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Wind speaker

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**Yellowhead
regional
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July 28, 1989 *Indian and Metis News...Every Week* Volume 7 No. 21

Ottawa recognizes Woodland Cree

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

The federal government will formally recognize a new Northern Alberta Indian band made up of dissident Lubicon band members who want to negotiate their own land claim deal.

But a Lubicon band advisor fears it will disrupt a provincial agreement tabled with the band earlier this week.

Terri Kelly charges that federal negotiators are "slapping together" a group of disgruntled band members to undermine the Lubicon Lake land-claim agreement with the Alberta government.

She said federal officials are splitting the Lubicon band so they can sidestep a provincial commitment to offer the reserve additional land.

Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Pierre Cadieux revealed last Tuesday he will officially recognize the Woodland Cree Indians as a separate band Aug. 28 after being petitioned by about 300 disgruntled Lubicon Natives.

He said land-claim negotiations with the new band will begin August 9.

The Woodland Cree are Lubicon members who the federal government claims are dissatisfied with the

progress made by band Chief Bernard Ominayak in the 50-year-old land claim against Ottawa.

Between 25-35 per cent of the new band is made up of former Lubicon members who aren't happy with the progress Ominayak has made with the federal government.

"This creates a whole lot of serious questions about the federal government's intentions," Kelly said. "They want to detract from the agreement that's already in place."

She claims hostile band members have been convinced by federal negotiators to break away from the Lubicon band and establish their own reserve.

Ominayak and Alberta Premier Don Getty agreed to reopen negotiations August 15 to put pressure on the federal government to resolve the issue.

Kelly said the initiative could be in jeopardy if a separate agreement is made with the Woodland Cree.

Kelly said Ominayak expected some members to be upset with the long negotiating process and he is not surprised by the recent turn of events.

"There's always dissention. People have a right to disagree. But if the federal government thinks it can affect the agreement with the province, its crazy," she said.

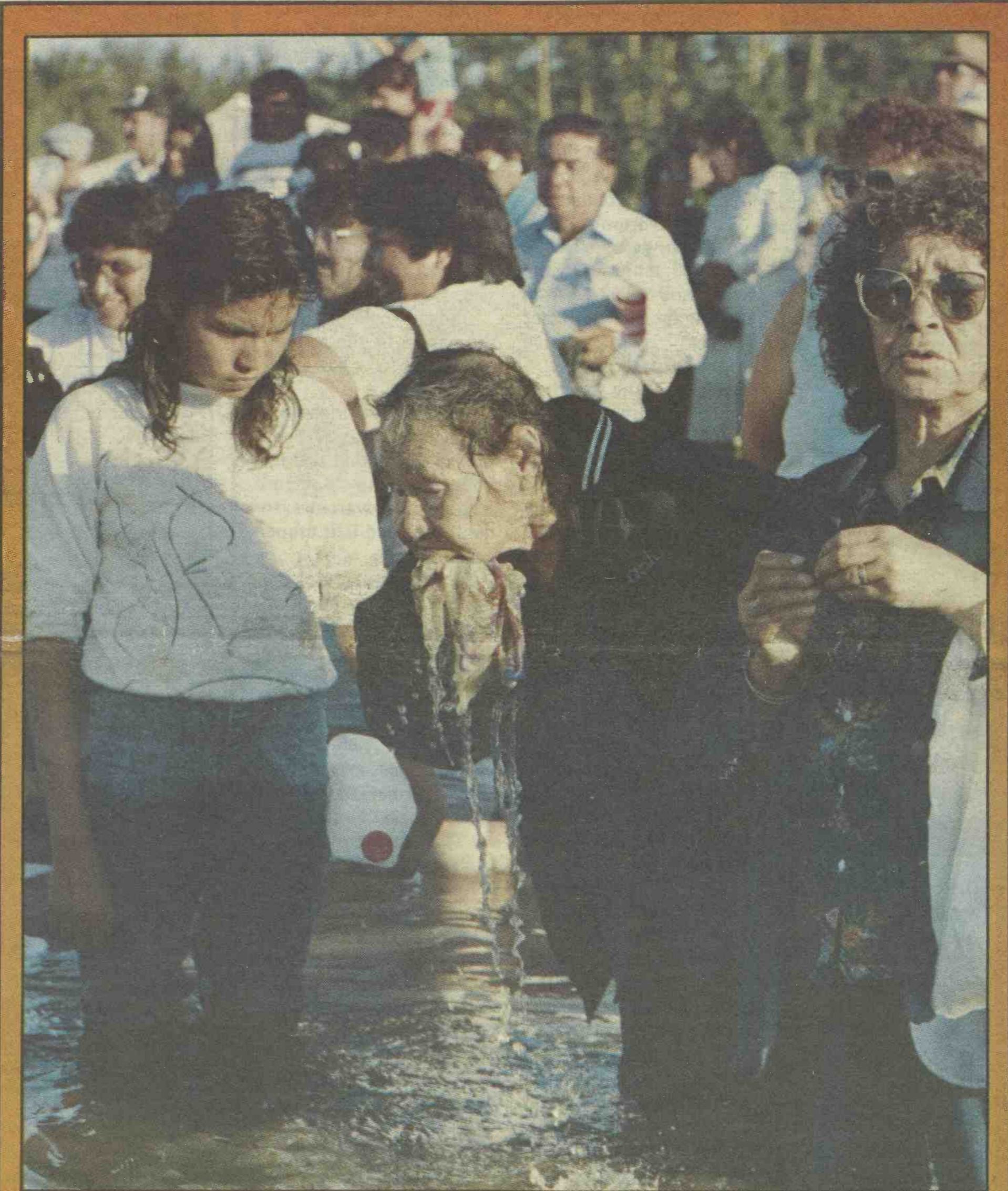
Ominayak could not be reached for comment.

Federal negotiator Ken Colby said it was never the government's intention to separate the Lubicon band and Colby believes the land-claim dispute will become more complex if he has two bands to deal with.

"It will make the job more difficult, but it's the risk we run," he said.

Colby said agreements between the band and the province have never been approved by Ottawa and will not affect negotiations with the Lubicon or Woodland Cree.

"We didn't go to them, they came to us (with the petition). We don't give people advice, we give them knowledge. We just told them to organize as a band," he said.
Please see BAND p. 2



BERT CROWFOOT, Windspeaker

Pilgrimage of faith...

Mary Louise Gregoire of Heart Lake was one of 6,000 native pilgrims to journey to Lac Ste. Anne last week. It was the 100th anniversary of the first visit by natives to the Catholic mission. According to legend the prayers of that pilgrimage ended a drought in western Canada with a deluge of rain about the time of the feast of St. Anne, grandmother of Christ.

Human rights record tarnished

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SUDBURY, Ont.

An international study into Aboriginal treaties could tarnish Canada's spotless human rights reputation but strengthen the rights of Native people, said a professor of Native studies in Ontario.

"This study will weaken Canada as a champion of human rights. Canada will no longer be taken seriously because it will be viewed as a hypocrite," Tony Hall said.

He said a United Nations-sponsored study on treaties with Aboriginal people could be a turning point for First Nations in Canada and an

embarrassment for the Canadian government.

Hall, an instructor at the University of Sudbury, said Indians in Canada could be in a position to influence government policy, but it may come at the expense of Canada's reputation.

Miguel Alfonso Martinez, an investigator from the UN Human Rights Commission, met with band

members of Treaty 6 last week as part of a worldwide study.

He was appointed by the Working Group on Indigenous People to do a three-year study to determine if treaty violations are occurring.

Hall said Native leaders will see a gradual change in

Please see STUDY p.2

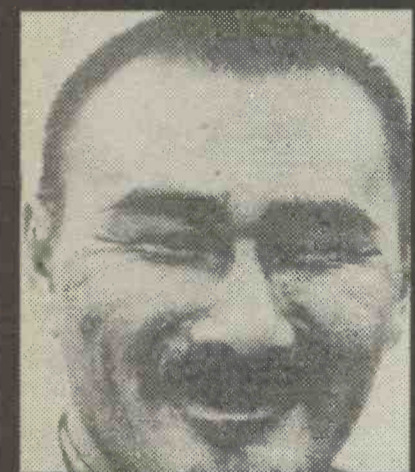
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St. Jean family has ties that bind See Page 18



Skid Row Eskimo remembered See Page 6



Meet our new Droppin' In columnist See Page 7

NEXT WEEK

Sarcee Powwow

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Canada will no longer be taken seriously because it will be viewed as a hypocrite," Professor Tony Hall on the U.N. probe.

Quebec band backs N.Y. Mohawks

By Jeff Morrow
Windspeaker Staff Writer

MONTREAL, Que.

A militant Indian band in Quebec may intervene in a dispute that has erupted among members of a New York Mohawk band accused of illegal gambling.

After several members of the Akwesasne reserve were injured during confrontations with New York State troopers Monday, the Grand Chief of the Kahnawake Mohawk Council said intervention by his band may be imminent.

Joseph Norton said his council may agree to restore peace among the Akwesasne Mohawks, who are engaged in a bitter dispute over police procedures on the reserve.

He said the band is embroiled in internal conflicts that could damage Native unity.

"We are considering assistance. It's a touchy situation, so we are taking a hands-off position," he said.

Norton said his band is prepared to calm tensions between bickering Native factions and state police if the conflict escalates.

Public access to the Akwesasne reserve, which straddles the border between Cornwall, Ont. and Fort Covington N.Y., was cut off by state troopers after fighting erupted on the reserve.

More than 150 Mohawks began battling among themselves and with police.

A young reserve member was injured and a state trooper suffered a fractured arm in the melee.

Band members have been at odds over police jurisdiction since New York State troopers and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents raided reserve casinos last week thought to be holding illegal gambling activities.

Two hundred slot machines were seized and 10 people were charged with operating illegal gambling businesses.

About 200 members of the Mohawk Sovereignty Security Force (MSSF), armed with shotguns and semi-automatic weapons, blockaded the highway leading on to the reserve with overturned trucks to keep the police at bay.

Many band members oppose the Native force and its handling of confrontations with the federal and state authorities. They eventually persuaded the militant force to dismantle their blockade Monday.

But the police erected their own roadblock until tensions eased.

Harold Tarbell, Chief of the American St. Regas Mohawk tribe, said the dispute may tear the Akwesasne reserve further apart if band members don't agree on police jurisdiction.

He said most band members are afraid of the militant members and rely on the federal and state authorities to police the reserve.

"It's really the lesser of two evils. They (band members) don't really want the state police on the reserve, but they don't want a self-appointed, under-trained force either," he said.

Tarbell would not reveal the names of the militant band members or how many there are.

Although the Mohawk's barricade has been dismantled, Norton said his council may send Kahnawake warriors to quell violence if it erupts again.

He did not rule out armed and physical intervention.

Norton suspects the American National Guard is also being geared up to confront the Mohawk warriors.

"Indian sovereignty must also be recognized. It affects many people," he said.

The state and federal authorities maintain that the Mohawks owe taxes on gambling revenue, but the band does not recognize U.S. government regulations and has stated it will fight for its right to operate the casinos.

The reserve casinos have become a major attraction

for tourists and residents of Ottawa and Cornwall, Ont.,

But many of reserves residents accuse the Native force of over-stepping its legal boundaries.

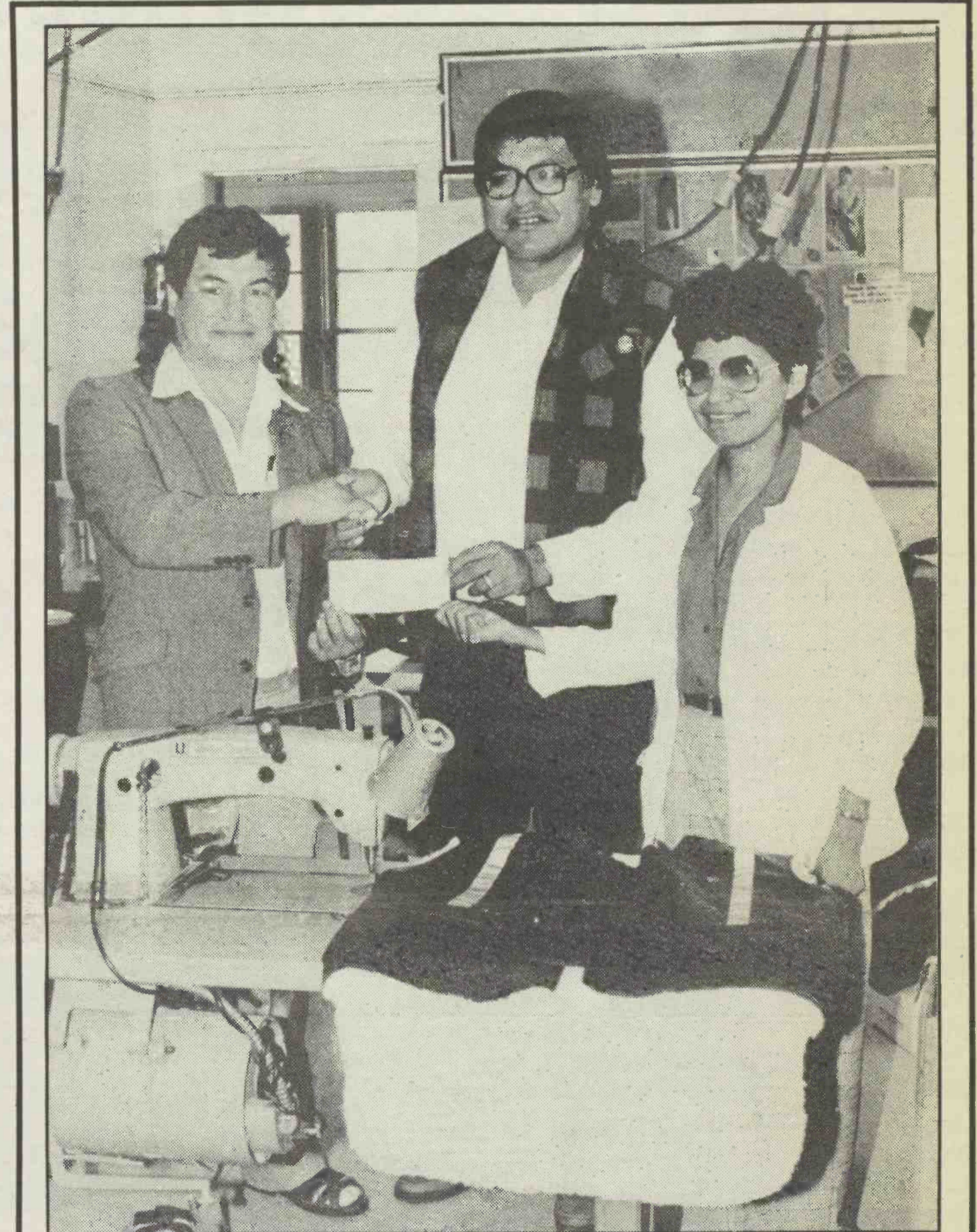
"They say they are protecting our sovereignty,

but as far as I can tell, they're just protecting illegal gambling," said member Salena Smoke.

