a nuclear war on the human population she related how people close to a blast site would literally vaporize and that human eyes looking into a nuclear flash would melt.

In an impassioned plea she urged audience members to make a lifelong

commitment to making Canada a nuclear-free zone for future safety of generations not yet born.

Instead of protecting our fragile psyche from the horrifying threat of nuclear war we should be protecting "our children's future."

"Evil flourishes when good people sit back and do nothing," she cautioned audience members.

Social worker to appear in court to explain foster child's removal

A regional childrens guardian must appear in court to explain why a five-year-old Native foster girl was taken out of her foster home in Calgary and moved to a Saskatchewan reserve, a judge ordered April 13.

Guardian Janice Turner has been ordered to testify at a hearing to explain why Whitney Whitecap was taken from Norm and Marilyn Peters home and why she is not allowed to

return, ruled Court of Queen's Bench Justice David McDonald.

The Peters cared for Whitney for more than three years and had planned to adopt the young girl, a move which the girl's natural mother fully approved.

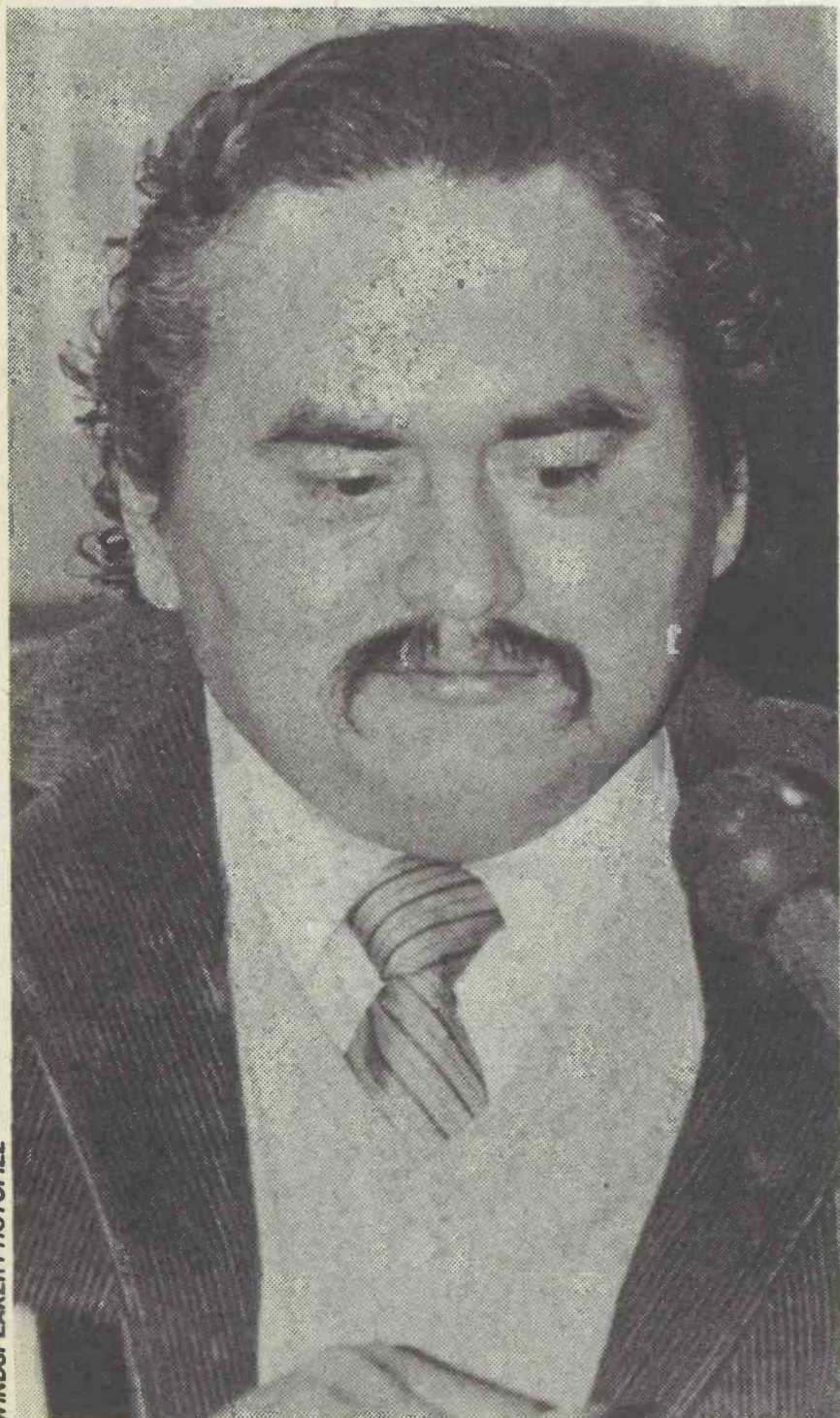
However, the adoption was halted by the provincial childrens' guardian, who said it was in the best interest of the child to place her with relatives on her

home reserve, Carry-the-Kettle near Regina.

The mother's lawyer, Brian Mahoney, argues the girl was removed from the foster home illegally and is now being illegally detained.

He says the removal of the girl was unfair to the foster parents and the natural mother and was not in the best interest of the child.

Whitney Whitecap is in a foster home in Calgary and will remain there until the custody battle is resolved.



EVERETT SOOP
...cartooning is emotional outlet

Soop at the Glenbow

Humorist discusses prejudice

By Dan Dibbelt

"I was a drunk for 20 years. But I wasn't a pathetic drunk, I was a damn good one," said Everett Soop, Native satirical humorist, speaking to a small but appreciative group at the Glenbow Museum Sunday, April 10.

"But being an Indian didn't make me a drunk," he added pointedly. "Being a young arrogant man made me a drunk."

Soop, a Blood Indian, was one of numerous Native speakers addressing patrons of the Spirit Sings exhibit at the museum throughout the months of February through April. The display of cultural artifacts has been smashing attendance records at the Glenbow.

And while topics and demonstrations varied from weaving to dancing,

Soop and fellow speaker for the day Eleanor Brass addressed a more serious concern: discrimination and whiteman's perception of Indians.

Soop, author of *Soop Take a Bow* (a collection of his cartoons), said cartooning is a very serious business.

"Cartooning is merely telling the truth, but it is telling the truth about which nobody wants to talk about. It has little to do with being funny but instead being socially conscious."

And indeed his cartoons, frequently directed at Indians, are often based on political and social issues — something Soop does not hesitate to give his opinion on.

"Indian people blast the Spirit Sings exhibit," he said. "I'm indifferent, not because I don't care but because I can't do anything about it — like my disability."

Soop is confined to a wheel chair, something which he accepts but for which he is dually discriminated — being both Indian and handicapped.

"When I was coming to the museum, I came through a hotel lobby and they watched me like I was going to steal the soap."

"I am a very bitter and angry man," said Soop, adding his emotional outlet is his humor.

For Saskatchewan Peepeekeesis reserve-born Eleanor Brass, her feelings about are in her autobiography *I Walk in Two Worlds* from which she read Sunday.

Brass talked about the prejudice and discrimination she experienced as a young Indian. Brass attended a Native school until Grade 6, the final grade in that school. She continued her education in a white school

where she was called "dirty Indian" by other students.

Despite her bad experience in non-Native schools, Brass believes urban schools offer the best opportunities to Indian children.

"Most Indians will grow up with, work with and face white people problems and I think being educated in the white ways will make that an easier challenge to face," she said.

She does, however, feel that Native culture must be preserved. "My parents never taught me Cree," responded Brass to a question from the audience. "I do think however that maintaining the culture is important."

Brass also read from her first book *Cree Legends and Stories* as well as excerpts from newspapers for which she has been a columnist.

Metis Registry finds homes

By Dorothy Schreiber

Native people who are homeless, living in overcrowded situations or in substandard dwellings are getting help thanks to a housing registry run by the Metis Women's Council in Edmonton.

The one-person operation is housed in an office of the Canadian Native Friendship Centre and started last July.

The service, which once operated under Metis Urban Housing, is now run by the women's council (a non-political body) and is open to all people in the city, both Native and non-Native.

Housing registrar Frances Hegedus helps people find accommodations on the open market, or through subsidized housing programs such as Metis Urban Housing and city and provincial housing. She also helps people by setting up appointments for clients to view accommodations and sometimes will go with a client to an appointment.

The people who show up in Hegedus' office, between 20 and 40 a month, are often single mothers on welfare and young disabled single people on Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped.

"Some of them are wanting to move out of their present accommodation because of mice and bugs...substandard living conditions. Some of them need more room, some of them are crowded in small apartments. So I work with them to try and help them find better accommodations."

Something that Hegedus hears a lot about, especially from single parents, is overcrowded living conditions.

"I had one guy with seven kids who was living in one room," she says, adding she was able to help the family find accommodation with Edmonton Housing.

Some single parent clients, although they may have a roof over their heads, are considered to be homeless by Hegedus. In the last two months she has seen an increase in the number of single parents who are sharing accommodations with other single parents.

"I consider one or the other of those families to be homeless. Two single parents (with) six kids total

sharing a two-bedroom apartment is not exactly what you call (a) home."

This is a situation that "happens a lot" she says and the Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness agrees with her definition of homeless.

People who live in accommodations that don't meet basic physical standards for safety and sanitation or privacy are classified as homeless by the coalition, says coalition co-chairman Anne Harvey.

Another problem Hegedus encounters with her clients are substandard dwellings. She says some people, while they have adequate living space, are looking for a new apartment because their present one is "infested with mice or bugs."

"This is going on in a lot of apartments in the city... not just apartments down in the skid row area either."

Hegedus believes poor living conditions takes their toll on people and she sees the effects on the faces of some of her clients.

"They're very depressed and they're very sad. Some of the little kids that come in here, too...they look pretty sad."

A part of the problem facing low income people is a lack of affordable and well-maintained housing and Harvey says the coalition, the city, and the province are at present negotiating to undertake a study to look into the situation.

Poor housing is no longer a problem confined to the city's inner core area and "there are pockets in other parts of the city that have very quickly deteriorating housing," says Harvey.

In order to help people acquire better living accommodations, Hegedus believes the government should provide more subsidized housing for low income people and current housing programs should lift some of their strict criteria which sometimes stops people from qualifying for housing.

She also feels more affordable decent housing will help people to feel better about themselves and their lives.

"If their surroundings are clean and nice and quiet then they tend to change their mental attitudes, the way they live...it tends to affect the way they think... for the better."



JEFF BEAR and FILM CREW
...document rise of Aboriginal communications in Canada

Sharing a Dream documentary to air this month on CBC

OTTAWA — People across the country are invited to share the dream of Native communications when the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation airs a 30-minute documentary produced by the National Aboriginal Communications Society (NACS) April 29.

The documentary, called *Sharing a Dream*, was created by the Aboriginal producer/director, Jeff Bear, who is also the NACS coordinator.

Sharing a Dream is an introduction that delves into the little seen world of the Native media. Using the 1987 First Ministers Conference (FMC) on Aboriginal rights as its central focal point, the production shows Native people from across Canada in the act of providing media services from an Aboriginal point of view in

print, radio and television.

According to Bear, "The video will showcase the development of Aboriginal media institutions while showing how unique and essential it is to have Aboriginal control over the way we see ourselves and how we want others to see us."

From there, the video shows the history and current trends in Aboriginal media, which has moved from smoke signals to satellites in 15 years. Beginning with the Wawatay Native Communications Society in Sioux Lookout, Ontario, the documentary follows that organization from its earliest stages as a provider of trail radio (small high frequency transmitters which provide a trapper's only link to his or her home community) to its current high technological position.

Wawatay currently programs regional radio for about 16 Native community radio stations. It also produces television which can be seen on Ontario's public educational channel, TV Ontario.

Initial research for *Sharing a Dream* began in February 1987, and shooting started at the Native Potlatch held in B.C. Place, Vancouver, just before the last FMC on Aboriginal rights.

Additional shooting took place at the offices of Native Communications Society of British Columbia in Vancouver and at the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA) in Edmonton. Some shooting was also done in Iqaluit, Frobisher Bay, to view the work of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation (IBC) and in Ottawa during the last FMC.

Original music for the production was written by Gabrielle Bauer. Native journalist Brian Maracle narrated the production and wrote some of the script.

NACS is a non-profit organization representing the common needs and concerns of the 21 Native communications societies across Canada which produce information for Aboriginal people in the print, radio and television medias.

NACS was set up in Ottawa in 1986 to coordinate activities in sharing the dream of providing communications to Native people from an Aboriginal point of view.

Sharing a Dream will air April 29 at 2 p.m. on CBC's Canadian Reflections series — check your local listings.

Hobbema honors retiring tribal police

By Terry Lusty

Officials of Hobbema's Four Nations and local RCMP recently honored two respected members of the Hobbema Tribal Police upon their retirement.

Constables Bernard Buffalo and Wilson Buffalo retired March 31 after devoting more than 10 years each to the force. Wilson, 60 and Bernard, 56, felt that age and health were catching up to them

and it was time they moved over to let others assume their duties.

"If I was 10 years younger," said Wilson, "I'd keep on going." He said he first joined up because he wanted to put his experience at martial arts to use.

A banquet in their honor was attended by band chiefs and councillors, Elders, Police Chief Oliver Longneck, administration, family and close friends. Both were presented with plaques and gifts — the

most significant was an eagle feather.

Longneck acknowledged their value to the community, saying "We all learned a lot from them." The retiring officers were bilingual and often served to interpret disputes or discussions between Cree speakers and the law. Their fluency in both English and Cree also served to frequently prevent or defuse potential trouble.

Bernard claims that life on the reserve is much

better today than 10 years ago when "it seemed like we had a paddy wagon full of drunks nearly every other day."

The men were known to most people on the reserves and said they are well aware of the fact that the RCMP cannot patrol and properly serve the community without the assistance of the tribal police.