She said most band members would rather support other business ventures to stimulate

economic growth on the reserve.

The Akwesasne reserve, located 36 km southwest of Montreal, is comprised of 7,000 Canadian and American Mohawks.



BERT CROWFOOT, Windspeaker

Band sews up deal...

The Goodfish Lake Band has received a \$178,000 five-year loan from the Alberta Indian Investment Corporation (AIIC) to upgrade and expand their garment factory and drycleaning plant. Shown here is Sam Bull, AIIC board member, who presented a cheque July 23 to Chief Ernest Houle and Councillor Velma Mennook.

Study

From page 1

the way the federal government interprets their treaties because there will be pressure on the international level.

"In the past Canada has simply ignored Native people. Political leaders have uttered platitudes about Native issues because they considered other issues more important," he said.

"Eventually, it will be possible for Native leaders to influence the government."

Hall said the UN will be amazed at the disproportionate number of Natives that occupy Canadian jails while the federal government lauds itself for being a model for civilized nations.

"When jails are filled with Native people Canada can't be seen as a place of hope and prosperity. It is no

different than South Africa," he said.

Beaver Lake Chief Al Lameman was on hand when Martinez discussed Canada's past agreements with Treaty 6 elders.

He said it was the first time elders were ever given the opportunity to discuss their treaties on an international level.

"They feel it really made a difference. They trust something will be done," he said.

"Martinez got to hear the truth. He has seen it for himself. We hope it (UN) will force Canada to take a serious look at the treaties."

Martinez has returned to Geneva where he will make his report to the the UN's human rights subcommittee.

He isn't expected to return to Canada until next year.

He is scheduled to hold similar meetings with Natives from Australia and New Zealand.

Band

From page 1

Colby said the federal government continues to stand by its last offer to the Lubicon band made during negotiations last January.

The government offered the band 246-square-

kilometres of land and \$45 million in economic development.

Ominayak turned down the deal and has since refused to meet with federal negotiators.

Robert Skelly, the New Democrat Indian Affairs critic, lashed out at the federal government for

getting involved in internal band matters.

"I'm absolutely outraged with the way the minister is operating. Just because you don't like the leadership of a band, you don't get rid of it, or create a new one," he said.

"What they are doing is trying to get a sweetheart

agreement and acceptance on federal terms. This could have long-term affects on Indian and federal negotiations," he said.

The Woodland Cree are from Cadotte Lake, Little Buffalo and surrounding communities. The Little Buffalo hamlet is about 470 km northwest of Edmonton.

ACROSS OUR LAND

Erasmus applauds U.N. study

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

OTTAWA

Georges Erasmus, grand chief of the Assembly of First Nations, would welcome a return visit by a UN Aboriginal expert to study treaty violations across the country.

"We welcome visits to Canada by Martinez. We're in fact pushing for more visits, so he can become more familiar with the treaties across the country," Erasmus said.

Human rights expert Miguel Alfonso Martinez, appointed by the UN, conducted four days of hearings July 17-20 on Onion Lake Reserve, 250 km east of Edmonton.

Martinez, a Cuban, who is conducting a three-year study on treaties with Indigenous peoples, concluded Canada has violated Treaty 6.

"We're hoping we can encourage him to make a trip in the next 12 months to make himself more available to more treaty areas," said Erasmus.

"We have hundreds of treaties here," he said.

"For Martinez to get the true flavor of treaties and whether they've been upheld, or ignored and unilaterally changed by Great Britain and the federal government, he's going to have to make numerous visits not only to here but to the United States and elsewhere," said Erasmus.

The study is "very appropriate and a long time coming," he added.

The Canadian government says it offered its full cooperation to the United Nations probe, which Natives insist is an inquiry into alleged Treaty 6 violations.

But the Canadian External Affairs department contends that's not the purpose of the probe.

"The study is not an investigation into compliance with Canadian treaties," stated an External Affairs news release.

Instead, the study is to assist in developing "innovative, forward-looking approaches to relationships between Indigenous populations and

governments," states the release.

At the last Geneva session of the Commission on Human Rights in March 1989, Canada supported a resolution to back the study.

But it successfully argued it should examine a greater number of the world's Native people. Originally, the probe was to investigate only Native populations having treaties.

Erasmus said Canada and the United States had reservations about the study.

The federal government was "concerned it was a way the international community would point a finger at Canada.

"They (the federal government) did what they could to change the nature of the study," he said.

The study must also delve into the history of treaty violations, Erasmus said.

By changing the terms of reference, Canada tried to water down the study, he claimed.

But he said the study is only one tool bands have to

ensure their treaties are upheld.

"We believe the more the international community is aware the rights of Indigenous people aren't being observed, the more we can use that in Canada," said Erasmus.

"Treaties were being undermined and ignored and we wanted the rights in those treaties ... to be living and protected by all governments in Canada," he said.

Outlining his study last year, Martinez said his goal was to see how "new treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements may contribute effectively to the development of more solid, lasting and equitable bases for the relationship between Indigenous populations and

States."

The Department of External Affairs says the Canadian Embassy in Havana supplied Martinez with material to assist him in his study.

"Canada has had considerable experience with a wide variety of treaties, agreements and other arrangements with its Indigenous people and believes this experience may provide useful guidance for other societies," said the external affairs release.

Richard Labelle, executive assistant to federal Indian Affairs Minister Pierre Cadieux, said Martinez had not asked to meet with the federal government.

Meanwhile, Indian Association of Alberta

president Roy Louis said Martinez could not have reached any conclusion, but that Treaty 6 had been violated.

"I don't think there was ever any question about that even before he arrived here," Louis said.

"It certainly puts Canada on notice that Martinez is out here discussing a violation of treaties with Treaty 6," he said.

Louis said Martinez should have dealt with Treaty 7 and 8, also in Alberta, on his recent trip to the province.

Indian leaders are confident "the three-year study will go some direction in having our rights fully recognized within the international community," states an Onion Lake news release.

Drug abuse probed

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Health and Welfare Canada is investigating a number of doctors and pharmacists suspected of overprescribing drugs to natives.

The study was prompted by seven Indian chiefs throughout the province, who individually approached Health and Welfare Canada and expressed their concerns.

"The Indian bands are concerned and we're reacting to that concern," said Maurice Aked, regional director of the medical services branch.

He said his department will identify the doctors and bring them to the attention of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

"We hope to reduce the amount of abuse in the Native population," Aked told a recent meeting of the Indian Association of Alberta.

Dr. Harold Hodes, who's heading the investigation, said the department was tipped off about a year ago by several chiefs.

They told him "there was a lot of prescription drug abuse. People were getting too many of these things."

The chiefs also reported the drugs are being illegally sold and are easily obtained.

"It really was a community initiative that triggered me doing it. That

shows concern on behalf of these communities. They want to do something about it," said Hodes, assistant regional director of community health programs.

Evidence suggests the drugs are making their way to the street, he said.

After checking hundreds of medical records, Hodes verified widespread abuse was occurring by doctors, pharmacists and clients.

"There are some bad actors out there.

"Some doctors' names kept cropping up," he said.

Hodes said "if we have definite evidence of wrongdoing, we would take the appropriate information to the authorities. It's going to be another two to three months before we come up with anything definitive."

Prescription drug abuse is not unique to Indian communities, he noted.

The department is also trying to determine whether the overprescribing is linked to youth suicide, which is "another grim aspect," Hodes said.

There's concern some youths may be saving up the drugs to commit suicide by taking overdoses.

The drugs involved include sleeping pills, painkillers and tranquilizers.

They aren't among the 11 most abused drugs closely monitored by the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The college introduced a triplicate form three years ago to track the drugs,

clients and doctors, said Hodes.

After the system was in place, prescriptions of those drugs fell by 40 per cent, he noted.

Most of the drugs being studied can lead to psychological addictions. Abuse can lead to problems with work as well as a higher rate of violent accidents. A loss of ambition and abnormal physical reactions are potential side-effects.

"I don't believe there are physicians knowingly prescribing for non-medical conditions," said Dr. Larry Ohlhauser, registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

"We have evidence the number of doctors involved in this web of multi-doctoring, once they become aware of that, they take steps to rectify it," he said.

Ohlhauser said if the study names doctors who have overprescribed addictive drugs an investigation will be launched.

If the chairman of the investigating committee believes it's warranted, the offending doctor will be disciplined, he warned.

The doctor could be suspended from practising in Alberta or fined \$1,000.

Ohlhauser said there's great interest in reviewing whether the drugs in the federal study should be placed on the triplicate form, tracking program to reduce abuse.

EXPRESSIONS



GARY GEE, Windspeaker

Watch the birdie!...

Little Georgie McDonald of the Indian community of Susa Creek gets a bird's-eye view of his first camera as he gazes in awe at the mechanical contraption. The two-year-old is the son of Adele and Norman McDonald.



Windspeaker is published by the Aboriginal Multi-Media Society of Alberta (AMMSA) each Friday to provide information primarily to Native people of northern Alberta. Windspeaker was established in 1983 and is politically independent. Indexed in the Canadian Magazine Index and indexed on-line in the Canadian Business & Current Affairs Database and Canadian Periodical Index.

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SECOND CLASS MAIL

YOUR WORDS

Meech Lake concerns

Dear Editor:

The president of the Manitoba Metis Federation Yvon Dumont recently talked to the new executive and board members of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan, at their very first official board meeting.

He convinced the new board that they should ratify the Meech Lake accord on the basis of the Prime Minister's statement (Hansard) in the House of Commons.

The question that immediately comes to mind is: what's in it for Dumont?

Any so-called politician that takes another politician at his word has no business representing people.

How many campaign promises has Mulroney broken? Isn't he the guy that said free trade was settled in 1912 and 'you'll hear no more of it from me' and then ran an election on it four years later?

Sometimes you can't even rely on signed agreements by world powers. Remember Prime Minister Neville Chamberlin waving a signed agreement with Germany, saying 'peace in our time' just prior to the five-year Second World War which killed more than 60 million people.

Former prime minister Prime Elliot Trudeau in his speech to the Senate on Meech Lake said: "The federal government gives up much of its paramountcy and it gives it up irreversibly. Any province has a veto; any province can prevent an amendment wanted by all other provinces and the federal government on federal institutions, the Senate, the House of Commons, the Supreme Court, or the Territories.

"But when you deliberately do not say this in a preamble, but put it in an interpretative clause, that can only mean one thing. You are giving to the government of that distinct society powers that it did not have before."

The Meech Lake accord is a Constitutional document. What is not written in it may be even more important than what is. Quebec insisted on the French language and the distinct society clause.

Canada cannot now claim English as the official language of the country.

Remember there were no Aboriginal people at the closed-door Meech Lake meeting.

North neglected

Dear Editor:

We, the northern Alberta residents, are weekly readers of the Windspeaker.

Yet we have not ready any news about the progress the communities of the North have made in recent years.

We want civilization to be aware that we do exist in northern Alberta.

Perhaps, Windspeaker reporters are lacking interest in promoting news from the North.

There are many occasions and events to be analyzed, discussed

The First Minister's Conference did not resolve the Aboriginal question, but left the possibility of further meetings. This is now being lost to issues such as Senate reform. Meech Lake closes this door.

More than 50 years ago, some concerned and committed people obtained land the size of Prince Edward Island for the Metis people of Alberta.

And recently, the Federation of Metis Settlements signed an agreement for \$310 million dollars with the Alberta government.

It's a far cry from buying land at Batoche. One must conclude that our past leadership has let down the Metis and non-status people of Saskatchewan.

Some past and present people were and are still concerned and committed to the people they represent: Riel, the past leadership in Alberta, Ominayak, the young Indian chief from Little Buffalo.

Then you have the likes of Ferdinand Marcos, who put personal gain above his people.

The first order of business for the new board of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan was to ratify the Meech Lake accord at a closed-door meeting. This is like signing an agreement that states that Aboriginal people have no rights.

In my opinion, the first order of business at the annual meeting of the Metis Society of Saskatchewan should be a non-confidence vote against the new board and executive. A new board should be elected.

The present board's main concerns and issues seem to be how to get a salary. One board member even has a petition circulating stating that he should be paid.

I have said many times before and I guess I will keep saying it: what the government did to the Metis people more than 100 years ago was both morally and legally wrong. What they are doing now is still morally wrong, but they want to make it legally right.

And the new Saskatchewan Metis board is helping them do it.

Frank Tomkins

and gossiped about. Many things are happening here in the North that the rest of civilization would be amazed to learn.

Yet the weekly newspaper reporters lack the energy to come up North and tell it like it is.

Perhaps in future, we will see Windspeaker reporters and get a chance to chat about the things that happening this morning, yesterday or last month or even last year.

Thank you,
J. S. Laboucan
John D'Or Prairie, Alberta

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CLOSE TO HOME

Deal gives hope to Sturgeon band

By Dana Wagg
Windspeaker Staff Writer

STURGEON LAKE, Alta.

A land-claims agreement has given renewed hope to Sturgeon Lake band members.

"Maybe the days of struggling and not being able to do anything are over for some of the band members," said 33-year-old Chief Ronald Sunshine.

The deal, which has been agreed to in principle by the band and the provincial and federal governments, will see the size of the Treaty 8 reserve almost double to 38,000 acres.

The agreement gives the band 16,200 acres of land to be incorporated with the existing 22,000 acres and \$6 million. About 600 people live on the reserve, which is about six miles west of Valleyview in northwestern Alberta.

Alberta will provide the land, including mineral rights, and \$1.4 million. Canada will provide \$4.6 million, which includes

reimbursement of the band's legal and negotiating fees.

"While negotiations required the band to make some difficult decisions, we felt it was important to settle the claim," Sunshine said.

He said the band had wanted more land instead of taking money but finally settled for the deal offered.

"We're happy. We got as much as we can get under the present government policy.

"The settlement will enable the band members to proceed with a number of projects, which will be very important to the economic future of the Sturgeon Lake band," he said.

In a referendum held June 23-24 on the reserve, band members voted 90 per cent in favor of the proposed settlement.

Sunshine expects the agreement, which requires the approval by the provincial and federal governments, will go through this fall.

A \$3-million trust fund has been set up using the settlement money.

The interest will be used for programs to assist individual band members in four areas: agriculture, economic development, education and recreation.

If band members want to farm or to go to school, the band can now give them a hand, said Sunshine.

The remaining money will go into an Ottawa trust fund for development projects intended to benefit all band members, said Sunshine.

The reserve has struggled against an 80 per cent unemployment rate.

"We're hoping to turn that around to make it 80 per cent employment," Sunshine said.

"As soon as the economy improves on the reserve, people will want to come back, because they can't find jobs in the city."

Some members have already called since the deal was announced to inquire about moving back to the reserve.

The band is also opening a chopsticks factory in August, which will employ

60 people.

"We're completing two big projects in two years," Sunshine said.

And construction of a \$3-million school is under way.

All negotiations took place on the reserve with at least a dozen elders and the band council attending each session, Sunshine said.

"It feels good to start accomplishing things," he said.

"A co-operative effort helped us put the thing together. Everybody had the same vision. We went for it and I think we got what we wanted," he said.

Federal Indian Affairs Minister Pierre Cadieux said an "atmosphere of co-operation prevailed throughout the negotiations.

"The Sturgeon Lake band is to be commended for having addressed its land claim in a very constructive and open manner," he said.

Ken Rostad, provincial minister responsible for Native affairs, said the settlement "clearly



Sturgeon Lake Chief Ron Sunshine: Wants to turn unemployment around on reserve.

demonstrates both claim of Lubicon Band governments are prepared to meet their historic obligations with respect to Indian people. hasn't been settled.

"If they (the government) really wanted to be co-operative, they could be. If they really wanted to settle, they could," he said.

Meanwhile, Sunshine said he doesn't understand why the longstanding land

Tumbleweeds

By Tom K. Ryan



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre - Bonnyville

Function: The primary function is to direct the total organization towards a high standard of operation in achieving the goals and objectives of the Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre.

Duties: Responsible for all phases of management, including administration, supervision of staff and promotion of all areas of the organization. Ensure that board directives, personnel rules and regulations are adhered to and are implemented, in order for the programs of the organization to operate effectively and efficiently.

Ensures that accounting procedures are followed in order to have proper financial control and administration. Arranges for monthly financial and staff reports to the Board of Directors.

Consult and participate in the development of existing and new programs for continuous personal and intellectual growth of the organization. Maintains good working relations with the Board of Directors, government and community agencies, other native organizations and the public at large.

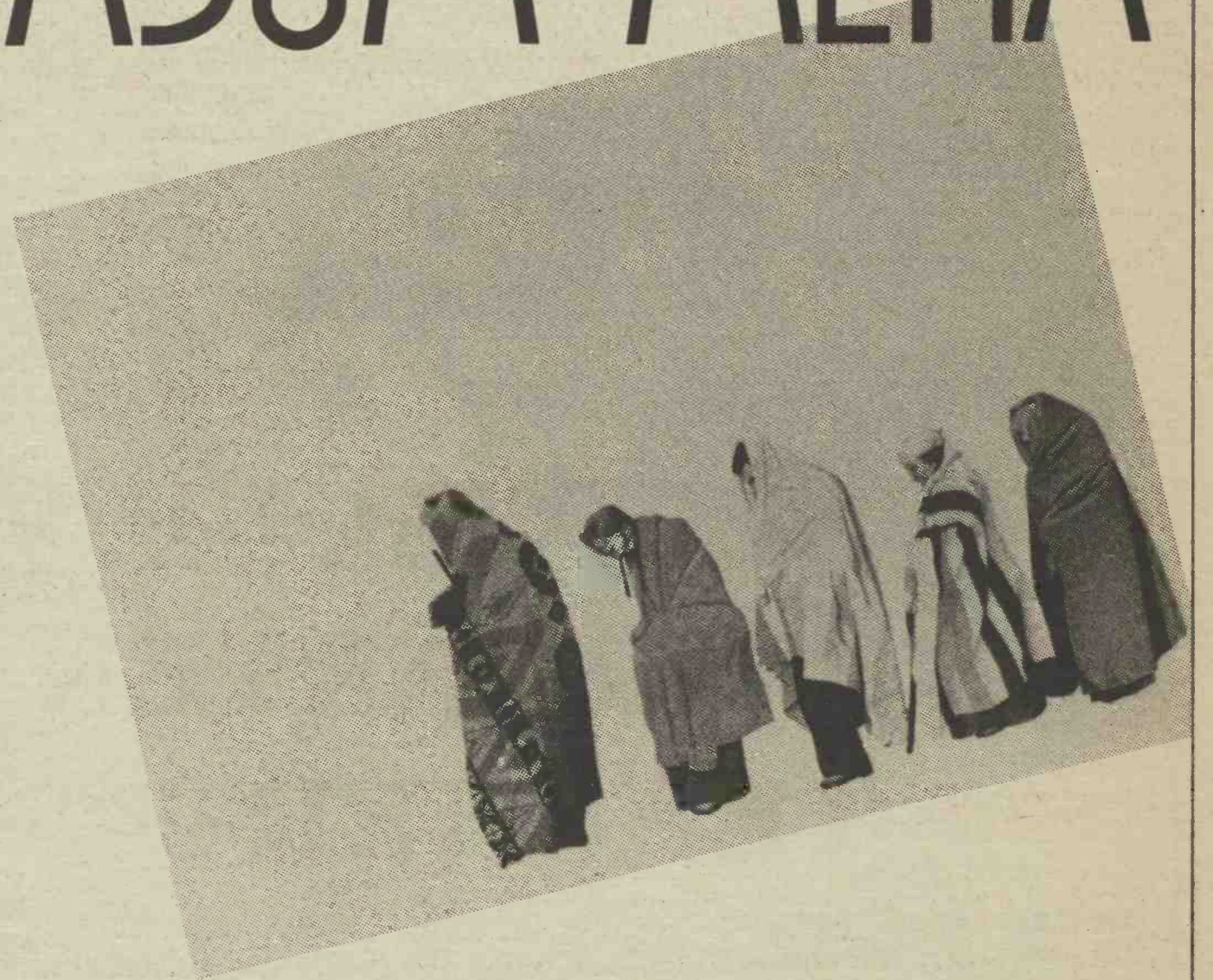
Foster an environment of teamwork and commitment through the organization by developing and improving methods of good communication and training.

Responsible and answerable to the Board of Directors.

Qualifications: Extensive administration and management experience in the service of organizations. Good communication skills (written and oral) are a requirement. Proposal writing and budget preparations a necessity. Some accounting experience desirable. Experience and knowledge of the Native Friendship Centre Movement and other native organizations is an asset. Knowledge of the aboriginal cultures and able to speak the Cree language a great asset. Must be willing to do some travel.

Salary: Negotiable with experience. **Closing Date:** August 31, 1989. **Send Resume to: Personnel Committee, Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre, Box 5399, Bonnyville, Alberta, T9N 2G5**

ASUM MENA



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GRASSROOTS

'Skid row Eskimo' will be missed



Tony Thrasher: Skid row storyteller.

By Jeanne Lepine
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON, Alta.

Edmonton's "skid row Eskimo" died last week, days after he was found unconscious in a downtown parking lot.

Anthony Apakark Thrasher was a long-time alcoholic and fixture in the drag area around 96th Street.

He gained fame as the author of the 1976 book Thrasher: Skid Row Eskimo, which told the story of his down-and-out life.

Funeral services were held for Anthony Apakark Thrasher July 18. About 40 friends passed his undecorated grey coffin to bid their farewell to a member of the street community, known simply as Tony.

His body was later flown for burial to his home of Paulatuk, N.W.T., beside the Arctic Ocean.

"He may have been a long-time alcoholic and part of the inner city drag at 96 St. but he was a human being," said Paul Neville, executive director of Urban Manor.

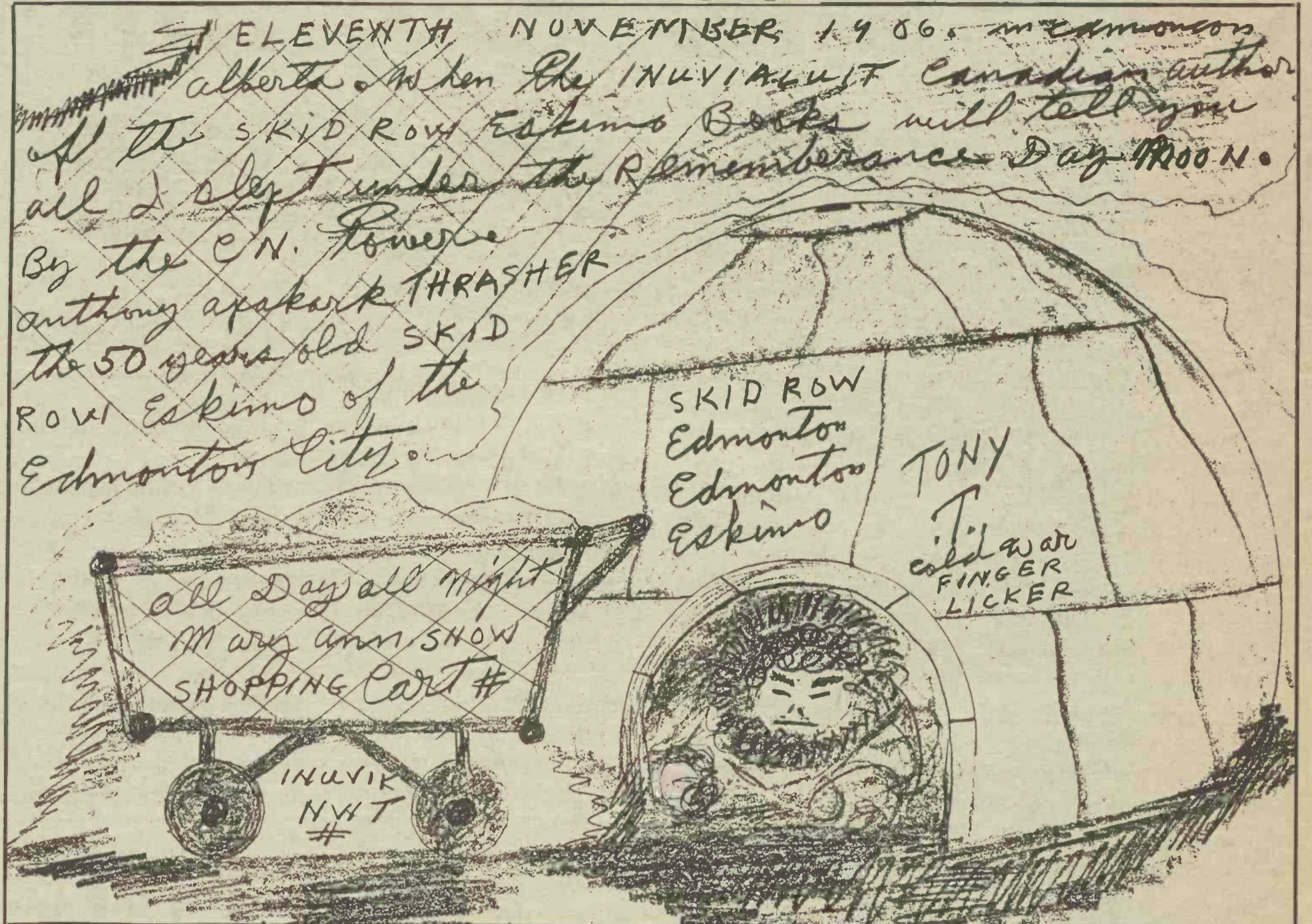
The hostel was home to Thrasher for the past ten years.

"He wanted to be reached out for people but society didn't reach out to him," Neville said. "Society just writes the street people off, it doesn't care. Society is quite content as long as it doesn't get involved."

"Under the circumstances, Tony adapted as well as he could. He may have chosen the lifestyle he did as his way of resisting the system," he said.

Neville didn't know the cause of death, but police don't suspect foul play.

The original manuscript for Thrasher's book was written while he was serving a 15-year sentence for manslaughter.



Song of the street: Sketches and prose by Thrasher reveal his inner anguish.

He was tried in 1970 for the killing of a man whose battered body was found in a Calgary rooming house. In 1979, he was convicted of rape.

At the tender age of four, Thrasher lost his mother and was raised by his sisters. He came from a family of 21 children.

At 19, the government encouraged him to take a job-training program in Edmonton.

His first introduction to skid row was when the government billeted him in a hotel on 97 St.

Although Thrasher was being cantankerous and rarely sober, he is best remembered for his wit.

He would spend hours

spinning yarns or telling jokes. Sometimes, he told stories of his childhood, that was spent living in a tent with his family in the Arctic Circle.

"Tony was a unique person. He was caught in a system where he was a victim," said Mary Burlie, an outreach worker with the Boyle Street Community Service Co-op.

"The past few years, Tony talked about going home to sit on the ice. I believe he was thinking about death, in the way the

Eskimo people met death long ago. His life seemed to depreciate quickly during this time," Burlie said.

Burlie met Thrasher at the co-op 16 years ago. She admitted she was afraid of him when they first met because of his size.

"He never held grudges, he directed his frustrations to himself," she said.

But later, Thrasher adopted Burlie as a sister. He would visit with her often and spend many hours drawing and carving portraits of his home and

people in the North.

Street people remembered him as someone with the gift of humor and story-telling.

"During the winter nights, when it was really cold, you would always find Tony down at the bridge looking at the stars. He used to tell us the stars would take him home. He spent a lot of time down there," his friend said.

"This is for Tony," a group of friends said before taking a swig from a gallon of Colona Red.

Job Opportunity KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

Duties: Applications are currently being accepted for the position of Kindergarten Teacher for the Sturgeon Lake Kindergarten, located at Sturgeon Lake, Alberta, Canada.

Qualifications: Applicants must possess a Valid Alberta Teacher's Certificate, as well as an E.C.S. Diploma. Also, an ability to speak Cree and Working knowledge of Native Children/People would be an asset, but not a requirement. Valid Class 5 Driver's Licence, able to provide own Transportation. Good Physical and Mental Health.

Interested applicants should forward a complete resume including two (2) professional references.

Salary Commensurate with Qualifications.

Closing Date August 11, 1989 at 4:30 p.m.

Please forward resume to:

Sturgeon Lake Band Administration

P.O. Box 757, Valleyview, Alberta, T0H 3N0

Attention: Lydia Kowalchuk, Assistant Administrator 524 - 3307 for additional information

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GRASSROOTS

Say hello to a familiar face

Good-day.

I am going to tell you a bit about myself, so those of you that don't know me will have some idea of who's writing the column.

I am a Cree Indian from Fort Chipewyan. Raising six children on my own for the past decade has made me more aware of the problems single mothers face.

But, I am not complaining. My four older children are on their own and are doing well. The two younger ones are not babies and often accompany me when I'm on the road.

Some of you readers probably know me from when I worked for Windspeaker before moving to Regina to attend university. I spent three years working towards my bachelor of arts degree, majoring in Native Studies. I still have two semesters left to finish to get my Degree.

The life of a student is one without the money for the little extras. I found the studying much harder than what it was when I was younger. The older the brain, the harder one must study.

Now that I'm back from Onion Lake, I will jump right into the column.

Conklin: Marcel Shepard reports that the Old Timers beat the Moonlighters-Lakers 17-4, on July 15.



DROPPIN' IN By Jeanne Lepine

Telephone (403) 455-2700 to put your community happenings considered here free of charge...no news is too small.

Hurray for the old timers. Goes to show there's still a fire burning even if there's snow on the roof.