"They need the tribal police to give them a hand," said Wilson.

Editorial

Saving the future

A most important responsibility

As Mother Earth and all her inhabitants are rapidly pushed towards almost certain destruction, people wanting to stop the devastation are turning to Native people.

Recently, Metis Elder Joe Cardinal was asked to speak and say a prayer to open a talk given by nuclear disarmament activist Helen Caldicott.

Cardinal spoke about the connection between people and the land saying that though we are all different, we are bound together in our responsibility to save our country and preserve a future for our children.

During her speech, Caldicott talked about Native peoples' relationship with the earth, saying "they worship the land and we're destroying it. We should be sitting at their feet learning (from them)."

A similar message was delivered a few weeks ago by famous biologist and scientist David Suzuki, who told delegates attending a Native education conference that non-Native people should take a lesson from Native people and Elders if the planet is to be saved from certain destruction.

Native people have always understood that the land is to be respected because it holds all living things and is the giver of life. Native people have always understood there is something to be learned from all things in nature, from the tiniest plant on the forest floor to the eagle that soars high above — all have a spirit and something to teach us.

We live in a critical time when nuclear war is being pushed from the realm of possibility into reality and industry is threatening to destroy all the wilderness in Canada within the next 30 years.

For hundreds of years, Native people lived on the land without gouging, wounding or causing mass destruction to it, understanding it is a gift to be passed on to future generations.

Now, one wonders if we'll have anything to pass on to our future generations. Native people and Elders are being brought into the anti-nuclear and environmental forums to offer their knowledge, wisdom and guidance in stopping governments and multi-national corporations who seem hell-bent on mass destruction.

We were not a part of the problem in terms of mass environmental destruction but it is evident we must be a part of the solution if the earth is to be saved.



Delia Memmook

HOULE RETIRES FROM DRY CLEANERS

At age 63, Mrs. Mary M. Houle, after 10 years of service has retired from the Goodfish Lake dry cleaners.

Houle was one of the first employees upon the conception of the company in 1978. She has been a faithful and conscientious employee throughout her working career. Her excellence in the workplace will be greatly missed.

The board of directors, management and staff would like to thank Houle for her services and wish her all the happiness in her retirement.

Pictured here is Agnes Bull (left), board member; Chief Ernest Houle; and Mary Houle.

Dene Elders pass on culture

By Mark McCallum

ASSUMPTION — Dene Tha' Elders have begun showing Assumption youth an alternative lifestyle to substance abuse and alcohol related crimes.

Native Counselling Services of Alberta and the Dene Tha' band formed a crime prevention project last April on the reserve that relies heavily on the resources of community Elders. By teaching youths about their colorful past and traditional ways, project supervisor Roy Inglangasuk explains they hope to build a cultural base for youth to take pride in and build on.

The band feared "the culture would be lost because there was no communication going on between youth and Elders from the community."

The project, called the Talking Drum Dene Tha' youth project, has since opened lines of communication and "Elders are involved in every aspect of it," adds Inglangasuk.

A group called the Youth Effort Committee was formed with a number of Elders and young people to develop programs and events for the project. Through weekly committee meetings, Inglangasuk

explains that "the Elders have constant contact with the youth and help them make decisions."

Some of the programs conducted included workshops, summer camps, field trips and attending youth conferences during the past ten months since the project started last year.

Inglangasuk says field trips and conferences have been a big motivator because "they got a chance to see what the world around them is really like and that people are basically no different from each other."

The project has a drop-in centre established on the reserve where two youth workers counsel youths, ranging in age from 12 to 24. The youth workers also try to involve parents in counselling activities by conducting home visits. And, the workers provide a probation service for young offenders.

The main objective of the project is to prevent youths from coming in conflict with the law, says Inglangasuk, who observes that many of the crimes involving youths stem from alcohol-related problems. "I think the problem here is much the same as it is across the board in Alberta. There's

not enough activities set up in the community, so boredom eventually sets in."

Inglangasuk notes that most of the crimes are not violent, but usually involve alcohol. He adds inhalants that are easy to obtain are also a major part of the problem.

Although it's difficult to measure the success of the project yet, he believes it is having a "definite impact on the community."

"The first step has been taken by the community. They realize there is a

problem and are working towards prevention. And, Elders are showing the young people that the whole community is actually part of the family they must learn to respect."

Inglangasuk says plans for the year ahead will include more field trips, camps and workshops.

"We also want to get the youths to set goals and start thinking more about the future. After all, they're going to be the leaders of the community in years to come," he concludes.

Wind speaker

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Opinion

Bigstone man applauds Whitefish's anti-booze bylaw

Dear Editor:

I commend the Whitefish band council for committing themselves to a bylaw which opposes alcohol on their reserve.

I feel it's safe to state that alcohol is a major problem on most reserves, not to mention in towns and cities.

By implementing dry bylaw regulations, it's a clear indication that the Whitefish band council and their respective voting members want a better, more positive and healthier environment in which to live.

We, of the Bigstone Cree band, had aspirations of

drafting a similar bylaw regarding the scourge on our own reserve. To the best of my knowledge, nothing constructive has originated from the point of admitting the problem to the point of tackling it head on. Maybe we think we could forget about the problem at hand and it will eventually go away, like a bad dream. But no, it will not vanish, because it is the harsh, stark and painful reality with which we have to live with as dictated by alcohol.

Our community's alcohol problem can be directly ascribed to certain despicable characters locally

known as bootleggers. These parasitic persons profit from a community enslaved and bound by alcohol.

In general, we the public let them go unchecked in their illegal delivery and

supply of booze. All they've ever contributed to the community is disgrace, distress, afflictions, agony, anguish, hurt, misery, pain, woe and so on.

If we people of Wabasca and Desmarais have no

further need of more hurt caused primarily by alcohol, then let us all stand in unity to let our elected leaders (councillors, elders and chief) realize that the Bigstone band could and should enforce a similar

bylaw as the Whitefish band's. The sooner the better for the common good of all concerned.

Sincerely,
Clement Auger
Desmarais

Help wanted to start cultural committee

Dear Editor:

I am writing to you concerning the article in your newspaper on page 5 in the March 4, 1988 issue. It tells me a lot about what's happening in other reserves and Metis settlements. I learn a lot by reading the cultural section. I am a Native student going to school and I want to know more about my culture. I have four children and I would like them to dance in powwows and do other cultural things. At home I teach them how to cook bannock, clean fish and rabbits. I also take them to round dances and a few powwows.

On our reserve we are going to try to start a cultural committee and I need some advice on how to go about it. Right now

there are three people sitting on the committee and I hope more people would sit on it because we need it for our children and their children. When I was younger I used to dance. Since I got married, I don't dance anymore. I still round dance but I don't powwow dance anymore. That is why I would like my children to learn more about their culture.

I would be glad if you people would give me some advice about how to start my committee.

Sincerely,
Leona Cardinal
Lac La Biche

EDITOR'S NOTE: If you can help Mrs. Cardinal please contact us here at Windspeaker and we'll get you together.

Your opinion, please...

Windspeaker welcomes letters to the editor and unsolicited editorial material. Only those letters which are signed will be published. Correspondence may be edited in length, for libellous content and readability.

The views presented on this "Opinion" page are not necessarily those of Windspeaker or the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta.



TOUCHING THE CIRCLE

By Richard Wagamese

The land is a feeling. Sometimes it seems that I've walked the northern Ontario landscape so often it's imprinted itself on the soles of my feet. So that even in the concrete depths of the cities I've lived in it's always been there. Pulsing. A vague memory. Almost like an echo of another heartbeat. Tonight this sunset has re-awakened that feeling. The sky ablaze in a wild palette of color. Each surrendering itself gracefully to the other so that the land beneath it is transformed into that shade of purple you can feel in your chest.

My grandfather is gone from this world. That purple furrow of the land hard against the sky reminds me of the furrows across the backs of his hands. I always tried to imagine how they must have looked mending nets or tanning hides. How they must have looked shaping the fabric and the contour of his world. Strong hands. A bush man's hands. The old ones at home still call him the strongest man on Whitedog reserve. My mother's eyes take on a prideful gleam when she talks of how strong a man he was. A northern man. Mishomis. John Wagamese — my grandfather. I loved him.

We didn't get a lot of time to know each other. We'd been separated for over 20 years by a system neither of us understood. What we knew of each other's lives had been given us by others. Pieces. We knew each other in pieces. But in the time we did have we at least made an effort to connect. To experience. To feel. To assemble for ourselves something of a person and a spirit from those scattered pieces.

I learned that I had a lot more than just a grandfather. I had a past. I had a culture and a heritage which not only brought me pride but also brought me strength when I needed it most. I learned that although life doesn't always add up to what we want, a lot of the time if we keep searching for ourselves then happiness and truth can always be part of the same basic equation. I learned something of life. I learned something of me.

But like most of us, I enjoy entertaining myself every so often with the game of possibilities. The old "what if" routine. And "what if" I'd never gone to foster homes and "what if" I'd grown up with my grandfather's influence? Well, certainly a number of the most painful and difficult times of my life might never have

The land is a feeling

happened. Some of the most guilt-ridden times might have not occurred as well.

When I was first getting straight and sober I found that I had to go back through my life and deal with certain things which I'd always felt guilty about. I had to sift through these events and deal with my responsibilities.

I remember as a young boy being given a pellet gun and running off into the bush with my pals. Pretty soon tin cans, rocks and branches became boring targets. We needed harder game. By the end of the afternoon we'd assembled a pile of squirrels, chipmunks and birds. When supper time came we ran off again leaving our dead brothers scattered unceremoniously on the rocks. I recall taking one last look at all of those lifeless bodies and feeling no sense of the victor but a deep sense of guilt instead.

At that time I didn't know that all life is sacred. I didn't know that our people's ways teach us to respect all life. And I didn't know at the time that what I was doing was wrong. Only after the shooting did I feel remorse. When I revisited this episode and examined my guilt I could only say that I was sorry. That I had no one to teach me and I did not understand.

And so, what if?

If I'd grown up with my grandfather's influence chances are that I would have learned all those things about life and its sanctity. I probably would not have had to harbor that guilt all those years. I probably wouldn't have had to lose my cultural identity, my language, my spiritual sense, myself. But "what if" will always only be "what if."

I'm not responsible for the fact that my grandfather and I lived our lives apart for so long. And I'm not responsible for the fact that I did not learn the values of my people as a young boy. That I had no one to teach me and I did not understand. But I was responsible for making that connection with my past. I was responsible for getting to know and love Mishomis to the degree that I did. I was responsible for letting him know me, too. And I am ultimately responsible for passing on those things he was able to give me of my culture, my heritage, my people and our pride. I am responsible for sharing my grandfather's knowledge.

For those of our people fortunate enough to still have the opportunity to sit with their Elders this is the responsibility. Because they will not be here forever. Nor will we. We are responsible for giving our children a cultural future.

Because the saddest thing I can imagine is someone asking the last surviving Indian child why he or she has no knowledge of their culture or themselves and the answer being...I had no one to teach me and did not understand.

Until next week, meegwetch.

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Community

Red River jig evokes feeling of unity

Metis school hosts cultural festival

By Diane Parenteau

FISHING LAKE — The Red River jig, performed as a demonstration event at J.F. Dion school's March 30 Performing Arts Festival by Elizabeth Settlement students, prompted students, instructors and parents in the audience to join in.

"That Red River jig was probably the most important part of the whole show," said J.F. Dion's Special Education instructor Brian Tucker. "The high point of the day."

The dance evoked a feeling of unity and friendship among the competitors, communities and others who attended the event.

"Some did good (in the



DIANE PARENTEAU, Windspeaker

SQUARE DANCERS ...four schools invited

jig) and others not so good," said Tucker. "But, they went up there."

The cultural festival, held in the elementary school gym, offered a unique and first time opportunity for 200 youngsters from J.F.

Dion school, Frog Lake reserve, Heinsburg, Elizabeth Settlement and Canadian Forces Base in Cold Lake.

Each school is culturally different, and the festival served as an opportunity for the students to demonstrate their talents in music, song, dance and recitals.

"I feel that our kids should have competitions with other schools," said Bruce Desjarlais, school board chairman. "It's good for the kids and it's good for the community."

The calibre of competition, though varied, was good.

"We had Elizabeth (dancers) here and they perform nationally," said

Tucker. "I think that spurred the local kids to do good. If the level of competition was lower, they wouldn't know what to strive for."

All schools came ready to compete and performed well.

"What impressed me," said Tucker, "was how successful it was for all schools. Nobody came unprepared."

Each school took home one of the four first place trophies, as planned by festival organizers to make participation worthwhile.

"The intent is that it be competitive but that there also be a reason for everyone to come," said Tucker.

The first place acting trophy went to Cold Lake's Canadian Forces Base Mackenzie school for their poems. Frog Lake's recorder performance took the first place music trophy. J.F. Dion's Grade 5 and 6 group took first in the costume category and the experienced dancers from Elizabeth received the trophy in the dance section.

Pat Tomchek, a Grade 5 teacher at Mackenzie school, called the festival "fantastic" and educational.

It was the first time the Cold Lake students had been in a multicultural setting; they went home impressed and more aware.

"Being air force children who travel around, they feel they are knowledgeable about Canada but now realize they aren't knowledgeable about Native people," said Tomchek.

The school staff hope the festival will be an annual event at J.F. Dion.



**HAVE YOU
HEARD?...**

**By Margaret
Desjarlais**

Have you seen the latest sweatshirts in Indian country? The sweatshirts are white and have paintings of renowned artists such as Morris Cardinal, Alex Janvier, etc. I believe the only place you can purchase them in Edmonton is at BANAC. Word has it the sweatshirts sell like hotcakes as soon as they reach the market. Hey, we're getting famous — but I'm still waiting for a Rubic's Cube with paintings of our famous artists.