Trout Lake: The community extends a thankful hand to the neighboring communities of Loon and Peerless Lake for helping make their sports day a success.

Pincher Creek: The Friendship center had 75 children attend their week-long Survival Camp program.

Fort Vermillion: Cultural Days celebration will be held August 5-7.

Whitefish Lake: Emie Houle would like to thank the volunteers for helping out at their annual treaty day celebration. Although it rained, Houle says the event was a success. Without the volunteers, it would have been a

disaster he reported.

The Goodfish Lake Recreation is offering a modeling self-improvement course for pre-teens, teens, and adults on August 1-2.

The summer playground program at Goodfish Lake starts on August 4 for children ages 6-13 years.

The Alberta Sports Council is sponsoring a Soccer Clinic on August 15-16 at the Goodfish Lake Recreation Centre.

There will also be a ball tournament held at Goodfish Lake on August 19-20.

Fort Chipewyan: At this time I would like to extend my condolences to the Marcel family, who recently lost two family members in a tragic drowning accident.

Condolences also going out to the Ladouceur family. Frank Ladouceur passed away on July 23 in the Fort McMurray hospital after suffering a heart attack.

Frank was well known for his fiddle playing and his involvement with the Metis association and the local fishing co-op.

Edmonton: Daylon Thomas of the Edmonton Native Friendship Centre is planning a bigger and better celebration this year for the 10th Annual Rita Houle Memorial to be held Nov. 4.

Congratulations to the Grande Prairie Friendship Centre athletes that placed in the Northwest Alta Summer Games. The winners will go on to participate at the Provincial Summer Games August 11-12.

Sheldon Loutit came home with a bronze in the 1500-meter race, and a gold in the shot put.

Wade Garnott received a bronze in the high jump.

Shane Keyawasew received a bronze in the 800-meter race and a silver for the 400-meter race..

Good luck at the summer Games.

If you have a birthday, anniversary or announcement to make, write or phone me at Windspeaker, just don't send your dog after me.

Till next time, God be with you.

Klondike fiddlers and jiggers go toe-to-toe in competition

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON, Alta.

Klondike fever must have been running through the blood of Noella Hubick and Allen Kegler as they danced their way to first place and \$700 in prize money in the championship jiggling contest.

The two-day fiddle and jiggling competition, held at the Northlands Sportex in conjunction with Edmonton's Klondike Days Exposition, saw many contestants turn out to vie for first-place honors in both categories.

Outlasting more than 10

pairs of contestants in the first-day competitions, Kegler and Hubick, both of Edmonton, went on to win against three other pairs of finalists in the championship round.

Hosted by master of ceremonies, Ralph Bouvette, the competition drew a crowd for a second year.

In many ways, the competition was a stage performance of local and out-of-province talents.

They were at their best for tourists and the locals.

Two young talents originally from John D'Or Prairie, and now residents of Edmonton, captured first place in the junior jiggling.

The brother-and-sister team of Sheldon and Jennifer Seewepagahan teamed to not only win \$300 in prize money but the hearts of everyone watching them perform.

Second place went to Jennifer Kootenay and Brent Donald who turned out to be the crowd's favorites.

In the junior fiddle event, Shawna Hewitt out shone her brother Gordie to win first place.

And local favorite Richard Calliou dominated the seniors' fiddle competition over another great contender Roy Logan to win the event.

Calgary can now take

pride in their hometown favorite Bruce Blair, who won \$700 and the first place in the all-around champion fiddle contest.

This is not Blair's first huge win, having won competitions in New York state and Vermont previously.

Another fiddle contender who deserves mention is second-place finisher, Kerri Quan. Her professionalism shone through during her entire performance.

Crowd pleasers, they all were. Hats off to people like Ralph Bouvette and Gilbert Anderson, who helped make the annual Klondike Days fiddle and Red River jiggling contest a success.

ATHABASCA HEALTH UNIT

Registered Nursing Assistant

The Wabasca/Desmarais District Office of the Athabasca Health Unit requires a part time (.5) Registered Nursing Assistant for the Home Care Program.

Qualifications and Experience: This individual must possess a current nursing assistant registration and must be well motivated and capable of working with limited direction and supervision. a valid driver's license is also required.

Salary Range: \$10.36 - \$12.70 per hour.

Please submit resume quoting Competition No. 89-042

Community Health Worker

The Wabasca/Desmarais District Office of the Athabasca Health Unit requires a part-time (.6) Community Health Worker for the Community Health Program.

Qualifications and Experience: This individual must possess a Community Health Worker Certificate and must be well motivated and capable of working with limited direction and supervision. A valid driver's license is also required.

Salary Range: \$10.36-\$12.70 per hour.

Please submit a resume quoting Competition No. 89-043

Please submit resume no later than August 4, 1989 to:

Personnel Officer, Athabasca Health Unit
Box 1140, Athabasca, Alberta, T0G 0B0

COLLEGE PREPARATION INSTRUCTOR FORT CHIPEWYAN CAMPUS

THE COLLEGE - Keyano College, Fort Chipewyan Campus located in the oldest permanent settlement in Alberta has a population of approximately 1,000 people. The College itself has been in operation for over ten years and is an innovative leader for native educational and training opportunities in northeastern Alberta. The College's diverse program offerings include Adult Basic Education and College Preparation with additional ad hoc courses such as Lifeskills Training, Waiter/Waitress program, Clerk Typist program and Band Management and a variety of other general interest courses.

The College is currently seeking a College Preparation Instructor. This is a project position from August 28, 1989 to May 2, 1990, with a possibility of renewal.

Responsibilities of this position include all aspects of the preparation and delivery of instruction in the English and Reading Program.

QUALIFICATIONS: Related Bachelor's degree and 2-3 years teaching-related experience in an adult environment. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential. The successful candidate will have experience working in a primarily Native environment.

SALARY: \$33,016.54 - \$37,787.49 per annum, based on qualifications and experience plus an attractive benefits package. For further information please contact Jeanne MacIntyre, Coordinator, Fort Chipewyan Campus at 697-3767.

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR CURRENT RESUME TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT BY AUGUST 4, 1989.

8115 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray,
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KEYANO COLLEGE



Windspeaker staff writer Gary Gee travelled throughout the Yellowhead region of Alberta this month to compile this special report.

A Special Report

A Community Profile Of The Yellowhead District

LAC STE. ANNE'S 100th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE

Thousands gather for spiritual renewal

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LAC STE. ANNE MISSION, Alta.

From near and far, they came.

To rejoice, to pray... and to commune with their God.

Some came by bus, others by car pool, and some even walked.

From the distant community of Snowdrift in the Northwest Territories to the nearby Alexis reserve, thousands of Indian and Metis people made the pilgrimage to Lac Ste. Anne mission this week like generations before them had.

This year's pilgrimage, however, was a special one.

It would mark the 100th anniversary of the first trek that began in 1889 when Father Jean-Marie Lestanc gathered 400 of their ancestors at the Catholic mission of Lac Ste. Anne for an evening of prayer and worship.

According to Native legend, the prayers of that pil-

grimage ended a drought in Western Canada with a deluge of rain at about the time of feast of St. Anne, grandmother of Christ.

For Native people, St. Anne is also their grandmother and the most important member of the family, one who is revered and respected the most.

For six days from July 22 to 27, over 30,000 Natives pitched tents and camper-trailers in a field on the southern edge of the lake as old friends and family commiserated about the last time they had made the journey to this holy shrine.

For 57 year-old Emil Moberly, of Grande Cache, the pilgrimage to the lake has been an annual one for twenty-eight years. Only once in that time, when he could not afford it, did he not make the trip.

"I first came here in 1935. I was two years old then and I was already a Catholic," said Moberly.

In those early days, the journey was in two stages. Pulling a team of horses, he

and fellow worshippers would stop off at Hinton and then take the train to Lac Ste. Anne.

This year, almost everyone in the Native communities surrounding Grande Cache such as Susa Creek and Muskeg wanted to make the trip for the 100th anniversary.

Money was saved and set aside for the trip to ensure almost everyone who wanted to make the journey could. Moberly says over \$1,000 was raised and more than 100 people made the trip.

He came, in particular for Tuesday's blessing of Lake Ste. Anne, which almost all Native people believe has healing powers over the sick.

"Lots of people I see here heal. I can see that. I believe that in my heart," he said.

"Two years ago, my legs swelled up and I had a bad back. I came up here and prayed in the lake. Now I don't feel that pain," he smiled.



GARY GEE, Windspeaker

A blessed moment: A Native elder kisses a relic of the patron St. Anne

For Louise St. Cyr, travelling to the pilgrimage began 25 years ago when her mother would make the journey religiously every year from their home of Calling Lake.

That ended four years ago, when her 87-year-old mother passed away but St.

Cyr says she will continue to make this spiritual odyssey to Lac Ste. Anne.

"I will keep coming here till I die. While we are here, I think of God because my belief in Him helps me," says St. Cyr, who has brought her daughter with her this year.

Father Jacques Johnson, the pilgrimage director, says the pilgrimage is a spiritual renewal that heals the spirit of many.

"People just come. It has a life of its own. People will return with many fond memories of the 100th anniversary," he said.

800-km march of faith for Laloche Metis

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

LAC STE. ANNE MISSION, Alta.

A mission to bring hope to their people inspired four Metis from Laloche, Saskatchewan to walk 800 km to the hamlet of Lac Ste. Anne for its annual pilgrimage this year.

It was one of many acts of faith during the 100th anniversary of the pilgrimage to this tiny hamlet, 30 km west of Edmonton.

The group joined more than 30,000 worshippers who gathered for six days of spiritual renewal at the shrine of Lac Ste. Anne, who by legend is thought of as the 'grandmother' of Jesus Christ and the Native



Laloche trekkers, The Herman Family: (right to left) Melodie, Maxine, Herman, Leon, Nestor, Cecile and Gerald.

community.

Like others who have made the trek to Lac Ste. Anne mission, it was a pilgrimage which the people from Laloche felt they had to make.

"We had a hard time, but we made it," says 39 year-old Leon Herman, whose group began the trek June 4 and arrived in Lac Ste. Anne on July 23.

"But we were doing this for the people of our community, especially the young people," he said.

Herman and his brother Gerald, and friends Russell Montgrand and Alister Joliboise decided to walk to raise money to combat alcohol and drug abuse which they say is destroying the Native community

in Laloche.

"Our young people are doing drugs, and alcohol. They're stealing. They're going to jail for nothing. That's why we tried to raise money for our community," said Herman.

Unfortunate circumstances, however, beset the group on the way to Lac Ste. Anne. With scarce funds to begin the trip, they were forced to use some of the donations to help pay for gas and food on the way.

Near Cold Lake, Alberta, the group ran out of funds but were able to rely on a pension cheque from Joe Herman, Leon's father, who along with his wife and family accompanied the men by car.

"This year was a very special pilgrimage," says Cecile Herman, Leon's mother.

"We don't regret it because it was a very spiritual walk-a-thon. At the end, I felt all the joy I had never felt in my life," said Mrs. Herman, who has only missed three pilgrimages to Lac Ste. Anne in the last 33 years.

"I think it will stay with us for the rest of our lives. The boys had all the strength. And we're grateful to all the people who helped us make it here," she said.

Leon Herman says he received a lot of support and donations at Lac Ste. Anne and the money will be sent back to his home of Laloche.

THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION

Two generations lament end of trapping life



The Plante Family: Sarah, Tommy and Russell

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

MARLBORO, Alta.

Talk of the traplines brings back fond memories for 86-year-old Tommy Plante, one of the oldest members of this Metis community, located 24 km west of Edson.

He remembers winters 40 years ago, where he could trap animals at will like muskrat, mink, and lynx. Then he would skin them, and cook them over his pot-bellied stove in his loghouse.

Those were the days when trapping was a traditional source of livelihood for many Metis families in Marlboro like Plante's, who moved there in 1943.

Plante believes those days when Metis could hunt and trap without worry, are gone forever.

"A long time ago, you could trap any place. But the oil activity and logging has almost wiped it out," he lamented.

Hinton's Weldwood pulp plant, built in 1957, has logged in forest areas sur-

rounding the town for decades. With the Alberta government's permission, it is increasing its logging in the area for a major expansion, scheduled to be completed by year's end, that will double its capacity in producing bleached kraft pulp.

Plante and his son Russell, 57, still own the same trapline he used 40 years ago, but more encroachment by logging companies like Weldwood into their traditional trapping rounds, are forcing them to do less trapping.

"The last three years we've killed very little," noted Russell Plante. "Our expenses for the trapline exceed what we take in."

Because of the logging activity, Plante says there's no forest area that hasn't been affected.

Since Metis in the area don't hold aboriginal title to the land, their right to hunt and trap is the same as anyone else's. Licenses are renewed yearly and when oil companies or lumber companies move into the area, they have lit-

PROFILE: MARLBORO

tle recourse but to move their traplines.

In 1941, the Alberta government rescinded the status of Marlboro as a Metis colony. The community won't receive anything from a \$310 million land and resource deal negotiated recently by the provincial government with eight Metis settlements.

Both generation of Plantes believe Metis in the area deserve some kind of compensation for decades of infringement on their hunting and trapping grounds.

"I've never liked loggers," says Tommy Plante. "They've spoiled it. The timber's cut and there's no animals left."

Brian K. Sinclair

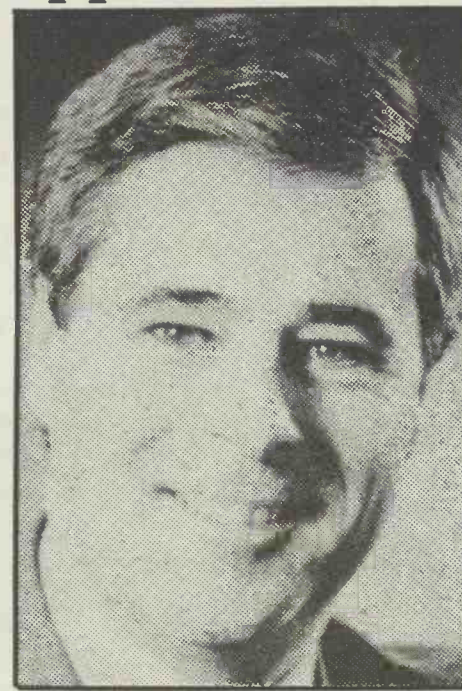
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PEACE HILLS TRUST

Mr. Victor S. Buffalo, Chairman of the Board of Peace Hills Trust Company, is pleased to announce the following recent executive appointments.



Warren W. Hannay has been formally appointed by the Board as a Director of the Company and as President and C.E.O. Mr. Hannay joined Peace Hills Trust in the Fall of 1988 as Chief Executive Officer.



Lorne H. Davis has been appointed Vice-President, Credit and Operations. Mr. Davis, a commerce graduate from Sir George Williams University, brings 22 years of Canadian banking experience to his new position.



Gerry T. Kinsella has been appointed Vice-president, Controller. Mr. Kinsella, who holds an Arts Degree and a Commerce Degree from the University of Alberta, has been a practising Chartered Accountant for the past ten years in both public and private industry. Prior to joining Peace Hills Trust, Mr. Kinsella was with the auditor General's Department of the Province of Alberta.

Both Mr. Davis and Mr. Kinsella report directly to the President and C.E.O., Mr. Warren W. Hannay.

Peace Hills Trust, wholly owned by the Samson Indian Band of Hobbema, Alberta, is Canada's first and largest Native owned Trust Company. With branches in Edmonton, Hobbema and Winnipeg, Peace Hills Trust offers a full range of financial services to both the Native and non-Native communities across Canada.

LAC STE. ANNE'S 100th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE



Sharing the faith: Leo Cheechom of Anaz blesses a young boy as Algina Moonias assists him.



Spiritual renewal: 6000 people waded into Lake St. Anne to receive the healing gifts during the pilgrimage.

A TIME FOR

It was an odyssey of faith, a time for spiritual renewal, and a chance to cleanse the soul and heal the spirit.

For six days from July 22 to 27, thousands of Native people came to Lac Ste. Anne from far and wide to share what was truly an intense and deeply profound religious experience.

For the Native community, it was a time to rejoice as one, bearing witness to their God in a cycle of devotions, prayers and masses.

To many of those who came, the infirm and the troubled, the pilgrimage renewed their faith in miracles and the power of healing.

The 'blessing of the lake' was a moving testimonial of human drama, a test of faith for all those who journeyed to this holy shrine on its 100th anniversary.

The strong wept, the sick silently prayed, and even the blind raised their hands to commune with their maker. They believed in miracles.

And they found it like their ancestors on a journey to a tiny hamlet named Lac Ste. Anne.

Photos by Bert Crowfoot and Gary Gee



A Solemn moment: An elder sits solemnly before the shrine of St. Anne.



Family sharing: Angelie Linklater of Brocket, Manitoba is assisted by her grandchildren.

LAC STE. ANNE'S 100th ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE



...g gifts during the blessing of the lake Tuesday.



Seeing the light: Fort Chipewyan resident Pauline Martin, who is blind, praises the lord while Madeline Scannie lends a hand.

R HEALING ...



A treasured moment: Father Gilles Gauthier and Bishop Roy give blessing as they make their way back to shore.

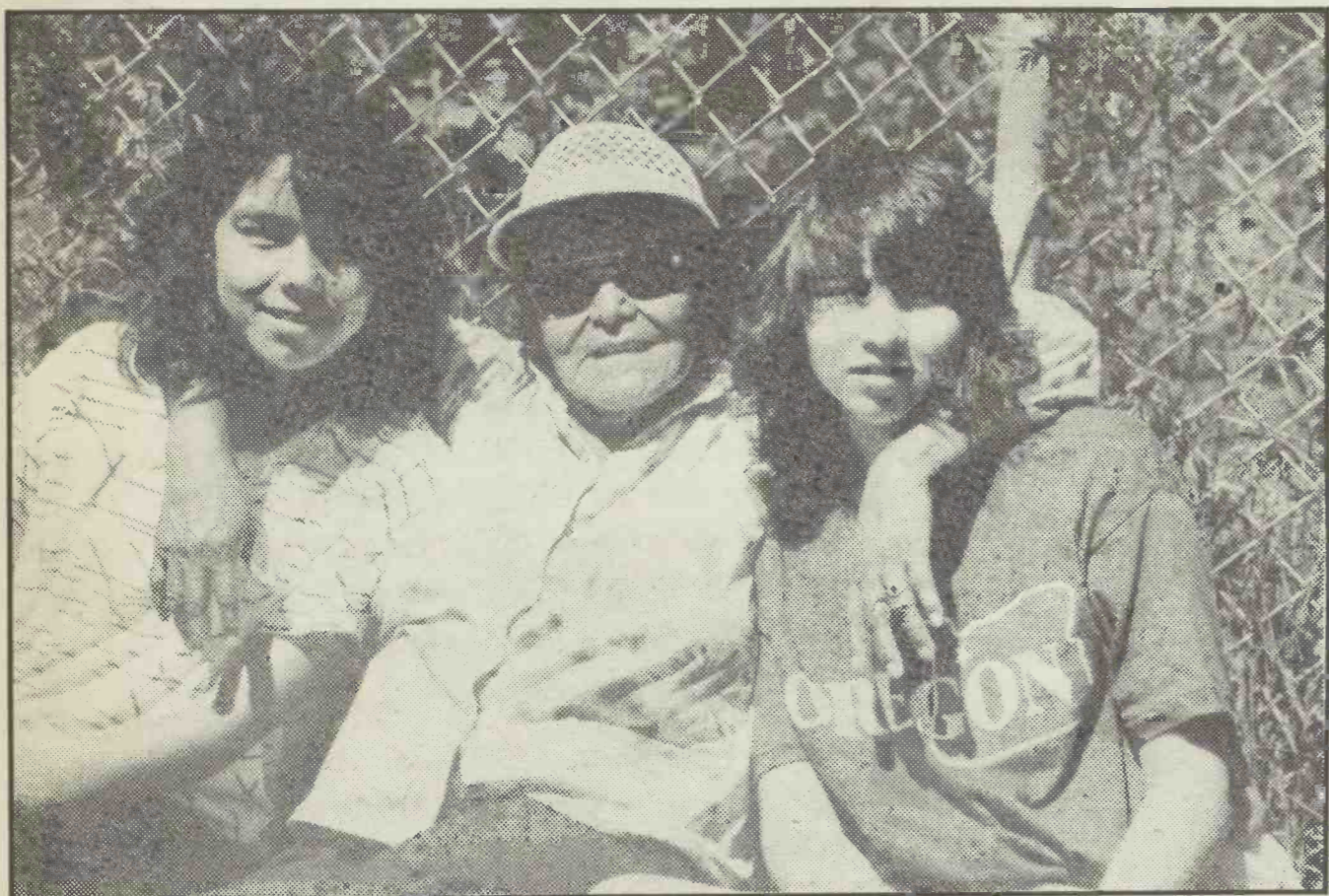


A moment remembered: A prayer group.



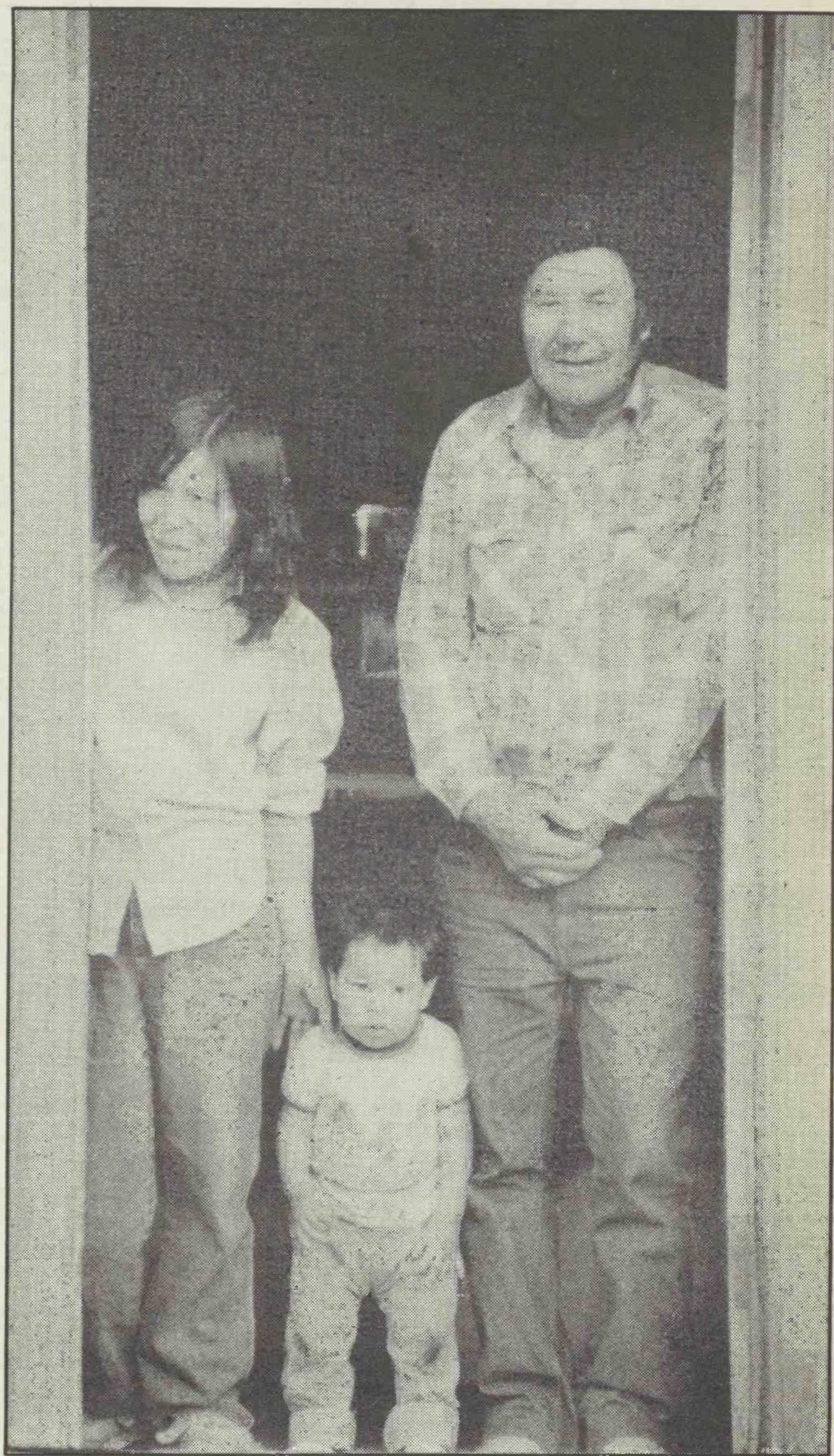
A march of faith: The procession to the lake.

THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION



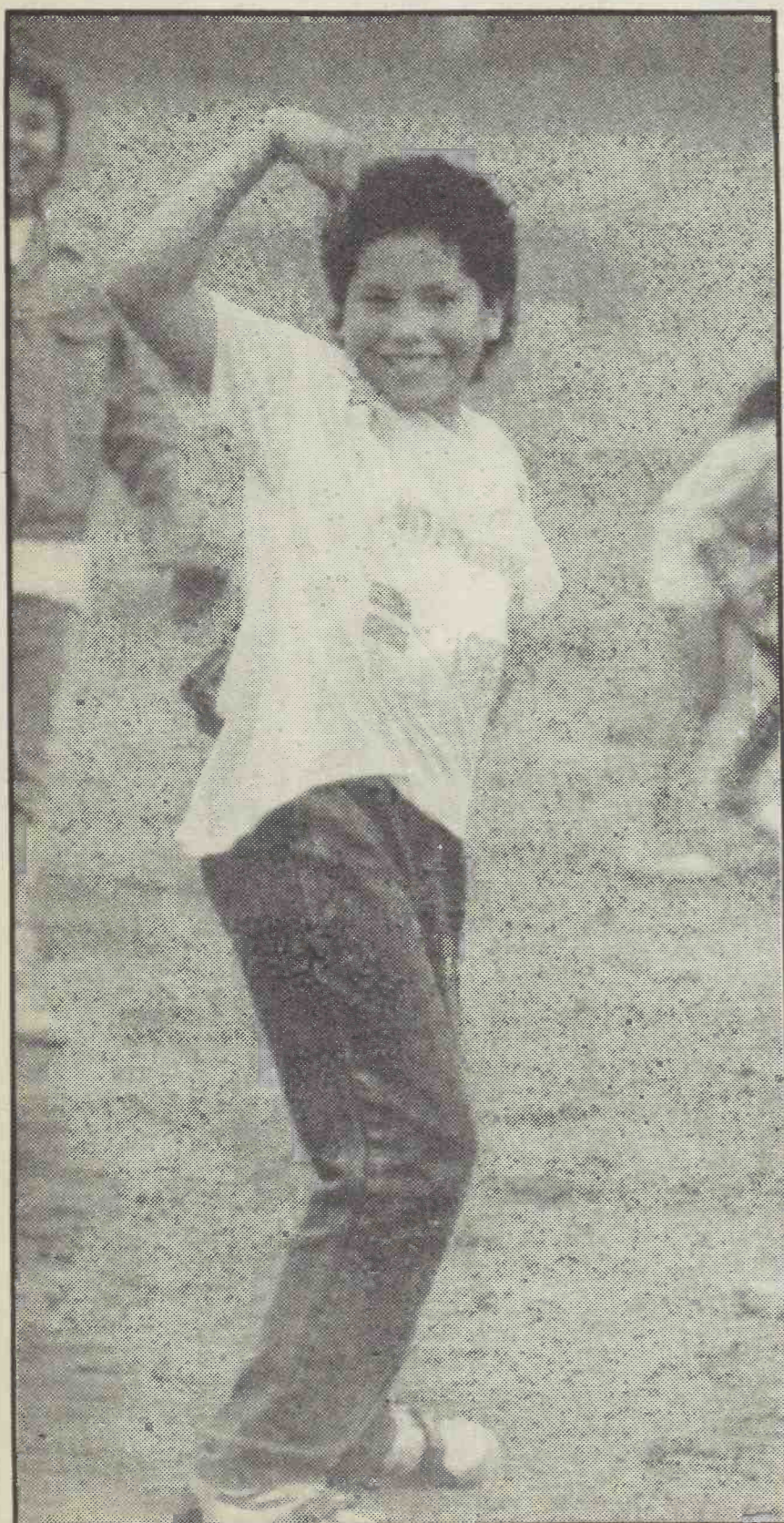
Elder Madeline Potts never misses an Alexis softball game. The 60-year-old elder is the team's head cheerleader and most ardent supporter. Here, she jokes with players Patricia Potts (left) and Alison Mustus.

Reflections from the rear view mirror...



The isolated community of Susa Creek is as serene as its people. Here, the McDonald Family, who have lived in the area all their lives, take a peek outdoors.

Photos by
Gary Gee



At a recent baseball game in Marlboro, this outgoing boy showed off for the camera.



Leo Belcourt has spent most of his adult life in the Metis community of Marlboro. Like most of his neighbors, it has been a life of hard work, struggling to make ends meet and carving out a living. Here, he stands in his chicken coop, where he has raised chickens and turkeys for the past few years.

THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION

PROFILE: GRANDE CACHE

Teens meet suicide issue head on

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

GRANDE CACHE, Alta.

Young people in this community of 4,000 are helping each other cope as they attempt to force the sensitive issue of youth suicide out into the open.

Behind the glitzy tourism advertisements promoting a vacation paradise of peace and tranquility, lies a darker side of life in this scenic tourist town, nestled near the Rocky Mountains.