Evangeline Janvier of the Cold Lake First Nations just returned recently from her one month visit to the East Coast. Evangeline says she had a good trip despite the cold weather the easterners have been experiencing — while we've been having Hawaiian weather. I bet someone's happy you're home, Evangeline. Welcome back!

Belated birthday greetings going out to Jamie Lapratt who turned 10 last Feb. 10. Coming from your cool mama, Brenda.

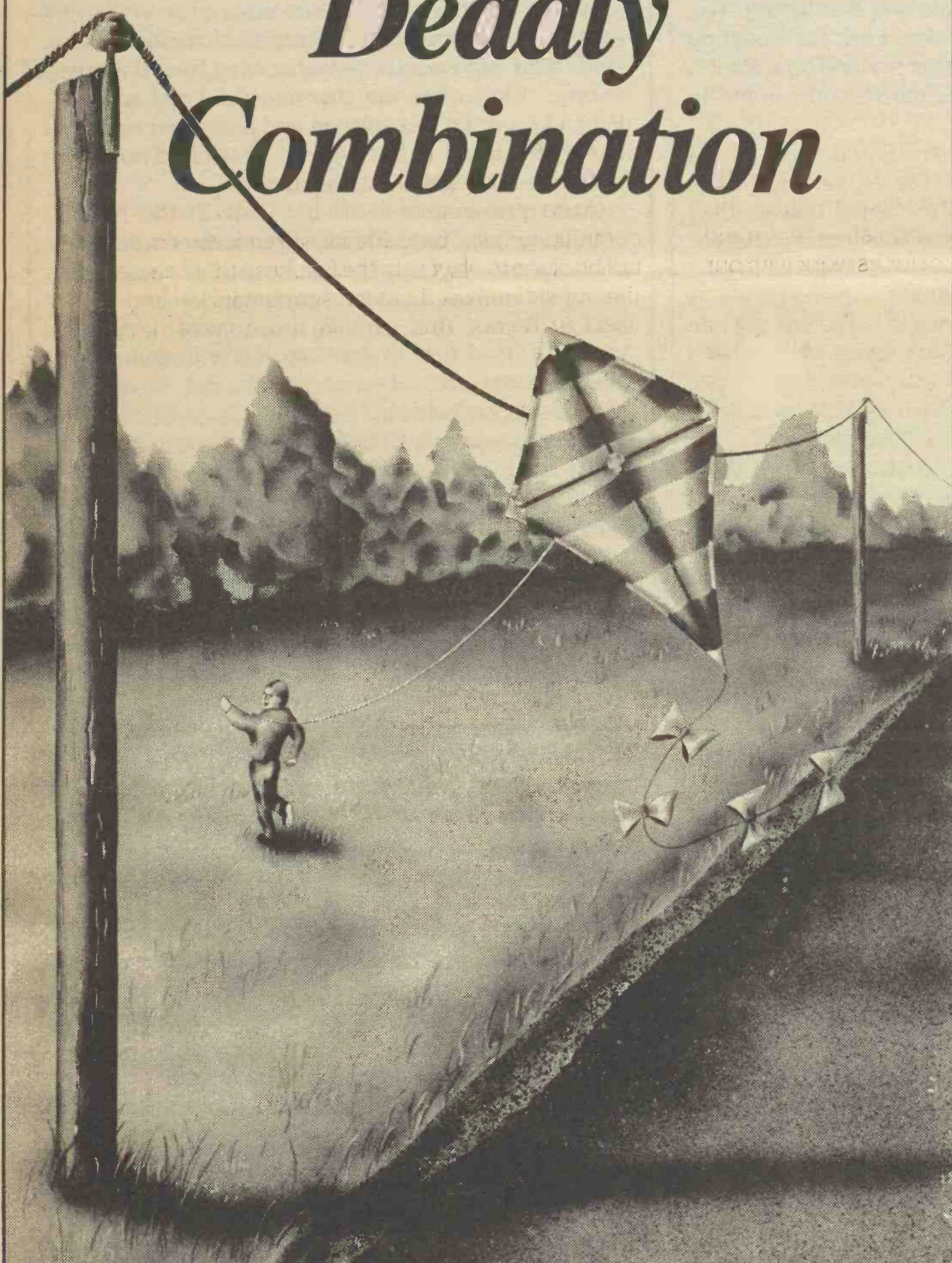
Good luck to Larry Erutse and Corrine Desjarlais with your future endeavors. These two individuals were with us here at Windspeaker for work experience for a few short months. And congrats to Tina Mowbray, our former secretary, who will be tying the knot Sept. 3 to a long-time sweetheart, Mel Wood. Meanwhile, on the other side of the fence, our secretary Irene is still looking for Mr. Right Guy! No phone calls please, Lyle (Donald).

Congratulations — first to Janet Spence on the arrival of a baby girl (April 9) at the Wetaskiwin hospital; a sister for Janelle, Laurene and the boys. And to Sharon Desjarlais on the birth of bouncin' 10 lb. 2 oz. baby Farron (April 7) at the High Prairie Regional Complex. Congrats to the proud parents!

WHO DO YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH?

- April 7** — Jack Adams, Edmonton
- April 8** — Tyler John, Kehewin
- April 10** — Dave Cardinal, Fort McMurray; Mark Pearson, Edmonton
- April 11** — Colin Desjarlais, Caslan
- April 12** — Theresa Thill, Grande Prairie
- April 20** — Viola Many Wounds, Sarcee
- April 21** — Shirley Patenaude, Fort McMurray
- April 26** — Joeline John, Kehewin; Everett Lambert, Paddle Prairie; Joe Patenaude, Caslan; Trevor Barbeau, Edmonton
- April 27** — Wilmar Desjarlais, Caslan
- April 28** — Lena M. Desjarlais, Cold Lake

Deadly Combination



Have you a high flyer in your family?

If so, a blue sky and a breezy day are all that a youngster with a kite or model airplane needs to take off.

But wait. Power lines and kites are a deadly combination.

Before your children test the wind, tell them to fly their kites or airplanes only in wide open spaces, far away from overhead power

lines. And if the toy gets caught in or near a power line, leave it there. Don't try to get it down.

Keep your flying ace safe.

When it comes to electrical safety - don't take chances.



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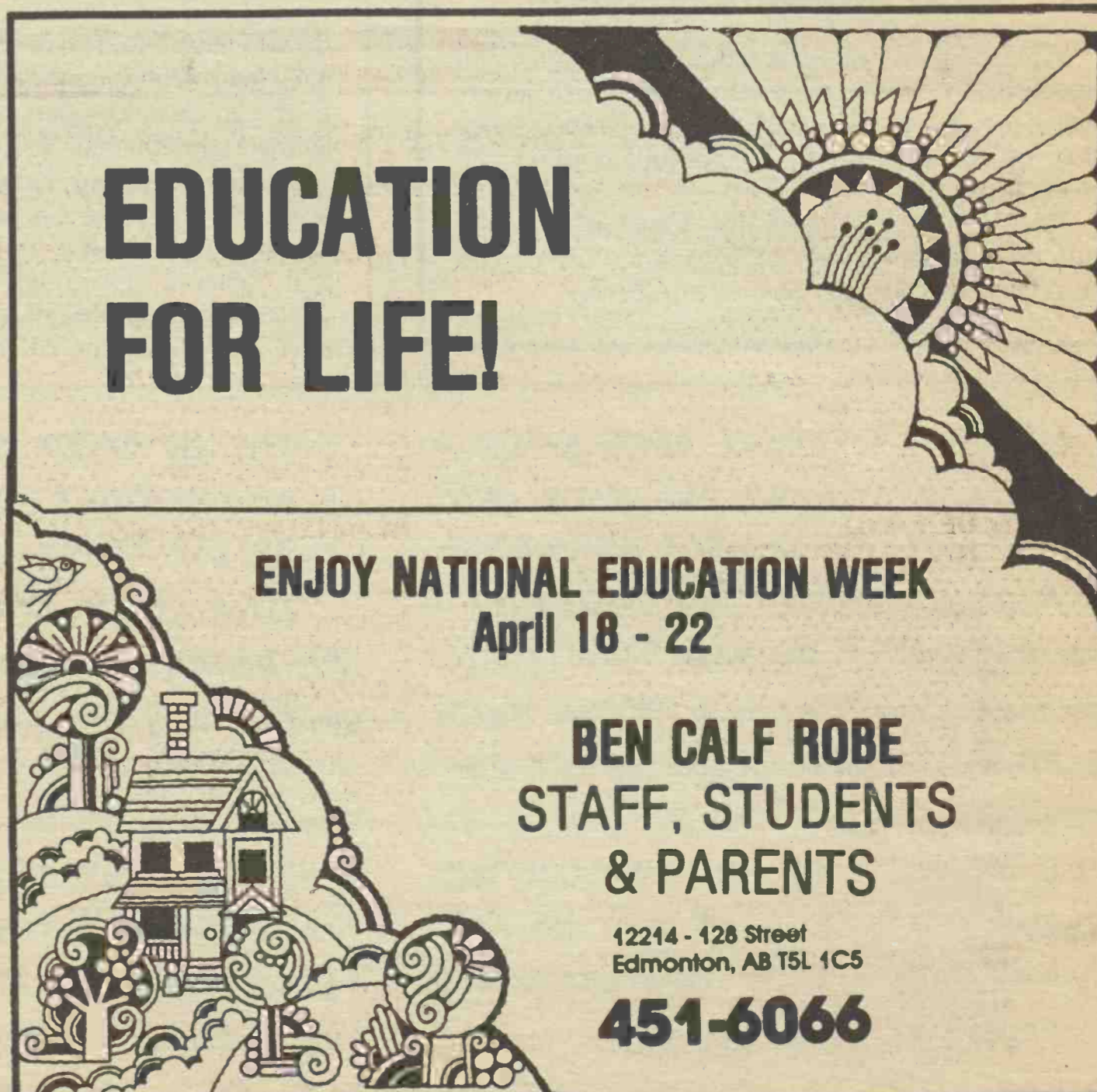
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Wabasca woman writes the latest from Bigstone

By Clara Yellowknee
Community
Correspondent
Wabasca

New bank opens

The Treasury Branch officially opened its doors on March 1, 1988.

Agent George Auger informed me that he has hired Lena Auger as bank teller.

George Auger has also opened a laundromat with 16 washers and 11 dryers. Also, there is a two stall shower for the public.

Easter death

During Easter Wabasca lost a young boy's life. Prayers are offered to the family.

Greyeyes profiled

Francis Greyeyes has been with Native Counselling as a courtworker for 13 years. He took his training in Edmonton in 1975.

Now he's married and has seven children, one adopted son and has also raised two grandchildren.

His duties have increased as the community has grown. Cardinal also covers Peerless Lake, Trout Lake and Loon Lake. Should you need help regarding a lawyer or legal aide call 891-3818 Monday to Friday.

Survival crafts

The people in our community are teaching their expertise in the survival crafts of long ago. These include: moose hide tanning, right up to the finished product; sap (syrup) making which will start next month; beadwork and moose hair tufting; setting a fish net on the ice with a jigger (and this is no jigging contest).

Sobriety celebrated

On April 4, 1988 Martin Beoragarde celebrated his fourth year of sobriety at the youth sober dance.

Martin gave a heart-warming message to the young people. He's become a much respected citizen of Desmarais.

He spoke of the harmful effects of liquor and drugs and encouraged the youth to lead good clean lives.

Congratulations Martin! Here is something to think about.

If God should go on strike

*It's just a good thing God
above
Has never gone on strike.
Because He wasn't treated
fair, or found things He
didn't like.
If He had ever once sat down
And said, "That's it, I'm
through I've had enough
of those on earth."
So this is what I'll do...*

*"I'll give my orders to the
sun,
'Cut off your heat supply'.
And to the moon: 'Give no
more light,
And run the seas dry'.
Then just to make it
tough,
And put the pressure on,
I'll turn off the air and
oxygen
Till every breath is gone."*

*Men say they want a better
deal
And so on strike they go.
But what a deal we've given
God
To whom everything we
owe.
We don't care who we hurt
or harm
To gain the things we like,
But what a mess we'd all be
in,
If God should go on strike.*



DROPPIN IN

By Mark
McCallum

Education is a valuable tool. It's a life-long investment that a friendship centre at Grand Centre wants to share with everyone.

The Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre satellite in Grand Centre is offering upgrading programs to poorly educated and sometimes illiterate people who want to work toward a better lifestyle.

The centre's office manager, Phyllis Collins, explains one of the programs is a tutorial service, currently operating at the centre. "Volunteers from the community help residents, some who are illiterate, on a one-to-one basis...they teach them basic skills such as reading, writing and math."

The program runs twice a week and can usually accommodate almost anyone, says Collins, explaining the tutor and student meet beforehand and decide what days would be the most suitable for both to meet.

The centre also offers another service along with the Alberta Vocational Centre (AVC). People wishing to continue their education at an AVC are encouraged to write a placement test offered through the Lac La Biche AVC at the centre each Friday. Collins explains the test helps the AVC determine what level of studies and career you should pursue.

"If someone is interested in upgrading their skills or perhaps preparing themselves for a trade, then I would encourage them to write the test."

Collins says you don't have to make an appointment "just drop by, it's run on a first-come first-served basis."

There is no charge for either of these services and the staff at the centre can help you look into a number of different courses that are offered at the AVC and other educational institutions.

This week, Windspeaker is saluting **National Education Week** and I would like to take this opportunity to salute and congratulate the Grand Centre Satellite Friendship Centre for its work with our most valuable of gifts — education.

HIGH LEVEL: The Native Friendship Centre is moving into a bigger facility that will allow the staff the freedom to hold more activities than ever.

Currently under construction, the new facility is expected to be complete sometime in May. Centre cultural coordinator Yvette Pelech says they will begin moving into the new two-storey building as soon as possible. Grand opening ceremonies will be held June 9.

"It's a ways off but we're planning the opening ceremonies now," says Pelech, noting a fashion show and performance by the White Braid dancers are expected to be some of the day's featured attractions. She adds the centre will be holding a special celebration for Assumption Chief Harry Chonkolay along with the grand opening. Chonkolay will be celebrating his 50th

anniversary as chief of the Dene Tha' (Assumption) band in June.

The centre is currently renting space from the Fairview College, operating out of two old classrooms and a small office at the school. Pelech feels this space is not large enough for the centre's purposes.

"That's sort of a drawback here — there's no where to hold major activities."

The new facility will have a crafts room, cultural library, office space and a multi-purpose hall "for things like bingo and dances."

Pelech says they plan to hold teen and sober dances once settled in the building. She adds a powwow dance instruction class may also be started.

The High Level Tourist Association will also be working out of the building. And, Pelech explains Native Outreach and Native Counselling representatives have also expressed interest in sharing office space with the friendship centre "to centralize Native organizations in one spot which would make it easier for people here to get assistance in a variety of areas."

But, Pelech adds nothing is certain yet. "Only the tourist association has confirmed that they will be moving into the new facility, but we're discussing the idea with the other groups."

The new centre will be located on the south end of High Level.

GRAND CENTRE: The Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre Satellite staff in Grand Centre is asking residents to keep those contributions coming in for La Boutique.

La Boutique is "just a fancy name for a used clothing depot we have here," explains the centre's office manager, Phyllis Collins. She says the boutique gets clothing donations from church groups and residents on a regular basis. The clothes are in turn given to needy people at no charge.

Collins wanted to thank all of the contributors who have made La Boutique possible.

KIKINO: The Metis Settlement will be giving its novice and bantam hockey players a hero's welcome May 1 at an Esso awards banquet.

Settlement recreation director Dave White proudly explains the teams had great seasons this year. The novice team are the new champions of the Lakeland Minor Hockey League and although the bantams did not take their divisional title, White notes they went undefeated throughout the regular season.

Award presentations will be made at the Kikino community hall. Esso Medal of Achievement awards will be given to players in the following three categories: the most improved, most sportsmanlike and most valuable players. And, to make sure none of the players are left out, each team member will get Esso participation award.

Local dignitaries and Esso representatives are expected to be on hand for the presentations which will be followed by a buffet dinner afterwards.

EDMONTON: The Aboriginal Youth Club is asking everyone to shine up their dancing shoes and drop by for a dance they're having at the Canadian Native Friendship Centre May 6.

Youth coordinator Kathy Logan says the club is hoping to raise money for field trips later in the year. She explains they desperately need support because the club has almost no other means of funding.

"It's hard for us to raise money any other way because the kids in the club are young offenders from group homes, so it's almost impossible for them to get time to try and raise money doing other things like bottle drives."

For more information about the dance and the club call Kathy at the friendship centre (482-6051).

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WINDSPEAKER SALUTES NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

Students Speak Out...

"Why is it important to have university educated people at the community level?"

Maureena Thunderchild, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"In the near future, we will not have all this funding for education, why let it all go to waste and make some use of it. Not only will it benefit us in the near future but it gives us a better outlook on life."

Stephanie Wolfe, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"I think without education a person will not make it the real world."

Kimberley Northwest, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"To show other Natives and also society around us that we can be anything we set our minds to be. And to encourage the younger people."

Wabasca students learn by hands-on displays

By Albert Crier

Students had their hands full drawing cartoons, decorating cakes and handling TV cameras during Personal Development Days at Roland Mitchener Jr. High at Slave Lake and Mistassiniy Jr. and Sr. High at Wabasca March 23 and 24.

The regular school routine was interrupted to allow students to experience something they normally would not have a chance to do, said Edith Mackenzie, Continuing Education coordinator for the Community Vocational Centres which sponsored the events.

Hands-on experience

Sharon Currie, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"University educated people can show fellow Natives what they have learned and maybe inspire Native youth to futher their education."

Colleen Crate, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"In today's society you need a degree to maintain financial stability within one's community. There are less job openings every year."

Gregory E. Buffalo, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"Native or not, a person should get as best an education as they can. There is increasing competition for good jobs out there. As Indians, we must do something to improve our

image to the rest of the world and maybe we'll be recognized and be treated better."

Lillian Gadwa, university student (Blue Quills), Kehewin:
"I feel that students with university degrees are very important to the Native community. They are the role models for the younger generation. If they can see

one Native person achieving their goal they will more than ever be determined to pursue their education."

Leon Ferguson, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Paddle Prairie:

"I think it is important to have university educated people in Native communities mainly because it shows other Native people

that we can become lawyers, doctors, whatever we choose in life."

Randy Ermineskin, adult student, Hobbema:

"To create a better awareness of the coming future social problems, and to prepare yourself and set goals. To work for better surroundings."

Roberta Applegarth, Grade 12 student (Ponoka), Hobbema:
"I think it's extremely important to have Native people with university education so Native people from all over can better themselves, keep their community and prove to our people that we can be anything we want to be. Also to set an example for the younger people."

Big city not for principal

By Bert Crowfoot

The opportunity to live and to teach in the small isolated community of South Tall Cree has been the experience of a lifetime, according to Howard Rasmusson.

Howard is the principal of the South Tall Cree elementary/junior high school, located about 80 km southwest of Fort Vermilion.

The past three years have been a tremendous learning experience and the people of Tall Cree are the reason Howard enjoys it so much.

As a father of three small children, safety is always a concern, but as far as Tall Cree is concerned, it's the safest place he has ever lived. Howard ventured to say that you can even leave your house or car unlocked and not worry about anything being stolen.

"I could never move back to the city because it's made me appreciate what's important in this world. By not pursuing illusory goals and learning to live day by day," he remarks.



Tall Cree principal Howard Rasmusson (far left behind net) enjoys what Tall Cree and residents have to offer.

The community is located beside the clean and shallow Wabasca River. Summers are spent swimming, canoeing and floating down the river on old inner tubes. "It's like going back in time with the old swimming hole beside the road and swimming with the muskrats."

When not frolicking on the river, Howard spends a lot of time with the kids who have taught him about hunting, fishing and camping. He is often

teasingly asked when he is going to apply for his treaty card since he's involved in all aspects of the community. Sometimes he thinks about "being stuck up here" but "one visit to the big city shocks you back to reality and how nice it really is up here."

As an example this past Easter break the Rasmusson's went on a trip to Edmonton, Calgary and Banff and by week's end, everyone was homesick.

Howard, as principal over: five teachers, two aides and about 55 students, has watched the tremendous progress that education has made since the band took over its own education five years ago.

Enrolment is up and the Tall Cree School Division is attempting to include as much Cree and culture into the curriculum as possible. Local Elders come in and teach the craft of building drums, canoes and how to tan hides.

The school is also excited about the prospect of

moving into a new school to be completed by September of 1989.


The existing school is cramped and the addition of a portable classroom has eased the problem somewhat.

What excites the community most is the plan for a new school gymnasium. The people in the community are very athletic and the addition of the gymnasium gives them the opportunity to further develop those skills.

Howard adds, "I'm very athletic, having played semi-professional and internationally in hockey, football and rugby and I don't stand out here, I just fit in."

Howard does "just fit in" and even though he doesn't have a treaty card yet, he plans on staying a long time.

He concludes: "There is an old saying that once you've tasted the water of the Peace, you can never leave or you will always come back."



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Blood teacher: resolve old hurts

By Jackie Red Crow

BLOOD RESERVE—Past hurts experienced by Native people in the education system must be resolved before Native education can be a positive experience, says a Blood Indian educator.

"We (Natives) have been conditioned and programmed that we cannot make it in the education system," said Martha Many Grey Horses, an instructor for Peigan teachers aides.

She blamed the missionary residential boarding schools and provincial schools for low self-esteem among Native students resulting in a high drop out rate.

In her training program, the teacher aide students are taught personal growth skills and a number of courses in the arts such as

drama, art, music and creative writing. As well, instruction in alcohol and drug abuse is provided.

If the Native teacher aide possesses confidence and competence they are better positive role models in the classroom, Many Grey Horses said.

She said the Native teacher plays a significant role in the classroom and wears a variety of hats because they are understanding and sensitive to Native students.

"Not only does an aide assist a teacher, she also counsels and supervises children, among a number of other duties," she said.

The teacher aide students are placed in schools surrounding the Peigan reserve to get on-the-job experience.

Student Lyle Smith, said that during his placement

he saw a low attendance by Native parents at parent-teacher interviews. He also said that some Native students dropout of high school because of problems associated with alcohol and drug abuse.

The teacher aide program is under the authority of the Peigan Board of Education. The band took control of Native education two years ago.

Many Grey Horses praised the efforts of the Peigan board saying that it's "a positive move and development in the community."

"We need to trust our capabilities, talents and honor and acknowledge those gifts and talents within our community."

Many Grey Horses is the first Blood Indian to obtain a masters degree.

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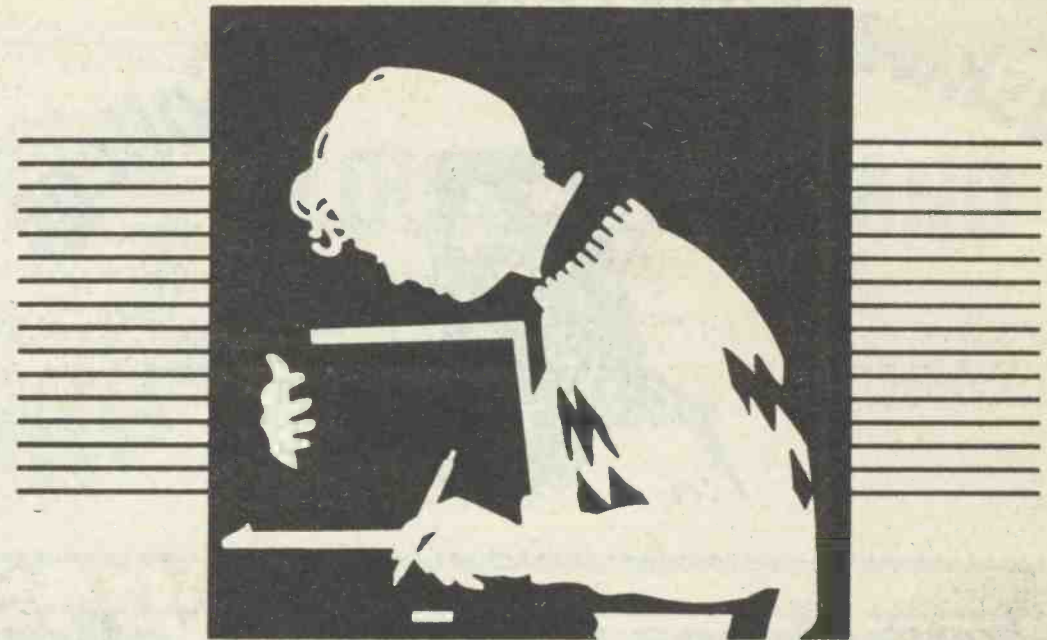
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Applications for the 1988/89 academic year must be completed and returned by June 1, 1988. If you are interested in getting more information or wish to apply for an Educational Award, please contact us at the address below:

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WINDSPEAKER SALUTES NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

Business development graduates win race

By Dorothy Schreiber

EDMONTON — If life can be compared to a race, then 17 students graduating from an Indian Business Development course March 26 have successfully crossed one finish line and are set to cross the next.

"Just as a runner keeps thinking 'I must be better, I must keep going forward,' we must rid ourselves of

(things) that hold us down or keep us back. Let us run with patience and determination..." said Lois Papin, class valedictorian at the graduation held at the Stony Motor Inn in Stony Plain.

Having completed the course administered under the Grant MacEwan business division, students are now setting their sights on other finish line such as

setting up their own reserve businesses or making new career moves.

Graduate Lois Papin from the Enoch reserve, explained she enrolled in the program to validate her business skills.

"I have business experience in business management but I haven't got a piece of paper...it will help me to get a better job if I do (have a certificate)."

Chiefs and band counselors praised the students from eight northeastern reserves for completing the course designed to teach trainees how to set up their own businesses and to administer band programs.

Barnie Ward, a councillor from Enoch, says the project is the first step for graduates to help their reserves in the areas of economic development and self-government.

"The future relies on education," says Ward.

Calling the program a "stepping stone," Allen Paul, chief of the Alexander reserve, encouraged students to continue to pursue a post-secondary education.

"Don't stop here...we

"Just as a runner keeps thinking 'I must be better, I must keep going forward,' we must rid ourselves of (things) that hold us down or keep us back."



Standing, left to right: Leanna Price, Lorna Morin, Robert Sharphead, Leslie Gladue, Herbert Arcand, Lois Papin, James Rain, Vera John, Wayne Dooley McCallum, Fabian Yellowdirt and Bill Chipeway. Kneeling, left to right: Kevin Quinney, Ken Ward, Jerome Yellowdirt and Sherwin Jacko.

need educated people...we see education as one of the keys of prosperity."

The 47-week course, a Canadian Job Strategy project, was initiated by the Indian Business Development service and began

in June 1987. It was broken down into three components: eight weeks of lifeskills training, 16 weeks of business training and 23 weeks of work experience.

Students studied subjects such as accounting, market-

ing, business law, organizational behavior, micro-computers and fund-raising.

Project director Bill Chipeway says there are plans in the works to have the program run again next year.

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Maskwachees Cultural College invites applications for University & College Transition Year Program

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This is a special full-time study program offered through the college in cooperation with the University of Calgary. Student allowances will be paid by Indian Affairs.

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WINDSPEAKER SALUTES NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

Campus office will help people considering university

Can the University of Alberta's Native Student Services office help you?