Alcoholism, drug abuse and teen suicide are problems which are well-known in Grande Cache but kept out of public view.

Suicide by youth, particularly Native kids, is one of those problems that is rarely talked about.

"Shoved under the carpet," is the way long-time resident Edna Delorme describes it.

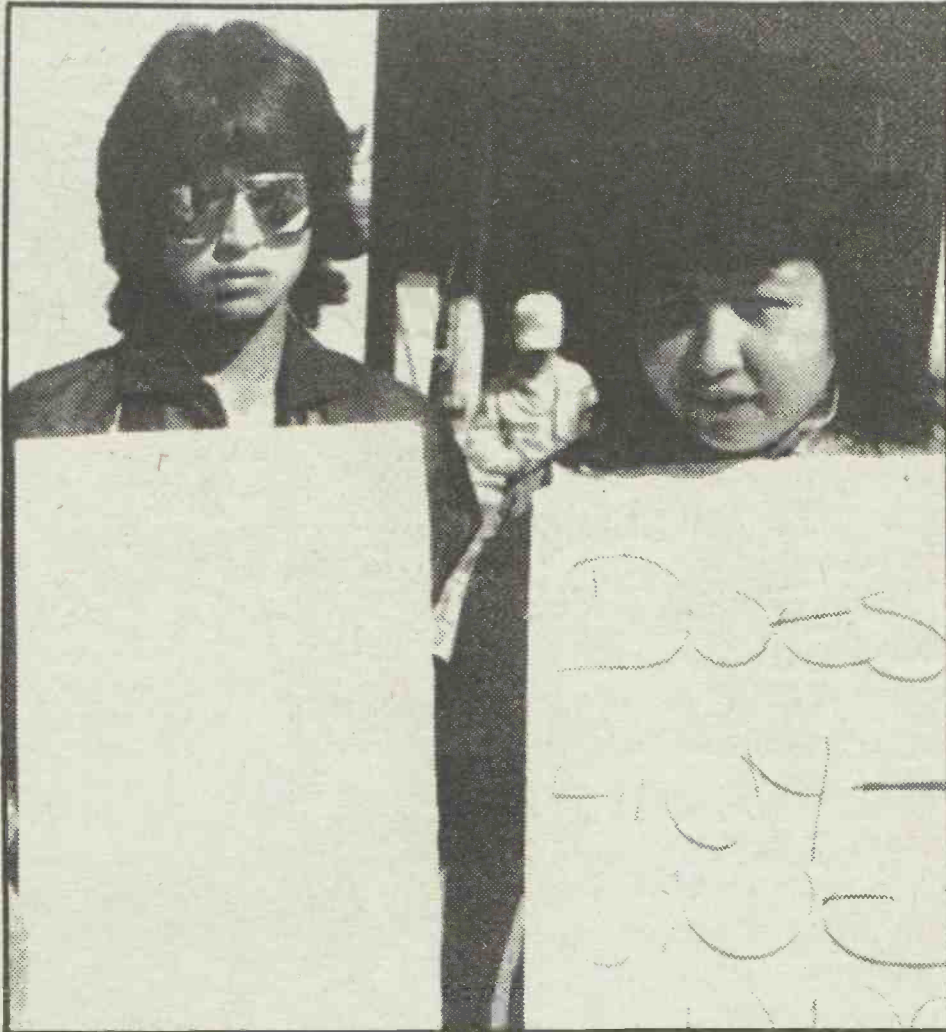
"I'm sure people see it. Everyone's not blind. But if you talk about it, you have to feel it. And that's uncomfortable. But the problems are getting worse," says the former youth counsellor.

In the past three years, three Native youth have committed suicide, including a 12-year-old boy.

On May 30, Wayne Moberly, a popular student at Grande Cache Junior-Senior High School, took his own life. He was 16 years old.

It was his tragic death which caused many people in the community to mobilize and attempt to find some answers to a very serious problem.

Moberly, who was taken from his natural home at



Taking action: School mates Diane Delorme and Paul Wanyandie

age nine by Alberta Social Services and shuffled through seven different homes before his death, had apparently told his friends he planned to take his own life.

No one, including his social workers, however, detected any suicidal tendencies until it was too late.

Since his death, the most determined response has come from young people in the community.

Classmates of Moberly have formed the first peer support group for troubled youth in the area.

Run solely by the youths, they meet regularly to talk to each other about what is happening in their lives.

"This is a place where young people can turn to for emotional support," says 18-year-old Diane Delorme, who believes the peer support may prevent further suicides.

According to Delorme, this is the first time that a support group has been formed to address the problem of youth suicide in the community. The group of 15 to 20 youths, non-Native and Native, have been meeting every week for the past month.

The group is called SPADE which stands for Suicide, Problems, Alcohol, Drugs and Emotions.

While there are three adults who are involved in the group, they serve only as a sounding board for the youths, says Stacey Simonson, who helped organize the group.

"It's up to the group whether adults should be present or not," she said.

Simonson believes such a group could have helped Wayne Moberly. "Young people need someone to turn to instead of turning to alcohol or drugs ... or committing suicide."

Edna Delorme says the formation of the group is a very positive first step in tackling the problem of suicide, but only a first step.

"We're going in the right direction. But there definitely has to be more done," said Delorme, who would like to see a permanent Native family support worker in the community.

One of the biggest problems, facing Native youth, says Delorme, is poor communication within the family in addition to alcoholism, violence, and many times, sexual abuse found in many Native families.

"In most Native homes, there isn't any communication, particularly when it's alcohol-related. For a young person, emotionally, there's no place for them to go."

Having lived in the Grande Cache area all her life, Delorme notes there are few Natives who die a natural death in this community.

"I can't remember many. It's usually an accident, often alcohol-related or suicide."

"When they have funerals in Grande Cache, it's usually a Native funeral," said her husband Craig Howard, a local teacher.

"And it's not a very big Native community, with 450 people," he noted.

The community has suggested that local Native representatives sit on Alberta Social Service's Native child welfare committee in Grande Cache so cases like Wayne Moberly's won't be repeated.

"This one is hand-picked by Social Services. We want our community involved, someone who is from here and knows the Native community," says Diane Delorme.

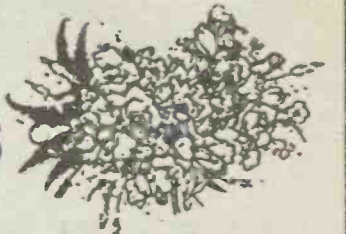
For Edna Delorme, now a mother of two, the question of suicide has also not been far from her own mind, growing up as a Metis youth.

"I was suicidal in my teens and nobody cared. I had to work it out on my own," acknowledged Delorme.

"Nothing's ever been done about this in the Native community or the white community here," she declared.

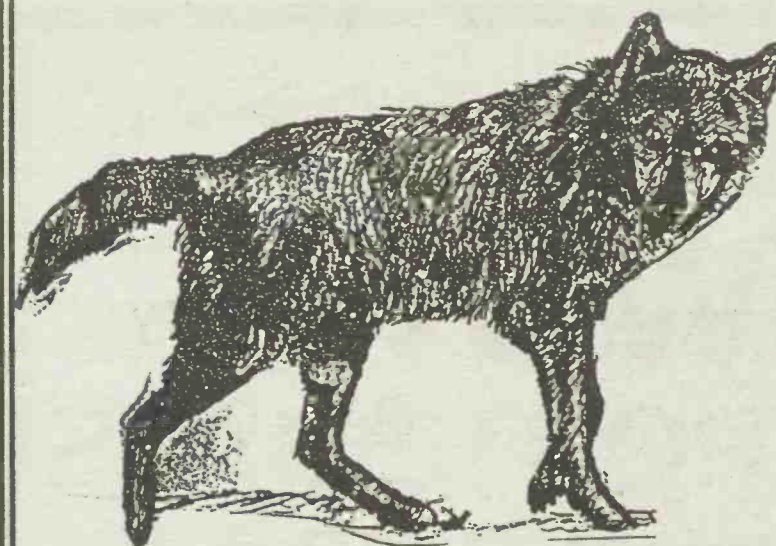
"For a lot of young people, somebody has to get through that barrier and reach out to them. Otherwise, suicides will keep on happening, unless somebody shows they care."

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THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION

Youth find answers at conference

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

ALEXANDER, Alta

Expressing a hope for a brighter future, 500 youths from five Indian bands near Edmonton met recently to tackle the collective problems of alcoholism, drug abuse and suicide on their reserves.

The youths were part of the fourth annual Eagle Flight Youth Conference held this month at the Alexander reserve, 40 km northwest of Edmonton.

The conference, organized by the Yellowhead

Tribal Council, annually brings young Native people together to discuss the serious challenges facing them in their lives today.

Young people from the Alexis, Alexander, Enoch, O'Chiese and Sunchild bands participated in meetings with elders, traditional Indian ceremonies and sessions on increasing their self-esteem and awareness about being Native.

Included in those discussions was a session on youth suicide, which youth conference co-ordinator Anita Arcand says is a serious problem in the five

bands that make up the tribal council.

"There have been a lot of suicides, about three to four deaths on each reserve and almost all of them alcohol-related," she observed.

"It gets scary. They (the youth) are constantly grieving."

Arcand says the council takes a preventative approach towards helping young Native people deal with alcohol and drug abuse by offering them alternatives.

A torch relay kicked off the youth conference when 40 youths from the five bands carried a torch 241 kilometres to the conference to create a sense of unity among the participants.

Arcand said a number of young people came up to her and indicated they would give up alcohol and drugs to run the relay. So the council plans to organize a mini-summer games to keep that interest alive.

Youth consultant Don Burnstick, who grew up on the Alexander reserve, said the youth conferences began four years ago to deal with alcohol and drug

abuse by young people.

"We found if we strengthened the young people's identity, that's prevention itself," he explained.

Burnstick believes most Native kids cannot deal with the culture shock of growing up in two different worlds, on the reserve and outside of it.

"It gets confusing. Their Native but don't want to be Native. The more they go into a world they're unfamiliar with, the more they lose their identity."

"So they lose themselves and their Nativeness. That's why it was important for us to re-introduce them to the elders and their traditions," he said.

Each morning, the youths participated in sweatlodges and pipe ceremonies and for many, it was their first interaction with Native elders, noted Burnstick.

"Our strength is our identity. I think the awareness alone helped them. If we can get a group of young people together to change, then maybe it can change a community," he said.

PROFILE: ALEXANDER RESERVE



GARY GEE, Windspeaker

Yellowhead Youth Conference: A good-bye until next time

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8:00-10:00 p.m. ROUND DANCE/TRADITIONAL, SFC downstairs/grounds

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THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION

Centre a 'beacon of hope' for Natives

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDSON, Alta.

It has been called a 'beacon of hope' by Native people in Edson.

For many, particularly the destitute and wayward, the Edson Friendship Centre, is often the last place they turn to for help.

On any given day, the centre is used as a transit station, a social relief agency, a hot-soup kitchen or a refuge for the homeless by many of the 800 Native people in the community as well as the non-Native community.

Val Findlay has seen it all since the centre was started in 1984.

"Most Native people here are in need," said Findlay, the group's volunteer vice-president.

"You get everyone, families in crisis who need money to buy food. So we give them emergency funds and accomodation if they need it."

"I've seen a lot of kids

come in hungry so we've fed them. They're 10 and 11 years-old. Some of them are sexually abused and have no place to go. This place has always been open for everybody," notes Findlay.

On a number of occasions, the centre has been used for funeral for those Native people unable to afford the cost.

"We'll open up the centre and provide lunch afterwards," she said.

That kind of charity and generosity has typified the response of the volunteers who work at the centre since its inception.

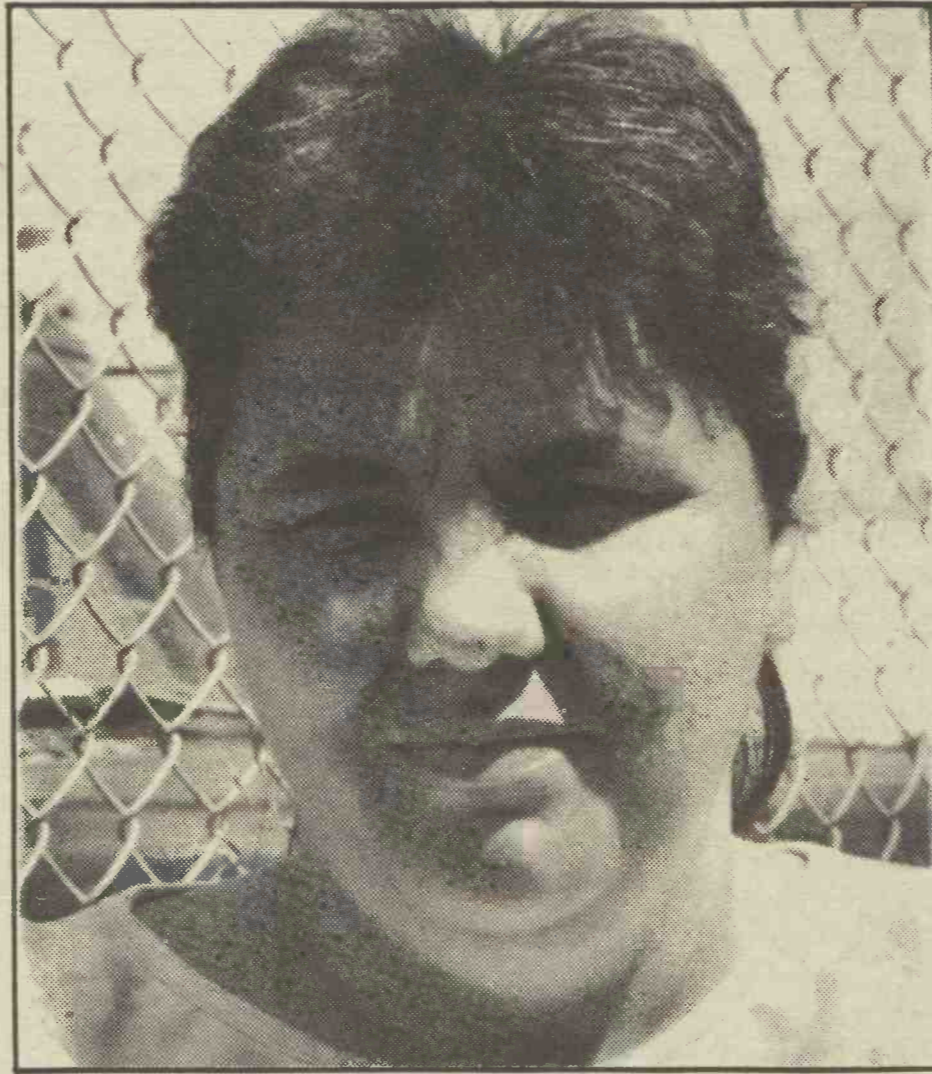
Sprung from a belief in people's willingness to help others, the centre was born out of a need by local Natives who wanted a distinct voice within the larger community.