If you're considering enrolling in university, here's some information about Native Student Services that may help you in your future plans to enroll in post-secondary education:

Career planning

The role of community liaison has existed for the past three years at the office of Native Student Services. The primary function of this position has been to provide information on the U of A programs, services, faculties and funding to prospective junior and senior high, and adult students. Information has also been provided on other post-secondary institutions by means of request. From September 1986 to June 1987, a total of 49 schools were visited.

In carrying out this role, a need for career counselling was evident, particularly at the Grade 7 to 9 level. Students seemed to be unaware of career possibilities as reflected in their high school course selection. Students more commonly selected a general diploma as opposed to an advanced or matriculation diploma.

The career development unit is at present being developed by Doreen

Richardson, community liaison officer. It is a teaching unit that addresses the needs of northern Native children, and fits under the life careers section of the Health and Personal Life Skills Curriculum Guide of Alberta education. It will be a pilot project carried out by Native para-professionals directly involved in the 24 schools. Assistance and direction will be provided by key teachers. The general aims of the project are to have student develop career planning strategies by utilization of both in-classroom activities and community interaction. At the end of the unit, students will hopefully have a clear idea of their range of options with regard to career choices and job opportunities.

The implementation of the teaching unit was made a reality of funding from the Native Education Project,

Alberta Education.

Youth programs

Recognizing the need for a greater number of post-secondary Native students, the Office of Native Student Service at the University of Alberta has proposed two programs to better inform Natives of the opportunities available to them at the university level.

Both programs are offered in conjunction with the regular summer youth university during July. The first program offers Native students in Grades 8-12 the opportunity to experience firsthand a broad spectrum of academic subjects studies at the university, including arts and design, computing science, genetics and law. Native students will be integrated with other participants in the sessions and discussion groups emphasizing "hands-on" material. There will be no exams, as exploring the range of university studies

is the first priority.

The other program is for mature Native students over 21. While they will enjoy all the benefits of the youth program, they will receive instruction in special sections. For both programs, on-campus accommodation will be provided. Also included is an urban orientation

program designed to help students adjust more easily to the problems of city living. A full agenda of evening and weekend social activities completes each program.

The two programs will each accept 25 students. Registration costs will be about \$200. For further information, contact the

Community Liaison Officer, Office of Native Student Services, 124 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, T6G 2E8 (432-5677).

For information on an upcoming new university orientation program starting this August, watch next week's Windspeaker.

We support National Education Week. Take advantage of the many special Native programs available in schools throughout Alberta.



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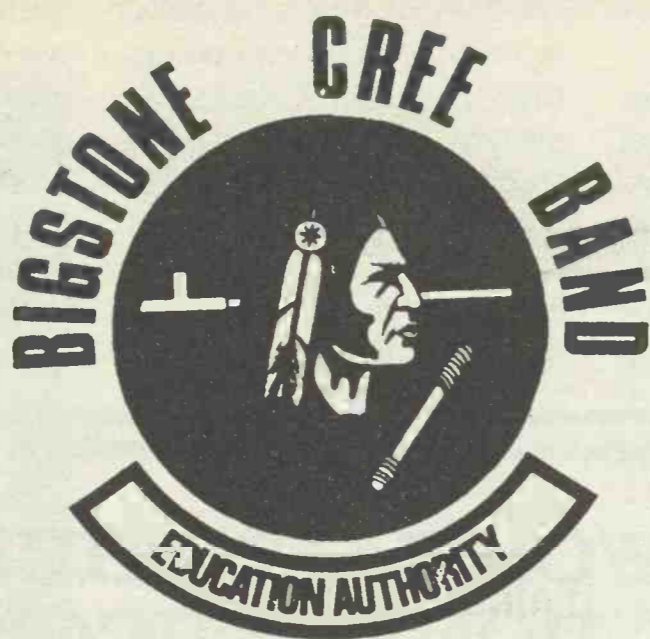
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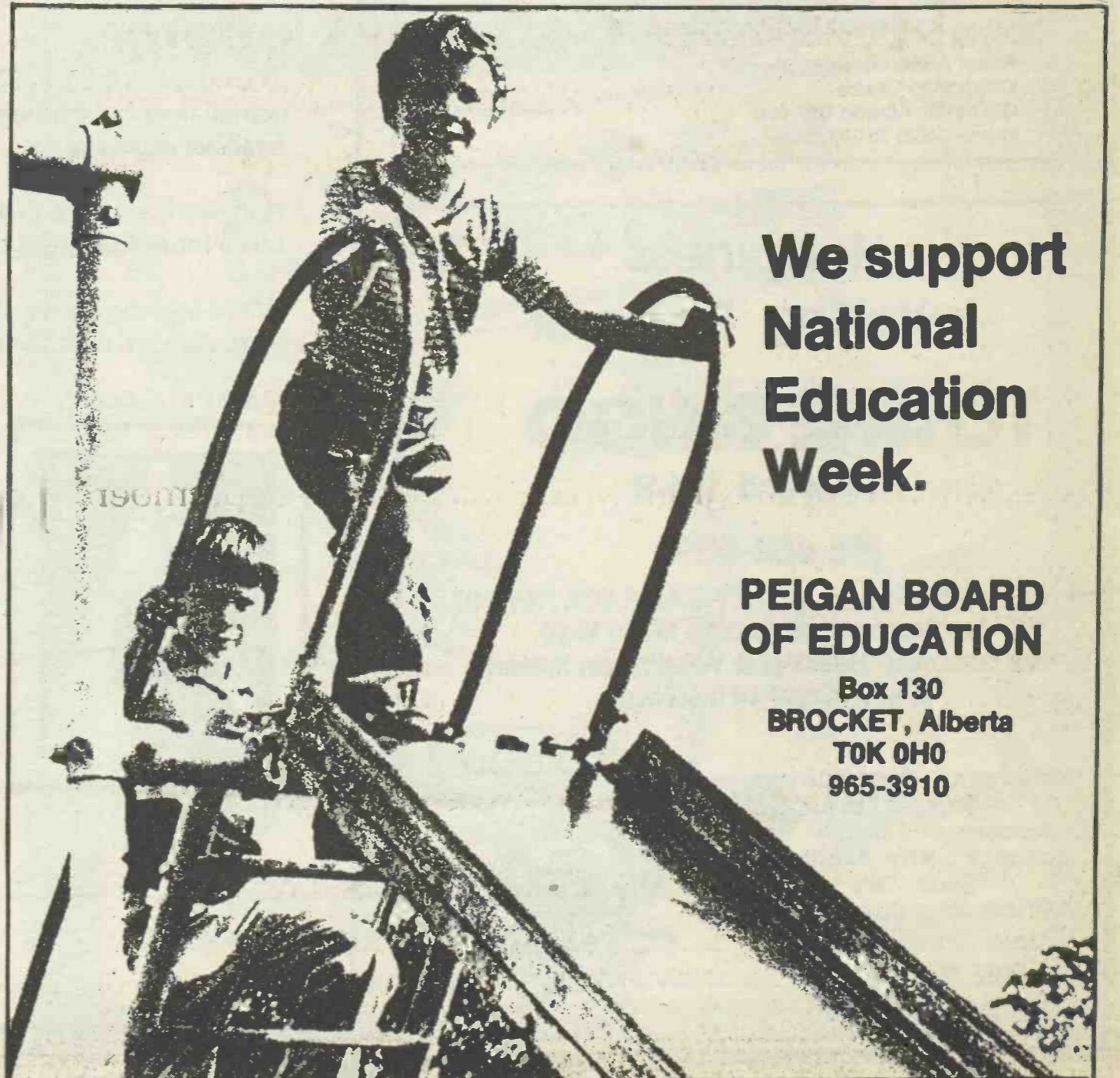
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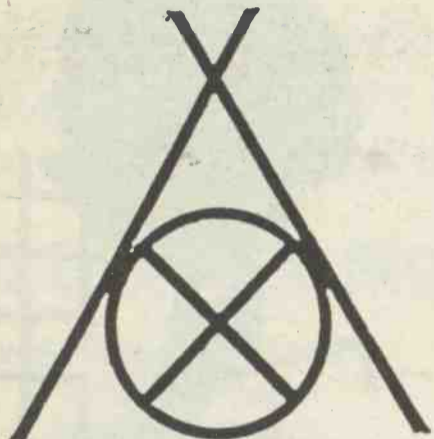
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Story painting hold spiritual meanings

Thomas' art conveys Elders' teachings

By Lesley Crossingham

It has been said that all great works of art have something for everyone; a pretty picture for those who just want to gaze upon nature's beauty; a simple story for those who need meaning in art; and in often rare cases, deep spiritual meaning, for those who want to dig deeply into the hidden meaning of life.

Objibway artist Roy Thomas tries to capture these three elements in his paintings by using the teachings of his grandfathers and tribal elders.

"All my paintings include teachings from the old people. But I don't just want to appeal to the Native people, my paintings have a message for all races," he says. "Because you have to remember that without the whiteman, I would not be able to produce these paintings. I use his products — paper, acrylic, brushes. He too has his home."

Thomas uses bright, vibrant colors in his paintings and often uses the images of animals and humans. But for those who look carefully, the images contain significant symbols and numbers, such as four and seven.

"The four is common in our culture. It stands for the four directions, where we come from, where we are going and where we are today. It's very important. The seven symbolizes the stages of life," he says.

One painting which



KIM McLAIN, Windspeaker

**OBJIBWAY ARTIST ROY THOMAS
... 'my paintings have message for all races'**

contains these numbers and other significant symbols shows a snow scene with a tipi in the centre and two figures, a man and a woman looking toward the Big Dipper stars.

"You see, we call this (constellation) the universal peace pipe," says Thomas. "It has seven stars that symbolize the seven stages of our lives which takes us from childhood, adoles-

cence, adulthood, parenthood, grandparenthood, old age, and finally to the stage of being a child again. It is also a circle."

The two figures symbolize the balance that is essential in nature. Thomas points out that this balance is shown in all aspects of traditional Native life. Even the braids the man and women wear represent balance and the three strands that make the braid

stand for mind, body and spirit.

All Thomas' works contain similar symbols, but still appeal to everyone. Yet Thomas is humble about his talent and the messages contain in his works.

"I am just repeating the messages. One day other artists will use these same themes and maybe represent them better than I can."

Like many Native people, 38-year-old Thomas had at one time turned his back on his Aboriginal ancestry but returned after many years of what he terms "empty living."

"You know there is a lot of knowledge in the old people. We would all be better off if we returned to the traditions. But that doesn't mean we turn our back on the 20th century. I can work together."

Thomas feels that all people, of whatever race should return to their Elders.

"You know there is a lot of knowledge in those old age homes. And we just lock it away and say it's old fashioned. They (Elders) have a lot to teach us."

And as a tribute to the Elders who taught him so much, Thomas signs his paintings with a crow, the name his grandmother gave him as a child.

Thomas' works are on display at the Dr. Anne Anderson Native Cultural Heritage Centre, 12555-127 Street, Edmonton.

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Om niaak offers Caribbean studio

Art groups searches for five artists-in-residence

Beginning in September 1988 the Om niaak Native Arts Group of Canada are offering a three month artist-in-residence program for five Native artists at the Altos de Chavon arts centre in the Carribean. All artists of Native ancestry who are painters, print-makers, writers, potters, photographers or weavers are encouraged to apply to the Om niaak Native Arts Group for one of the residency seats.

The Om niaak Native Arts Group (Om niaak is a Maliseet word meaning "People of the Circle") is a national non-profit/charitable group formed in 1987. The Om niaak Group are mandated to support specific art projects in Canada and abroad that encourage the professional development of Native artists.

Altos de Chavon is a centre for the arts in the Dominion Republic located 70 miles north of the capital city of Santo Domingo. The art centre is committed to education, design innovation, international creative exchange and promotion of Dominican culture.

The artist-in-residence

program at the Altos de Chavon provide the emerging or established artist an opportunity to live and work in a setting of architectural and natural beauty. The program seeks out artists whose work will be enhanced by interaction with this tropical Caribbean environment. More importantly, Native artists will be able to interact with each other in an atmosphere of collective learning.

Each successful applicant will be provided with a fully furnished apartment containing two single beds and a separate studio space. Families are also welcome at the Altos de Chavon. At the end of the residency program an exhibition will be mounted in one of the centre's gallery spaces and will be complemented with the publication of an arts catalogue based on the work completed by the artists in residence.

At present, the Om niaak Group are exploring funding sources to support program participants. Selected participants may, however, be responsible for airfare and living allowances

although living comfortably in the Dominican costs very little due to the Dominican economy and the current monetary exchange.

Interested Native artists must submit a resume and other supporting material like slides, copies of written and published works, and a brief description of why you are interested in working in the Carribean and what you hope to accomplish as an artist during the residency period.

There is no strict criteria for the artist-in-residence program other than a demonstrated commitment of the artist to their respective medium and attainment of a level of maturity that would allow for three full months of creative productivity.

All material must be mailed to: Om niaak Native Arts Group, Box 4689, Station "E", Ottawa, Ontario, K1S 5H8.

Applications must be received no later than May 15, 1988. Successful applicants will be chosen by a jury comprised of Om niaak directors. All applicants will be notified of the results no later than June 15, 1988. For more information please write.

Canadian Native arts group gets \$250,000 in federal funds



DAVE CROMBIE
...encourages artists

OTTAWA — The Canadian Native Arts Foundation has been awarded a \$250,000 grant to assist Aboriginal people in the visual and performing arts, Secretary of State David Crombie announced recently.

The funding will be used to develop and encourage young Native artists to discover, cultivate and express their talents. The foundation will administer an awareness and incentives program; an education program; and a professional development program directed primarily to Native youth.

"I am pleased to support this project because the activities carried out by the Canadian Native Arts Foundation represents an evolution of social change in the arts field for Aboriginal people," said Crombie. "Native people should be encouraged to develop and express their traditional and non-traditional artistic abilities in order to promote an understanding of their history and culture."



Good News
Party Line

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, May 13, Sagitawa Friendship Centre, Peace River, AB. Supper at 5:30 p.m., meeting to follow.

ROUND DANCE, May 21, 9 a.m., featuring White Braid Dancers, Paddle Prairie Metis Settlement. For further information call Everett at 981-2227.

FAMILY BINGO, May 20, 6:30-8:30, Sagitawa Friendship Centre, Peace River. Admission — canned food for the Food Bank. Call the centre for more information.

PUT IT HERE.

Call or write the editor to include good news of non-profit events you want to share, courtesy of AGT.

Native film festival to close Spirit Sings exhibit

By Dan Dibbelt

A Native film festival at the Glenbow Museum running through to the end of April, will help to bring to a close the controversial Spirit Sings exhibition highlighting the artistic traditions of Canada's first people.

The festival, which began April 6, offers a cross-section of both past and present as well as pleasant and not so pleasant aspects of Indian life, said festival coordinator Colleen Millard.

"We wanted to have a selection of all aspects of Native life," said Millard. "Not all the films are

sunshine and roses."

The films were selected from last fall's international Aboriginal film festival in Pincher Creek. Each show begin at 2 p.m. with an approximate one hour running time; regular museum admission will be charged.

Dates of films: April 18 - In the Land of the War Canoes and Kwakuiti, April 20 — Totem and So sings the Wolf, April 25 — Okan, April 27 — Completing our Circle and Circle of the Sun.

More information on the films is available by contacting the Glenbow Museum at 264-8300.

ARCHIE BEAULIEU

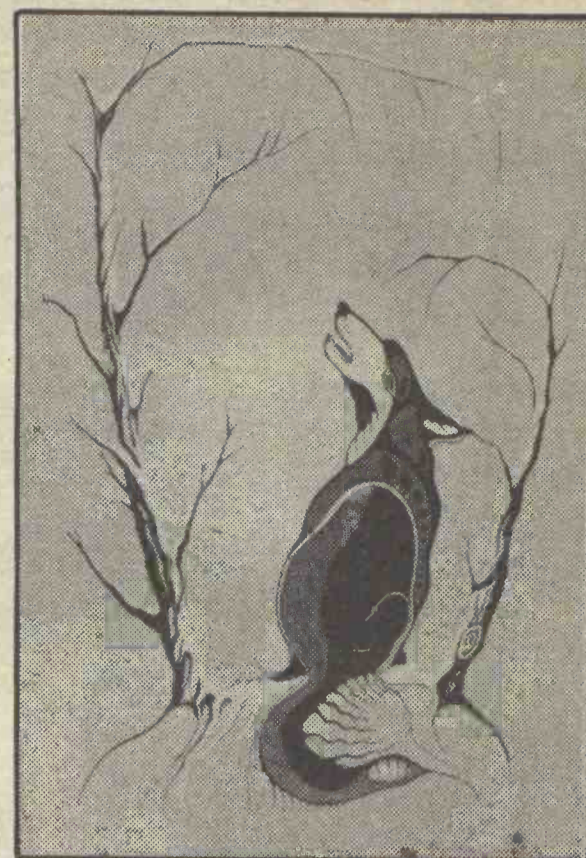
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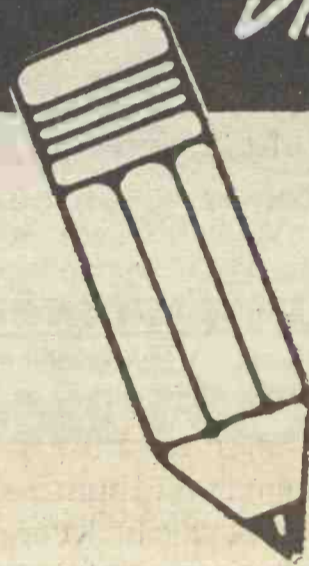
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Sports

Lumber Kings snatch B.C. title from Oilers

By Wally Woods

The Prince George Lumber Kings' 4th annual all-Native hockey tournament held April 1-3 saw eight teams compete for \$9,000, trophies and other awards.

A crowd of 3,000, over three days, witnessed fast hard hitting hockey. Tournament organizer, Harley Chingy, felt the tournament was better than last years, although it was reduced from 12 to eight teams. These teams appeared to be quicker and faster than previous years, he said.

The Lumber Kings, the home town favorite, won the tournament with speed, size, quickness and hard hitting.

The kings won their first game 11-1 against the Moricetown Canyon Bears.

Their second game against Skeena Selects, who are very similar to the Kings in their style of hockey, saw the Kings come out on top 7-5.

The Kings next opponent, also from Prince George, known as Multi-Cultural Red Wings, lost to the Kings 7-2.

The Hobbema Oilers, defending champions; the Skeena Selects and the Prince George Red Wings had to win the "B" side to have another shot at the Lumber Kings and the championship.

The Oilers played a strong game against the Skeena Selects and won 6-3. Their next opponent was the Prince George Red Wings. The Wings' goalie was hot and unbeatable and with the help of his forwards they defeated the defending champions 8-4, placing them in the championship game against the Lumber Kings.

The Lumber Kings then fought a challenge from a surprisingly tough Red Wing team who were on an emotional high. The Kings scored four unanswered goals in the third period to defeat the Red Wings 6-3.

Joey Potskin, the tournament's most valuable

player and top scorer helped the Kings overcome a 2-0 deficit with three straight goals in the third period.

The Red Wings had taken the lead on two first period goals via Victor Gervais, who played this season with the Seattle Thunderbirds of the Western Hockey League. Dan Gunton of the Kings brought his team within one goal in the period with a backhand after a scramble in front of the net.

Randy Potskin of the Kings tied the game early in the second but a minute later the Red Wings scored for a 3-2 lead. That was the last goal surrendered by the Kings' goalie, Lawrence Santer, named the tournament's top goalie.

At the start of the third period the Kings began playing the kind of hockey they displayed in previous games.

"In the first two periods they were slowing down the play," said the Lumber King's coach, Harley Chingy. "It kind of worked for them but in the third period we woke up. We have three very mobile lines and it took it's toll on them."

The Lumber Kings dominated the all-star team with Lawrence Sauter as the top goalie; Marvin Martin selected as one defenceman. Joey Potskin and Everett Rose selected for forwards. Neil Pilon, of the Red Wings, won the other defenceman position and Joe Potts of the Hobbema Oilers was selected for the remaining forward.

The Lumber Kings also took home the first place trophy and \$4,500 for finishing first. The Prince George Red Wings received \$2,500 and a trophy for second place; the Hobbema Oilers took home \$1,500 and a trophy for third and the Skeena Selects got \$600 and a trophy for fourth.

Many players and coaches were asking that they be placed on the mailing list for the next tournament to secure a spot early.

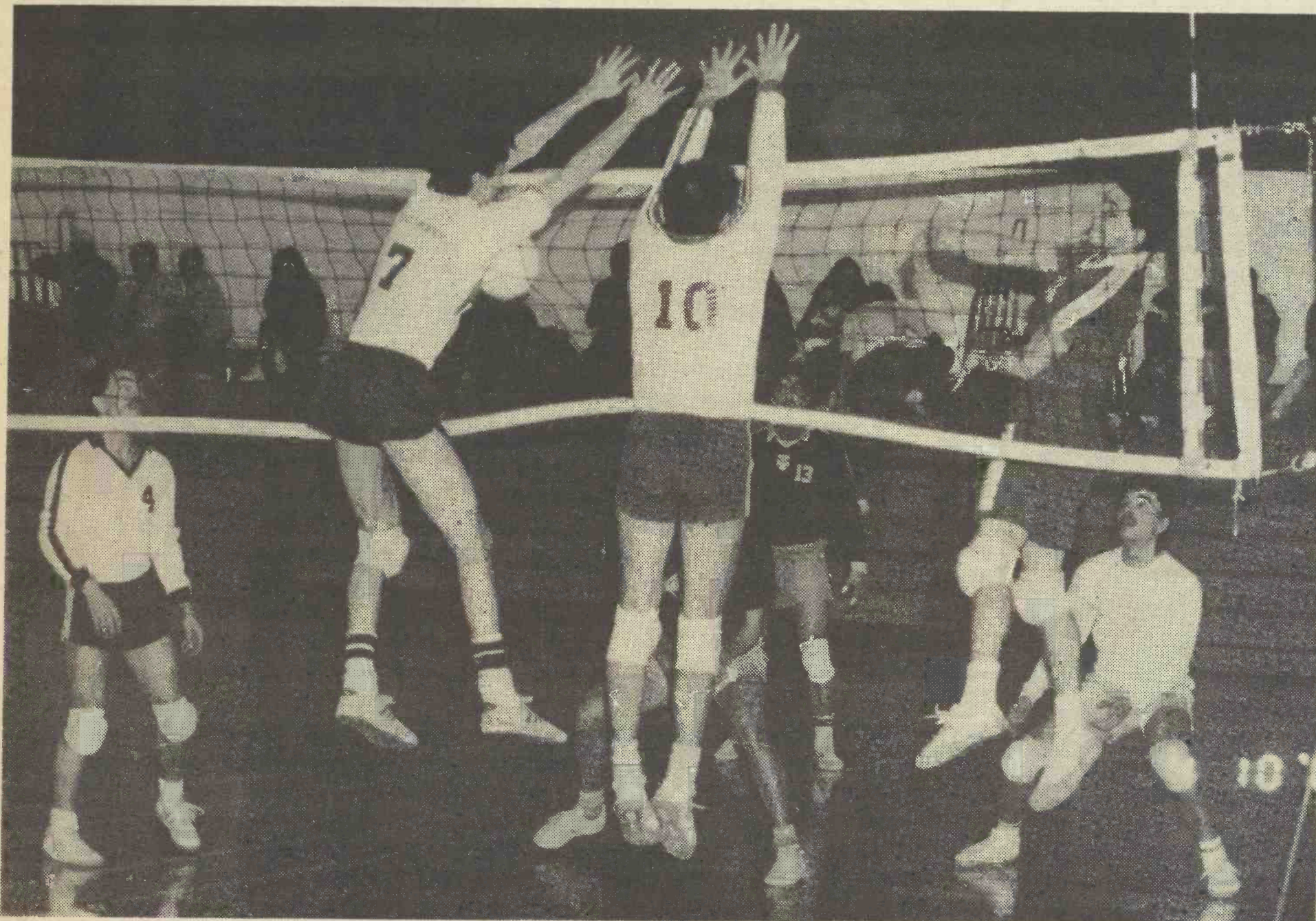


Photo courtesy of Mike Auger

Two Strikers block Mad Dog spiker at Canada West tourney at Hobbema.

Spirits go undefeated to win women's side

Mad Dogs topple Strikers reign

By Kim McLain

The Lac La Biche Mad Dogs snatched the championship title away from the infamous Edmonton Strikers at this year's Canada West volleyball tourney, the last big volleyball event this season. On the ladie's side, the Edmonton Spirits earned their first title — going undefeated through the entire tournament last April 9-10 at Hobbema's Four Band arena.

"Our boys are good, but

they moved a little more, dug a little deeper," said Striker Rick Boudreau about the Mad Dogs. "Our trophies for best setter and spiker. The Strikers earned \$700 for second. Striker Mike Auger won MVP. The Spiritwrestlers snared third while the Sucker Creek Cruisers grabbed fourth. Going home empty-handed were the Frog Lake Bounty Hunter, Hobbema Six Packs and Hobbema Spear Chuckers.

For the Edmonton Spirits'

ladies, things weren't so tough. The only strong challenge came from the Regina Odies.

"Actually, we were kind of disappointed that more competition didn't show up...like the (Saskatoon) serving beat us too, we missed about eight points a game because of bad serves."

Still, the games were long and often rallied back and forth. The Strikers beat the Broadview Spiritwrestlers to advance to the semi-final against the Mad Dogs. If the Mad Dogs had won that first best of three series the tourney would have ended, but the Strikers won the first series. Then in the second and final best of three matchup, the Mad Dogs came on strong

enough to win two games straight.

The Mad Dogs took home \$1,000 for first, plus Classics," said Spirit Audra Stevenson, who won the best setter award.

The Spirits plowed through the Frog Lakers, the "A" Blues from High Prairie then the Regina Odies twice to earn the \$1,000 cash prize. Spirit Collen Venne also added to the team's trophy case, winning the best spiker award. The Odies took home second and \$800 plus Odie Dorreen Cardinal won MVP. Dion Resources picked up third while a Hobbema team settled for fourth. Another Hobbema team competed as did Sucker Creek and High Prairie.



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SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Kim McLain

I grew up in small Native communities and when I moved to the big city I felt out of place.

Before I moved to the city I signed up for every sport I could, confident of my abilities and able to enjoy the game. Then suddenly, after my move to Calgary, I became a shy, introverted student with an inferiority complex. I had hair halfway down my back, a bit of a Lesser Slave Lake accent and bush humor.

Looking back, I can see how my fear of rejection let me give up a very important part of my character. I gave up all the benefits that sports had to offer me — in mind, body and spirit.

Today, I can see that it didn't matter what color my skin was, how knobby my knees were or how funny I talked. Today I have confidence and a belief in who I am inside — I no longer suffer from low self-esteem.

I guess the point I'm making is that I wish I never would have let go of sports so easily; I wish I never would have quit. Still, it's not too late. Now I'm back into participating in different things. But sometimes

Outstanding sports students saluted

when I pass a high school I get kind of gloomy, probably still grieving over what I missed out on.

So here's a salute to all those young athletes in small Native communities, especially those of you who are going to be moving on to bigger places. Just keep on doing your thing, no matter what.