Today, its membership numbers well over 300 and its services have expanded to serve both the non-Native and Native population.

Its accomplishments in the last five years include the establishment of an Annual Cultural Days and Native Princess Pageant in Edson, attended by over 2,000 people every year.

The centre's board was also instrumental in having the local school board hire a Native liaison worker and a Cree language instructor, as part of an educational liaison pro-

PROFILE: EDSON



Val Findlay: Helping people her reward

gram to bridge the cultural gap with the non-Native community.

As a resource centre, it offers a job re-entry training program, a housing registry, a social services outreach program, and a library on Native culture.

The centre also has a youth council, which president Sharron Johnstone, says is an integral part of the centre who have volunteered hundreds of hours in centre activities.

She believes many of the Native children have changed their attitudes

about themselves because people at the centre do care about their lives.

Val Findlay, a mother of two, agrees. "This is a place where my two daughters can come to. They're not out on the street. My reward is knowing that I've helped somebody."

Correction

In a June 2 special section of Windspeaker, a story on marathon runner Darryl McKay made reference to drinking and partying in the Dene Tha' band. The reference was misinterpreted. The Dene Tha' band was not the band in question referred to by Mr. McKay.

Our apologies to the Dene Tha' band and Mr. McKay.



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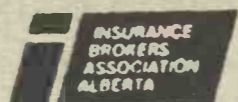
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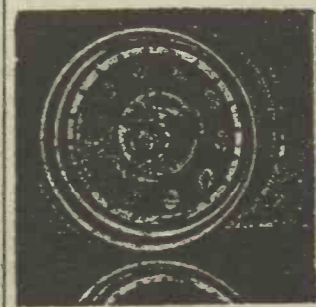
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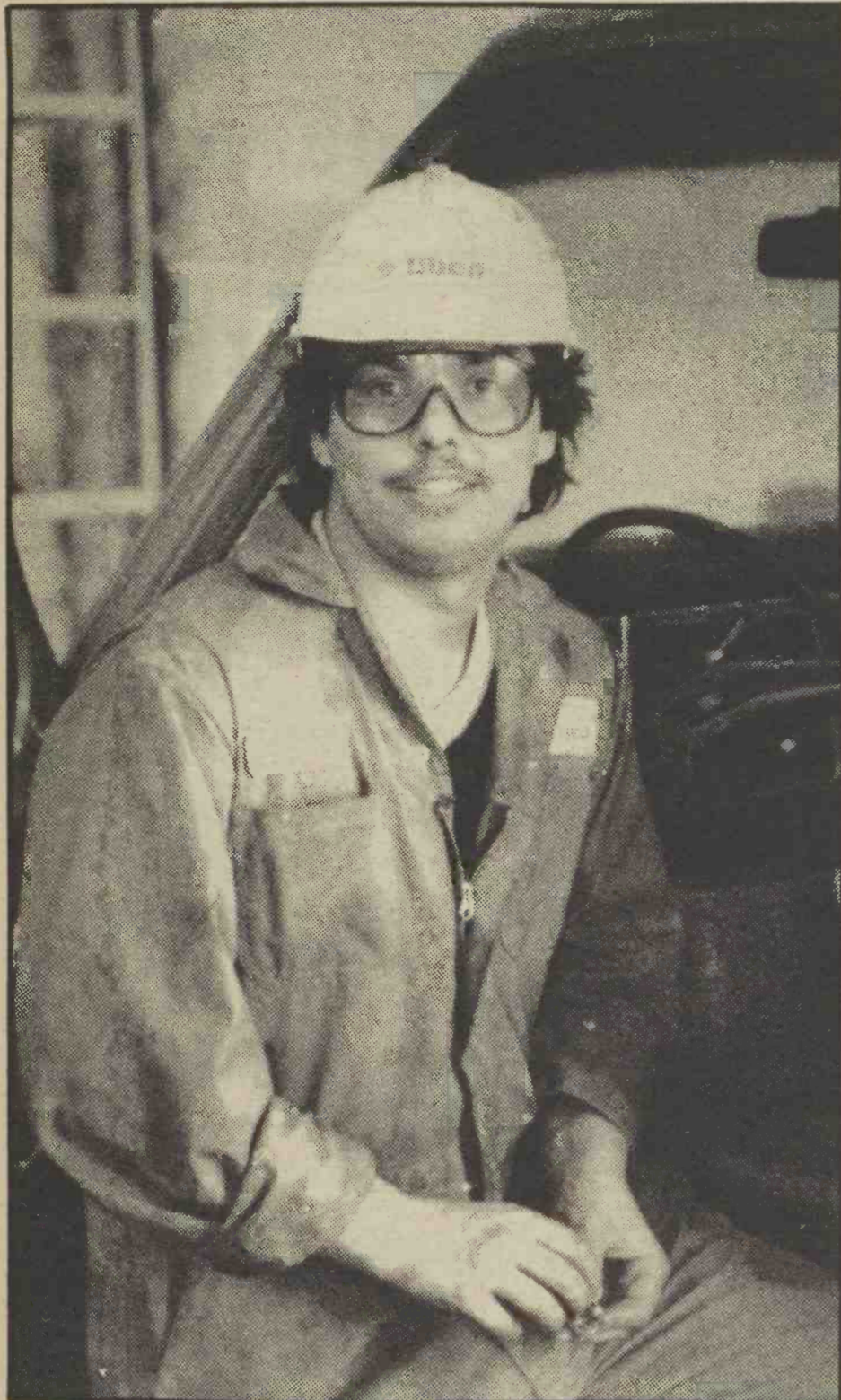
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THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION

PROFILE: HINTON

Work program helping native workers



Art Bunning: A chance to prove himself

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HINTON, Alta.

A work program to train Native people for skilled work in the Hinton area is paying dividends for its employer and employees.

Obed Mountain Coal Company, located 24 km northeast of Hinton, has been working in conjunction with the town's Native Outreach program to target Native people who have a high rate of unemployment.

After three months of operation, Obed management is re-evaluating the long-term potential of the eight-month program which is subsidized by Canada manpower.

Craig Acott, Obed's mine manager, says the workers have performed extremely well and future plans may include looking at training more Native workers.

Obed, one of the few non-unionized mine companies in the Hinton area, is the first one to implement such a program.

"These workers were

hired as extra people in temporary positions. As it turned out, we got excellent people. We're looking for self-starters, people with initiative. That's why we're so pleased with the three we have. So we plan to incorporate them into our regular staff," Acott said.

Depending on market fluctuations, Obed has a staff of 35 temporary workers, none who have been laid off since November, 1987. It has a permanent staff of 139 workers, with about 12 Native workers.

All three Native workers hired by the company would be recommended for permanent placement at the end of the eight-month program, Acott said.

The company usually doesn't hire permanent staff who don't have a journeyman's ticket but the three have proven there can be exceptions, he said.

When the company opened operations in 1984 to produce coal, 2,000 applications for mine operators came flooding in.

Of that total, only three came from women, Acott said. And none possessed

the qualifications to do the job, he noted.

Now, it appears with the Native training program in place, Obed will have its first female mine operator.

"The person we hired is competing against people who have ten years of experience on heavy equipment. It's difficult. But we've never had one with the mechanical aptitude that she has," Acott said.

Of the two other Natives hired, one works in the mine and the other in the maintenance department.

For 23-year-old Arthur Bunning, the program has given him a chance to prove himself after being unable to find work in the construction industry.

Bunning works as a mechanic's helper but wants to apprentice to become a journeyman mechanic with the company.

The program has helped him learn new job skills and improve his outlook on life.

"I've been learning something since day one. It's a good place to work. It's steady employment. It's the best job I've had," said Bunning, who has been working since dropping out of school in Grade nine.

He says it's the first time in years he's worked in a company that treats its employees well.

Bunning, who is Metis, feels lucky he has such a position.

"I think there's a lot of people that deserve the chance, but don't get it. Now that I have the chance, it's all up to me.

Yvonne Kaskamin, director of Hinton's Native Outreach, says the office would like to see the program continued on a regular basis.

She said the program is a "golden opportunity" for unskilled Native people to train for more skilled positions.

"This is an example for the rest of the Native communities. I think it could be done elsewhere."

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August 19 & 20, 1989

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THE PEOPLE OF THE YELLOWHEAD REGION

Stoney Indians at Alexis going back to roots

By Gary Gee
Windspeaker Staff Writer

ALEXIS RESERVE, Alta.

Respect for the traditional teachings of elders is making a revival on Alexis reserve, 80 kilometres northeast of Edmonton.

By September, a new senior citizen's home will allow eight of the reserve's oldest citizens to live in peace and comfort.

Other developments include an elder's lodge which recently opened and a new school which is under construction and expected to open for classes by September, 1990.

The school will incorporate the language and history of the Stoney Indians into its curriculum, allowing the band to have more control over its own education.

Alexis Chief Howard



Alexis elder's centre: Opening in September

Mustus says only in the past few years have band members begun to understand and appreciate the contribution of its own elders and give them the recognition they are due.

"We don't have many elders. We've just started using the wisdom they have. For a long time, they were a forgotten people, even in our own community," he acknowledged.

Consequently, many elders segregated themselves away from the rest of the band, he noted.

"Young people are utilizing elder's wisdom. We lost that for a couple of decades," he said.

The new senior's home is a recognition of the elder's contribution, says Mustus. The home will cater to all the needs of the most disabled and elderly seniors in the band.

Marceline Potts, a 60-year-old elder, says the project was conceived six years ago, recognizing there was a need for such a facility.

"Some of our elders can't help themselves. So we'll cook, feed them, and take them for visits to their relatives," she said.

The new drop-in centre serves as an activity centre where elders can spend the day doing crafts or simply meeting their friends.

Potts says, for the first time, the elder's council will have a regular place to meet and to set their goals.

Among those goals is to assist young Native people on the reserve to find a positive direction in their lives.

"We want to help our children plan their futures, to finish school and to make something of themselves," says Potts.

"We're trying to tell

them not to do drugs or alcohol. They need us a lot and we can help them with our prayers. There's a lot of changes going on here. And I believe young people are getting more interested in their culture."

While both the senior citizen's home and the drop-in centre are completed, a shortage of funds has caused the band to search for funds to furnish the two facilities before they can be fully functional.

The band plans to apply to the federal department of Indian Affairs for an operating grant and a fund-raising drive on the reserve has begun.



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- Flamebusters (La Loche, Sask.)
- Justice (Beauval, Sask.)
- Roadhouse (Ontario)
- Weekend Warriors (Valleyview, Alta.)

Individual Performers

- Valmore Corrigan
- Lori-Ann Church
- Ray Fox
- Donald Corrigan
- Ron Eldridge
- Julie Greyeyes
- Gerry Greyeyes
- Nap Gardiner
- David Durocher
- Lisa Lambert

● Also we intend to invite the Summer Games Talent Show winners. ● We also intend to invite previous Jamboree Talent Show Winners to play.

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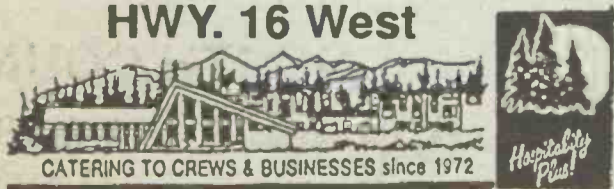
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GRASSROOTS

Metis family band sticks together

By Jeanne Lepine
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

The Fourth Generation Band, have been practicing and studying music for a number of years. Today, the hard work looks as if it's paying off.

The St. Jean family are Metis from St Paul. The family has just returned from the Craven Jamboree in Craven Sask. where they were the crowd's favorites. Craven is 30 km west of Regina.

The St. Jean band feel that their performance will warrant them to play on the big stage next year.

Returning doesn't mean they will be sitting at home. This band keeps busy and are booked in advance.

They will be playing at the tumblers lounge in Edmonton this week.

Juggling school and success is taking its toll on the children, ranging from 14-20 years.

Their mother, Frances, says the children will probably have to take correspondence this year in order to keep up with their studies.

Darlene, 21, who played

keyboards recently left the band to pursue a career in law. She is a third-year student at the University of Alberta.

"I would not stand in the way of any of my children if they decide they would rather do something other than play music. Darlene was not entirely happy playing in the band, law was her first love," her father Sonny said.

Her replacement, Terry Taylor is from Napa, Alberta. and has eight-years experience on the keyboards. Taylor has been playing with the band for a month now and enjoys it.

Taylor is not just a band member, she has become part of the family. She has resided with the family since she joined the band.

"She fits into the family perfectly and I take her as part of the family. We are all proud of her," Sonny said.

The band is headed by vocalist Karen, 18, with Gene, 20, on lead guitar and fiddle. David, 15, plays bass guitar while Sarah, 14, the drums.

The band members have learned to listen to each other and this has created a better band out of them, Karen said.



The St. Jean family: Shooting for the stars.

They know the importance of practicing and sticking together.

In order to please a diverse audience, the St. Jean's learned to play a variety of music. They play blues, country, '50 and '60's rock and contemporary new sounds.

The band usually rehearse three to five times a week.

Their dedication has paid off, with exposure on stage and television.

They have been on stage at the Craven Jamboree, the

CFCW sound stage, Klondike days, ACT telethon, Between Two Worlds, Native Nashville North and numerous local benefits.

They have worked with Buffy Saint-Marie, the C-Weed band, Laura Vinson, and duo Anita Perras and Tim Taylor.

The band is still young but they are planning their musical direction.

They want to do a recording within a year.

The children have had a

lot of direction from dad, who played in a rock band as a young lad.

Frances always sang and helped Karen with the vocals.

Sonny's cousin, Roy Houle, played the guitar and was a big help to Gene.

This is truly a family affair.

When the young band is on stage, Sonny controls the mixing board while Frances handles the lights.

When asked how they handle success, Sonny said

they are still working at success.

"We are not at our peak yet," he admits.

Frances and Sonny recognize the talents of their children and with the guidance of their parents, the family will pursue their goal of becoming good, if not great entertainers in the future.

"Our ultimate goal is involving our people with music and brotherhood for the Metis, Indian, and White (non-natives)," Sonny said.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Edmonton office of the **Alberta Native Womens Association** will be closed for the summer months July 4 to September 4, 1989.

In Case Of Emergency - Please Call 328-2395

Notice of Hearing For Permanent Guardianship To: Sheila Brown

Take notice that on the 8th day of August at 9:30 a.m. a hearing will take place in Edmonton Family Court, Courtroom No. 41. A Director under the Child Welfare Act, will make an application for permanent guardianship of your child, born on August 5, 1982. You are requested to be present at the hearing. You have the right to be represented by legal counsel. An Order may be made in your absence, and you have the right to appeal the Order within 30 days from the date the Order is made.