PEERLESS LAKE: For principal Rod Giles "sports is a real hook to education." That's why he's so adamant about getting a bigger gym. Right now the school, which has about 100 children in kindergarten to Grade 11, has a "box." Giles says they should have a bigger gym.

In the meantime, the students do what they can, and they're doing not too bad either.

Take the junior volleyball team for instance, they've got two Northland School Division championships, plus the Alberta zone 8 title. Some individual athletes who shine brightly are Matthew Houle, a senior boy's volleyball star; Coreen Alook, track and field champ; and Alvin Nanemahoo, also a powerhouse in track and field.

The school's floor hockey team recently won the championship game in the RCMP Back Lakes Floor Hockey Tournament, an event that drew school teams from all over northern Alberta.

LITTLE BUFFALO: Naturally, cross-country running is a big thing for the youth of Little Buffalo Lake, about 100 km northeast of Peace River, because the school doesn't have a gym.

"Most of our sports is outdoors — volleyball, badminton, track and field," says Brian Dewar, principal at the school. "We try everything we can."

The cross-country team recently went to Peace River where they returned home with three medals. Dewar lists the team: Trevor L'Hirondelle, Kevin Gladue, Timothy Gladue, Vance Laboucan, Carol Laboucan, Angela Laboucan, Crystal Gladue, Martha Ominayak, plus Clifton Jobin and Robert Ominayak — two runners who lead the pack all year round. Teachers Karen Penney and Fay Lockrem ran in the teachers' race, too.

LOON LAKE: About 165 km straight north of Lesser Slave Lake is the Metis and Cree community of Loon Lake, home of about 200 people.

About half the population attend the Loon Lake school — students in kindergarten to Grade 10.

Ron DeMaere, the new gym teacher, finds his students to be natural athletes and the community support "phenomenal." DeMaere highlights these athletes: In Grade 4, Randy Houle and Shannon Houle get special recognition since they were the goalies at the floor hockey tournament at Peerless Lake last February, where Loon Lake won.

Kevin Letendre excels in Grade 5 while Frank Ward and Gillion Chomiak shine in Grade 6.

Josephine Letendre, Bonnie Letendre, Merle Noskey and Gerald Auger get high marks in Grade 8. Volleyball wizards Karen Auger, Shirley Houle and

Georgina earn special notice in Grade 9 while Geraldine Ward, Charlene Noskey and Dennis Noskey stand out in Grade 10.

From what DeMaere has seen so far, sports and recreation seem to "bring the community together at the school."

CADOTTE LAKE: "Right now, floor hockey is the big thing," says Mark Bezanson, principal of the kindergarten to Grade 9 school.

Bezanson listed some floor hockey players who excel in the sport: Lyle Thomas, Randy Laboucan, Dennis Cardinal, Ross Merrier, Brian Thomas and "a very offensive defence, Joanne Laboucan."

The school recently hosted a floor hockey tournament that saw Paddle Prairie win, Cadotte Lake take second and Keg River earn third. Cadotte had won the annual event the two previous years.

Bezanson hopes to have a Royal Bank Junior Olympics in May. The bank will send the school all the necessary posters and prizes — it's a promotional idea for the bank.

"All you have to do," says Bezanson, "is to send them a letter saying your school is interested and they'll send you back an information package." If you're interested in the Royal Bank Junior Olympics package just write: Royal Bank Junior Olympics, 333 River Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1L 8H9.

GROUARD: When Dave Sicora isn't teaching his junior high school students about computers, he's coaching them through the gym program. And they've just finished the basketball and volleyball units.

Kyla Sutherland and Tammy Halcrow excelled in girls' basketball says Sicora, while Randy Auger, Kevin Auger, Derrick Chalifoux and Carl Lamouche stood out on the boys' team.

In girls' volleyball, honorable mention goes to Kyla Sutherland and Tammy Halcrow once again, plus Betsy Sutherland, Darlene Auger, Lorraine Auger, Joanne Lamouche and Holly Lamouche. On the boys' team, strong players were Bobby Auger, Keith Sutherland, Randy Auger and Cameron Chalifoux.

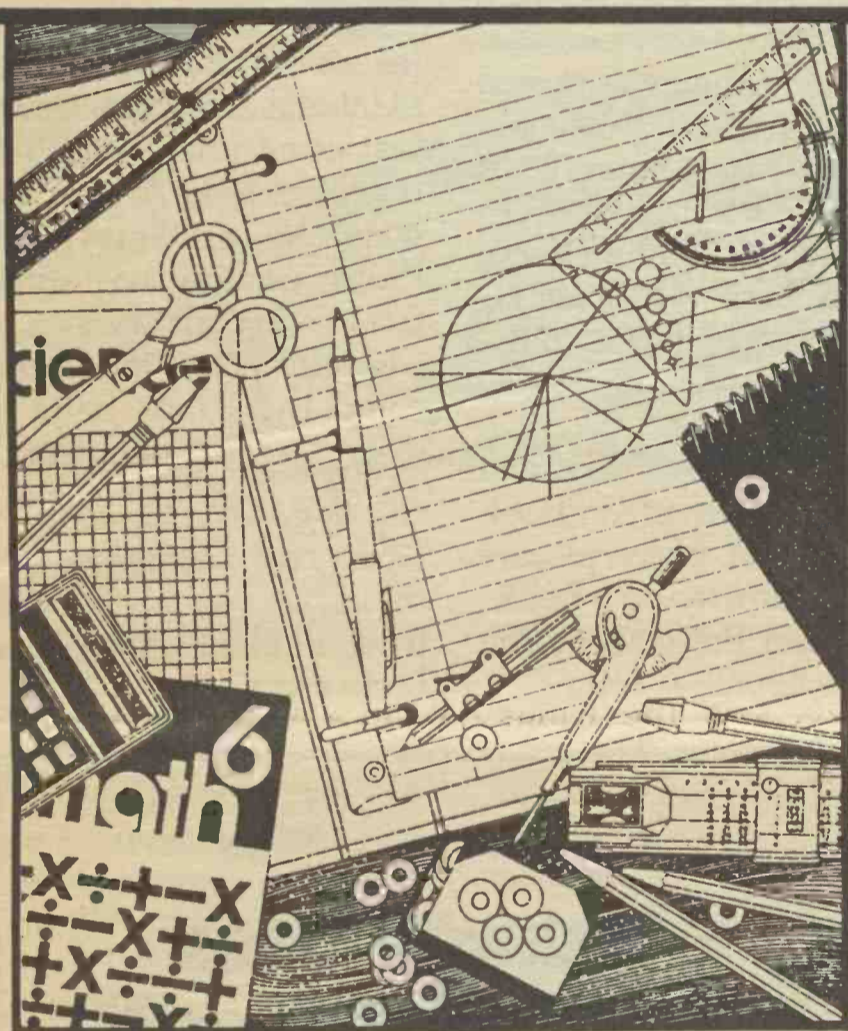
Kyla and Randy, says Sicora, are really outstanding in sports.

"They're natural born athletes," praises Sicora. "And a really positive attitude, too."

CORRECTION & APOLOGY: In an earlier issue, Windspeaker published the dates for the Canada West Volleyball tourney as April 15-17 weekend. The correct dates were April 9-10 weekend. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused the tournament organizers, teams and readers.

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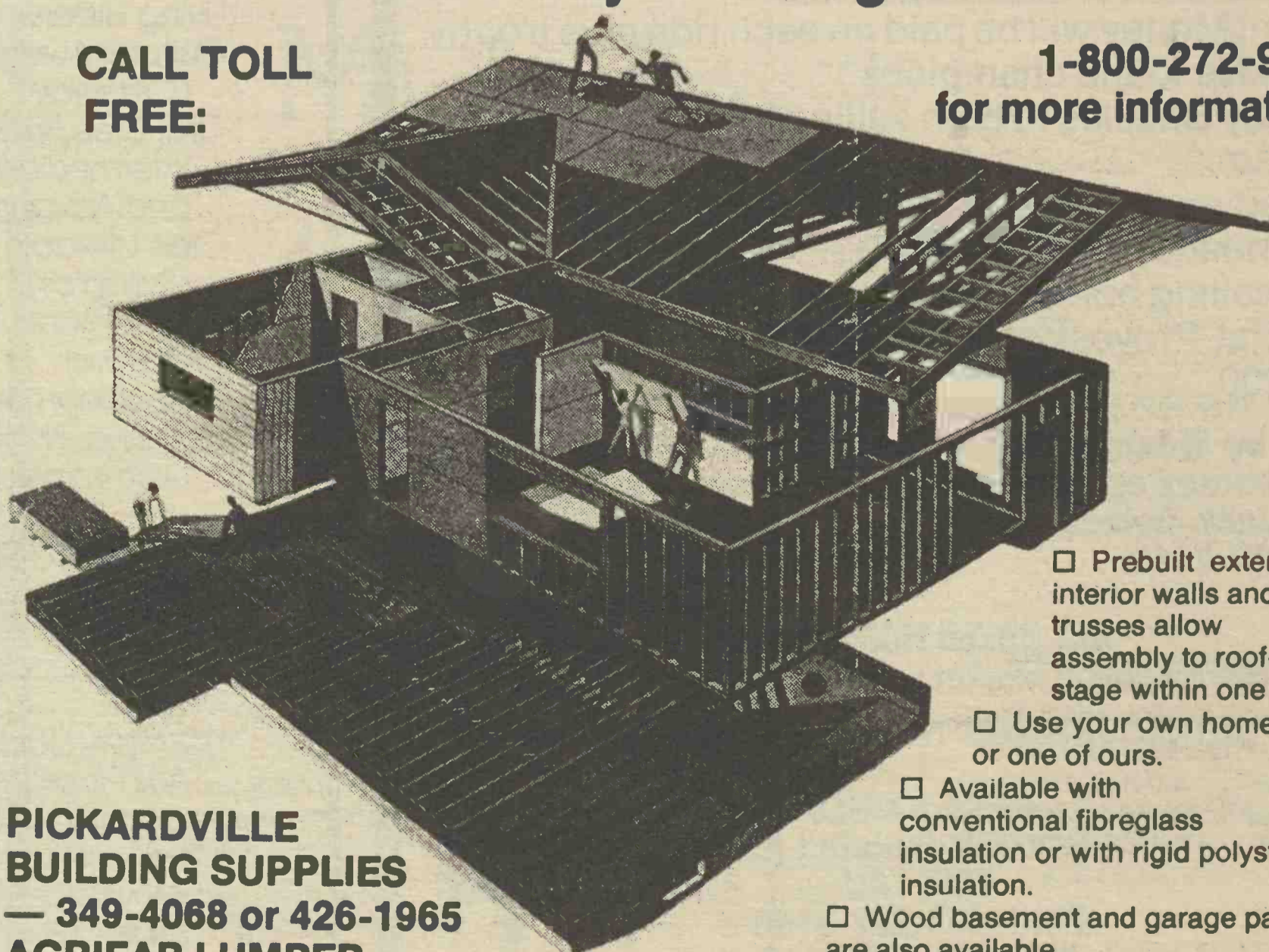
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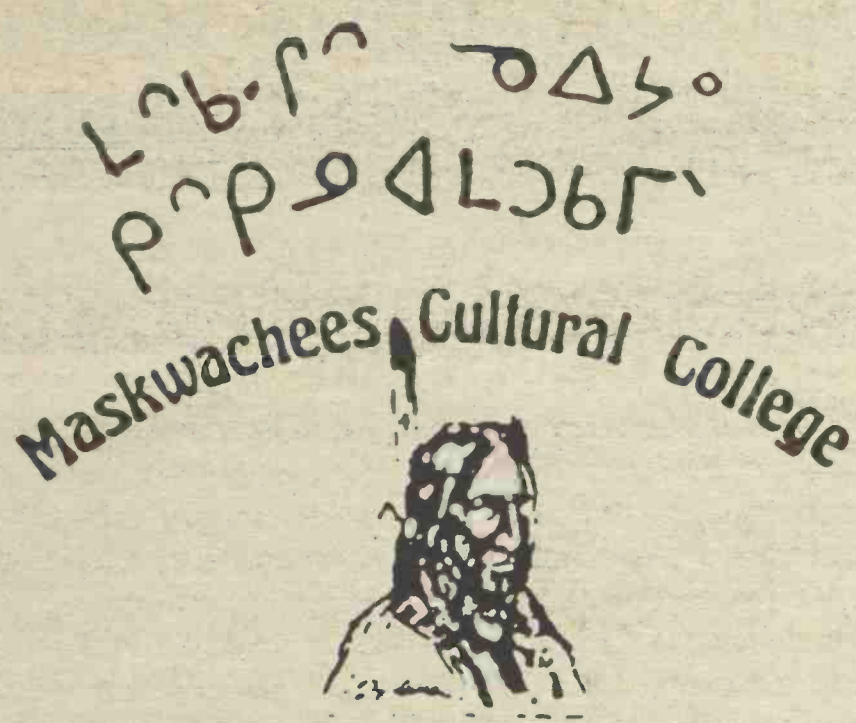
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**Hawks impress fans
with play off performance**

By Kim McLain

Seemed like everybody but Gary Braun was surprised by the impressive performance of the Hobbema Hawks in the Alberta Junior Hockey League final playoffs.

Braun, the Hawk's coach, said he always knew his players had the talent and skill and it was just a matter of getting the players together as a team. It took a while, but then late in the season the Hawks started to ignite — by the time they hit the playoffs they "were jelling as a team."

The Hawks were going full steam in their first series against the Fort Saskatchewan team, defeating them 4-2 in a best of seven series.

The Hawks then advanced to play the St. Albert Saints, the team with the best stats in the northern division in regular season play. Many anticipated an easy series for the Saints but were surprised to see the Hawks draw the series out to six games. In the end, the Saints ended the Hawks' year by defeating them four games to two. Eventually, the Saints lost out in the final series against the Calgary Canucks.

Hawks' forward Kevin Ned came back to life for

the series, scoring like he did early in the season getting 13 goals and three assists in the 12 games in the playoffs.

Brian Bearskin and Marty Yewchuk didn't let the team down — each scored 11 points in the playoffs.

Jeff Little, the Hawk goalie, was really hot. Little made an astounding 373 saves in 12 games to help keep the Hawks in the game.

Coach Braun said it's too early to make concrete changes but pointed out five players have graduated because of age. Next year the Hawks will lose defenceman Randy Wong, Lloyd Cox, Todd Granley and forwards Brian Bearskin and Marty Yewchuk.

Next year Braun hopes the team comes back in good shape and ready to start off where they left.

"At least now we have a good nucleus," he said.

**Hawks window shop
at junior tourney**

By Kim McLain

The people behind the Hobbema Hawks did some window shopping for new players at a junior hockey tournament last April 8-10 weekend.

The tournament, hosted by the Hawks organization, offered 10 teams from various points in western Canada \$5,000 in cash prizes and a chance for players to be invited to the Hawks' closed spring camp in May.

The scouts for the Hawks had a firsthand look at the best junior players from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and of course Alberta.

"Every team had a couple of good players that we're going to follow up on," said Hawk coach Gary Braun. "We were very pleased with what we saw."

As for the tournament results — Norway House, Manitoba won the \$2,000 first place prize, defeating the Hobbema Junior "B" team who pocketed \$1,500. Prince George took home the \$1,000 third place prize while Kainai won fourth and \$500.

The tournament, called the Western Canadian junior championships, was the second so far and was held at Hobbema's Four Band arena.



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Goodfish Flames and J.D. Blues place in the money at 22-team tourney

By Kim McLain

Five Alberta Native senior hockey teams traveled to North Battleford to compete in a 22-team tourney.

Two teams, Goodfish Lake Flames and Saddle Lake J.D. Blues, placed in the money at the friendship centre's April 1-3 all-Native event.

The Goodfish Flames came closest to winning, earning \$1,000 top spot on the "B" side. The Saddle Lake J.D. Blues got as far as third on the "A" side, snaring \$800 for their efforts.

Winning the tournament was the Red Pheasant reserve team. Red Pheasant took home the huge \$3,000 first place prize. Cumberland Cree came second, bagging \$1,800 for their finish. Then behind Goodfish, on the "B" side, was Canoe Lake earning

\$800. The Sturgeon Lake Juniors won \$400 for their third place finish.

Other Alberta teams that missed out on the money were the Enoch Tomahawks, Alexis Saints and Blackfoot Miners.

An oldtimer hockey tourney, on the same weekend, saw two Alberta teams make the trip: Alexis and Kehewin. Alexis got \$150 for their second place finish on the "B" side. Kehewin didn't make the

prizes. North Battleford's friendship centre team won the \$700 first place purse defeating Battle River, who settled for second and \$500. The Onion Lake X Chiefs won \$200 and the "B" side.

This was the first year for the oldtimer tournament which attracted 11 teams.

The senior tournament is 22 years old.

No individual awards were given to Alberta players.

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Goodswimmer leads High Prairie victory on "B" side Oilers ice Braves, defend title at Enoch

By Lyle Donald

ENOCH — It was hockey at its finest, at Enoch's 13th annual all-Native hockey tournament, as the Hobbema Oilers successfully defended their title by defeating the Alexander Braves 5-3 in the final game.

Hobbema jumped into the lead 40 seconds into the game as D. Whitebear tipped in a shot from the

point. After that, the Oilers seemed to go to sleep, and the Braves took over as Warren Kootenay and Darcy Arcand scored 22 seconds apart and with 39 seconds left in the period, Henry Arcand popped one in from the side of the net to end the first period Alexander leading 3-1.

After a tough game earlier that day against Prince George, the Oilers

must have caught their second wind in the second period. They played more aggressively and took control of the game. At the 13:03 mark, D. Buffalo scored and three minutes later Sid Boyer got his first of the game. With 3:50 left, D. Whitebear got his second of the game ending the period 4-3 Oilers.

The third period was a good one with both goalies keeping their teams in the game. Hobbema never put

the icing on the cake until late in the period when Sid Boyer scored his second of the night with 2:23 remaining. Then, with 11 seconds left, Daniel Houle snuck one by the Braves goalie, Todd Cunningham, to end the game 5-3.

In the "B" final, High Prairie coach Harry Laboucane said it was a good team effort from all of his players that helped them beat Paul Band 6-3. This game was hard hitting

and fast-paced and a lot closer than the final score shows. Two players really stood out for High Prairie; goalie Chris Lamouche with very acrobatical saves and Clyde Goodswimmer with a very hot stick scoring five out of the six goals scored. Paul Band just could not take advantage of the many breaks they had with High Prairie taking seven out of eight penalties. Dave Lamouche scored the other goal for High Prairie, Darren Rain, Allen Adams and Wayne Checkosis replied for Paul Band.

Tournament organizer Robert Morin said he was disappointed that five teams never showed up but was more than pleased with the outcome.

"If all the teams would have shown up we would have paid out a lot more money," said Morin. A total of \$6,300 went to the top six teams.

The all-star trophies



LYLE DONALD, Windspeaker

GOODSWIMMER
...scored five in final

went to: Sid Boyer, Hobbema, MVP; Clyde Goodswimmer, High Prairie, Most Sportsmanlike; Dwayne Johnson, Hobbema, best defensive; Warren Crowchild, Hobbema, left defense; Billy Arcand, Alexander, right wing; Harvey "Bingo" Morin, Hobbema, best goalie; Brent Noyes, Alexander, right defense; Dave Noyes, Alexander, left wing.

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The Co-ordinator

Blue Quills First Nations College

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St. Paul, Alberta

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Telephone: 645-4455



People

'Knows what to throw in tight spots'

By Mark McCallum

Diana Weaselfat threw her first curling rock of the day at the 15th annual Native Curling Provincial Championships and limped out of the arena.

Nobody, not even Weaselfat, knew the source of the former champion's pain and discomfort, which may have cost her the title, a broken toe in her right foot.

"I thought it was just sprained...I taped it up and kept playing," explains Weaselfat, who was surprisingly cheerful despite it all.

Windspeaker first spoke with the Fort McLeod curler on the second day of the April 1-3 bonspiel while she prepared a Stand Off women's team to defend their undefeated streak. The final rounds of play were beginning and she was content to watch the action from the viewer's lounge with a hot cup of coffee, unaware that her toe was broken.

It would not be until the following Tuesday, three days later, that she would finally give in to the pain and have her foot X-rayed, Windspeaker later learned.



FORT MCLEOD'S DIANA WEASELFAT
...played provincials with broken toe

This was the first time in Weaselfat's five year's of curling that she was skipping a team. The skip is the quarterback of the curling team — the player that calls all the shots in the game. "I'm really enjoying it,"

she says, in between sips of coffee. "I thought I'd be all frustrated, but I'm not."

Weaselfat, 40, credits husband Clarence for helping her master the sport. The couple curl together in a mixed league

in Fort McLeod.

"He's my coach," she explains, noting her husband has been curling for about 10 years. "He taught me how to read the ice and what the strategy behind the game is."

Clarence says his wife is a natural athlete. "She has great coordination and she knows what to throw in tight spots," he raves.

In 1983, all the practice and time they devote to the game paid off. Each won divisional titles at the Native provincials in Wetaskiwin.

"But, curling is more of a social event than a competitive one," says Clarence, who points out that this is his wife's comeback season after taking off a year to give birth to their third child. The proud dad notes that the bouncing baby girl is likely to join the rest of the family, all of which are athletically inclined. The eldest girl curls in a Macleod league and the couple's only son began golfing at age four.

When Weaselfat first started curling, she recalls with a smile: "The rocks were heavy and I didn't know how to throw them." Both men and women use the same curling rocks which weight 45 pounds.

"But, I looked at it as a challenge.

"It's easier for me because I don't really lift the rock when I'm throwing it. Some throw the rock backward and go off balance," explains the 170-pound, five foot seven curler. She says a bigger, heavier curler would need to lift the rock backward off the ice, to carry the extra weight of the body.

"It can throw them off balance. But, I got the hang of it as I played more games."

Weaselfat's team was undefeated after two rounds of play and she waited patiently for her turn. The next game they played would decide whether the Stand Off team would be in the final title game.

"I'm kind of anxious,"

she says.

There were 11 other teams bidding for the championship. Joining Weaselfat on the team was Evelyn Goodstriker, Ronda Weaselhead and Joyce Goodstriker. The team was put together at the "last minute" says the team skip. "But, we decided to play for the fun of it — winning isn't everything. I just really enjoy curling."

The Stand Off team did not advance into the title game but did finish in fourth place overall.

Plaster cast on foot, Weaselfat later said the rest of the curling season is over for her now. But, she quickly notes her foot should mend in time for the golf season. She and her husband are also avid golfers as well...but that's another story.



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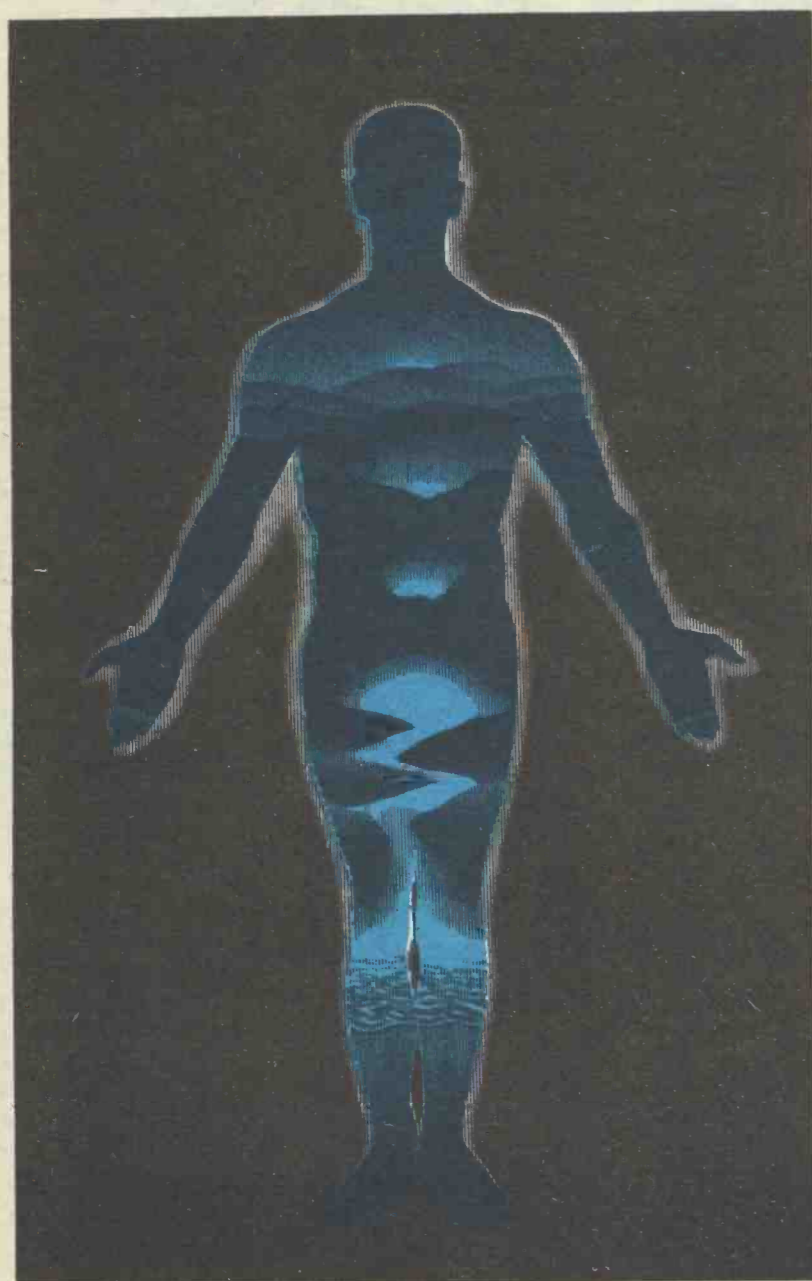
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High School Credit	
Diploma Challenge (GED)	September, 1988, January, 1989
University Credit - Sunrise Project	
COMMERCIAL DIVISION	
Small Business Management	September 6, 1988
Computer Accounting for General Business	September 6, 1988
Bank Teller	September 6, 1988
Secretarial Arts	September 6, 1988
HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION	
Community Recreation Leadership	September 6, 1988
Nursing Assistant	September 6, 1988
Family Support Worker	September 6, 1988, April 17, 1989
Social Services Worker	September 6, 1988
Nursing Refresher	Continuous
Personal Management	TBA
TRADES & TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION	
Pre-employment Motor Mechanic Trade	September 26, 1988, January 3, 1989
Pre-employment Carpenter Trade	September 26, 1988, January 3, 1989
Pre-employment Cabinetmaker Trade	September 26, 1988, January 3, 1989
Pre-employment Cook Trade	September 26, 1988, January 3, 1989
Pre-employment Welder Trade	September 26, 1988, January 3, 1989
Advanced Welding ("B" Pressure, TIG, MIG)	TBA
Forestry	September 6, 1988
Survey Technician	September 6, 1988
Natural Resource Worker	September 6, 1988, February 1, 1989
NATIVE CULTURAL ARTS DIVISION	
Traditional Arts	September 6, 1988
Textiles & Clothing Design	September 6, 1988
ASSOCIATE CAMPUSES DIVISION	
McLennan Campus	September 6, 1988, October 17, 1988 November 21, 1988, January 16, 1989 March 6, 1989, April 17, 1989
Valleyview Campus	September 6, 1988, October 10, 1988 November 14, 1988, January 9, 1989 February 27, 1989, April 10, 1989

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