Contact:
Connie Doerkson

Alberta Family and Social Services (city) Edmonton
Telephone: 431-6726

Notice of Temporary Guardianship To: Sheila Brown

Take notice that an application for Temporary Guardianship of your children, born on May 19, 1977, March 4, 1979, September 29, 1980, will be made on August 8th at 9:30 a.m. in Edmonton Family Court, Courtroom No. 41.

Contact:
Connie Doerkson
Alberta Family and Social Services, (city) Edmonton
Telephone: 431-6726

Addictions Counsellor

Our Peace River Area Office is seeking a creative, self-motivated individual to work as a Generalist. In this role, you will initiate, develop and deliver programs based upon assessed community needs. You will provide appropriate counselling and referral services to individuals, families and groups.

Qualifications: Bachelor's level degree related to the Social Sciences or a two year Social Services diploma. Some related experience is preferred. Driver's license is required as some travel is involved.

Salary: \$24,804.00 - \$31,092.00 per annum.

Competition Number: AADAC 61/89 closes August 11, 1989.

Obtain application forms at your nearest AADAC Office and return completed forms, OR resume, quoting competition number, to:

Human Resources
ALBERTA ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION
2nd Floor, 10909 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 3M9
Phone: 427-7935

AADAC is a smoke-free employer

AADAC

NADC Public Forum

Grande Cache
7:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 15, 1989
Union Hall

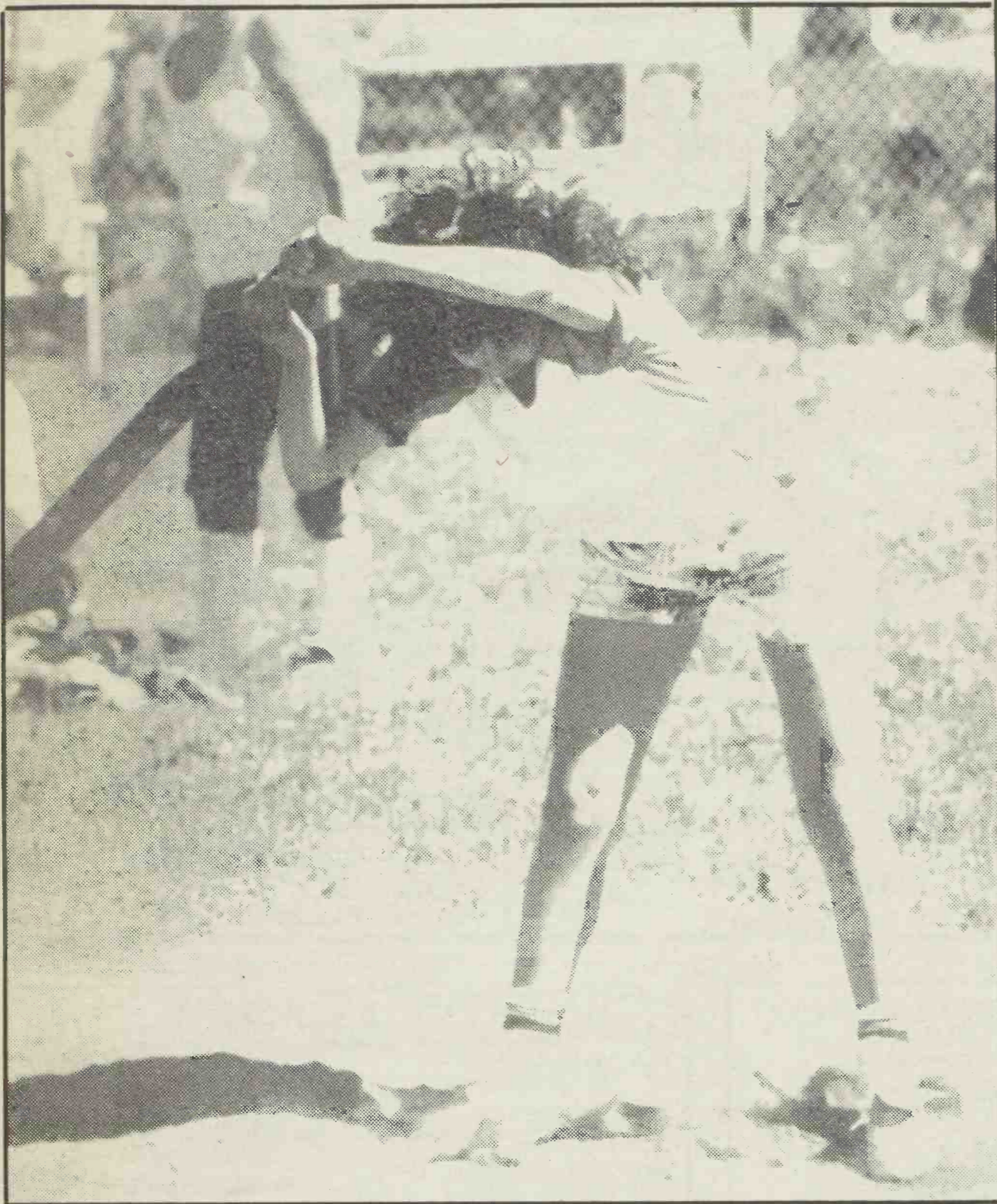
The Northern Alberta Development Council holds regular public meetings throughout Northern Alberta, giving everyone the opportunity to present briefs on matters of concern and general information.

The Council consists of ten members and is chaired by Bob Elliott, MLA for Grande Prairie.

Groups or individuals interested in making submissions at this meeting may contact the Northern Development Branch in Peace River at 624-6274 for assistance.



SPORTS & LEISURE



BERT CROWFOOT, Windspeaker

Too close for comfort...

Delores Raine of the Paul Band Skyhawks successfully dodged a close pitch in the ladies' championship game of the Alexis Band Sports Days. The Skyhawks eventually won the tournament defeating the Alexis Starfighters 12-7. The Starfighters had forced a second championship game by dumping the Skyhawks 5-1 in the true double knockout tournament. In the men's draw, the Alexander PitBulls defeated the Onoway squad 3-2 to win the championship game.

Bullets beat Spruce Grove Stars:

Silver bullets blaze

By Lyle Donald
Windspeaker Correspondent

ENOCH, Alta.
The Kehewin Silver Bullets are shooting stars after they went undefeated in the final game of the first annual Bruce and Delphine Gladue Memorial Slow-pitch Tournament.

The Bullets beat the Spruce Grove Stars 9-7 in the final game of the tournament, held last weekend in Enoch.

The tournament drew 12 teams and was classed as a modified slow-pitch, which means that pitchers do not have to loop the ball when throwing the ball.

Tournament organizer Evelyn Marchand said she and her family got together and decided to put the tournament on in memory of their late parents Bruce and Delphine Gladue.

"It was a well run tournament," said Silver Bullets catcher Wayne Youngchief, who was glad his team made it to the final game.

The Silver Bullets won \$1,000 along with a championship trophy for their first-place finish.

On the "B" side, the Martels Marauders of Enoch walked all over the

Kehewin Top Guns 29-3.

Even though it was a lop-sided match right from the start, the Top Guns showed what good sports they were by finishing the game.



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ALBERTA VOCATIONAL CENTRE - LESSER SLAVE LAKE
\$11.38 - \$12.31 per hour

We require a self-motivated individual in Calling Lake to assist in the planning, preparation and implementation of a mobile treatment program. Direction for this program is based on the Mobile Treatment Proposal from the Community Initiatives to Conquer Alcohol and Drug Abuse Committee. The Coordinator will act as a consultant and facilitator, while enabling the Community Committee to organize and implement the program. Duties will include information gathering and presentation, assistance in short and long term planning, and some public relations or related tasks.

QUALIFICATIONS: Knowledge of addiction issues; experience working in native communities/organizations; strong administration background with very good verbal and written communication skills. Must have a valid driver's license, own transportation and willing to travel. Knowledge of Cree is desirable. The expected duration of this appointment will be sixteen months. **NOTE:** Smoking restrictions are in effect.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: August 2, 1989

PLEASE FORWARD APPLICATIONS AND INQUIRIES TO:

AVC Lesser Slave Lake
Box 1280
Slave Lake, Alberta T0G 2A0
ATTENTION: Marjorie Nolan (403) 849-7191

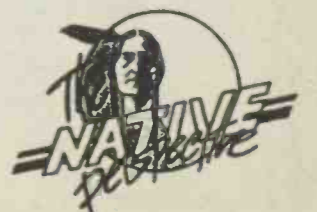


Calgary Stampede Indian Princess Eleanor Crane from the Sarcee reserve is shown here with Joan Manuel at the AMMSA display booth in Calgary.

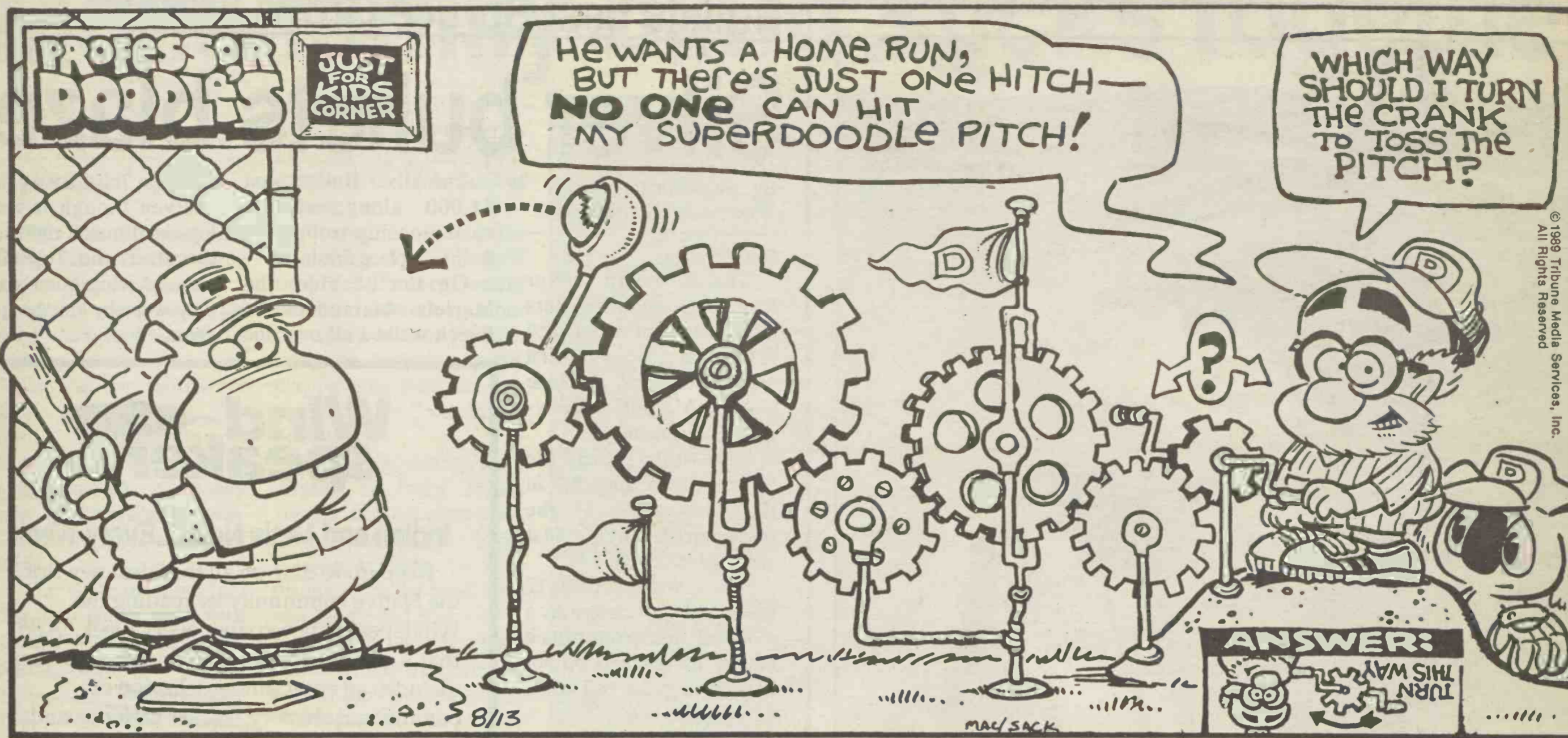
"Thank-you to all the people who stopped to say hello at our booth at the Calgary Stampede. We talked to people from all over the world and got great feedback from our Special Issue - Salute To Treaty Seven."

Winners of our daily draws are:

- July 6 ----- Judy Tovec, Kelowna, B.C. - W/S Cap
- July 7 ----- Yvonne Blackhorse, Gleichen, AB - W/S Jacket
- July 8 ----- David Percy, Calgary, AB - N/P Tape
- July 9 ----- Randy Lamaureux, Calgary, AB - N/P Cap
- July 10 ----- Irene Kirk, Calgary, AB - W/S Sweatshirt
- July 11 ----- Elmer Crowley, Edmonton, AB - W/S Cap
- July 12 ----- John Wadleigh, Kelowna, B.C. - W/S Jacket
- July 13 ----- Rennu Paul, Calgary, AB - N/P Tape
- July 14 ----- Linda Neasel, Calgary, AB - N/P Cap
- July 15 ----- Stan Nykiel, Calgary, AB - W/S Sweatshirt
- July 16 ----- Glenn Zaption, Calgary, AB - W/S Cap



CHILDREN'S PAGE



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WEIRD BUT TRUE!
 GEORGE WASHINGTON'S TROOPS PLAYED AN EARLY VERSION OF BASEBALL AT VALLEY FORGE IN 1778!
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Send me a Riddle
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 A. TO FIGHT THE TRAFFIC.
 JOHN DOROBA, STURGEON BAY, WI
 Q. WHY DON'T SNAKES USE SILVERWARE?
 A. BECAUSE THEY HAVE FORKED TONGUES.
 SARA LAMSON, MARTINEZ, CA

PRINCE ALBERT INDIAN & METIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE
 Prince Albert Saskatchewan

1989-POW-WOW
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	Ladies Golden Age (50 & over)	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Men's Traditional	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Ladies Traditional	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Men's Grass	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Ladies Jingle	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Men's Fancy	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Ladies Fancy	500.00	300.00	100.00
	Jr. Boys Traditional (11 - 16)	100.00	75.00	50.00
	Jr. Girls Traditional (11 - 16)	100.00	75.00	50.00
	Jr. Boys Grass (11 - 16)	100.00	75.00	50.00
	Jr. Girls Jingle (11 - 16)	100.00	75.00	50.00
	Jr. Boys Fancy (11 - 16)	100.00	75.00	50.00
	Jr. Girls Fancy (11 - 16)	100.00	75.00	50.00
	Boys Traditional (10 & under)	50.00	40.00	30.00
	Girls Traditional (10 & under)	50.00	40.00	30.00
	Boys Fancy (10 & under)	50.00	40.00	30.00
	Girls Fancy (10 & under)	50.00	40.00	30.00

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