

Bray #1374
NIT-OR-NA-40

INSIDE THIS WEEK

Wind speaker

July 8, 1988

Volume 6 No. 18



■ Poundmaker/Nechi hosts another successful powwow during the Canada Day long weekend. See pages 10 & 11.



■ Hobbema woman joins a national advisory committee on preventing family violence. See page 2.

Flood dampens Dene Tha' assembly causing the event to be cancelled

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

ASSUMPTION, Alta.

A flood warning was not on the agenda of the Dene Tha' General Assembly held at Assumption, 900 km north of Edmonton, June 27 through July 1, that saw 41 families evacuated from their homes because of heavy rains which threatened the areas and caused Sousa Creek to overflow its banks.

Poor weather that began on the second day (June 28) of the assembly eventually turned away many people who had travelled from as far away as the Northwest Territories, Mission, British Columbia and Big River, Saskatchewan to attend the annual event.

The Sousa Creek which had risen 1.7 metres since the rain began on June 28, was expected to rise another 1.2 metres and overflow its banks, but on July 4, the one week downpour was replaced by sunny skies and much of the flood water had subsided.

"The first prairie where families live was okay. It was the second and third prairies where families lived

that worried us, so we evacuated them. Today, it's nice and sunny and if this weather keeps up, people will be able to go back home shortly," said Pius Didzena from Assumption.

Didzena added that a dance will be held for all the families involved in the evacuation "to lift up their spirits" after their ordeal.

Most of the Assumption Reserve because of its location, in a low lying plains area, is susceptible to floods. When bad weather lasts for days a flood watch is always out because of the threat. "We take no chances in this kind of weather," said Didzena who acknowledged that Assumption had been hit before and people evacuated several times over the years because of flooding.

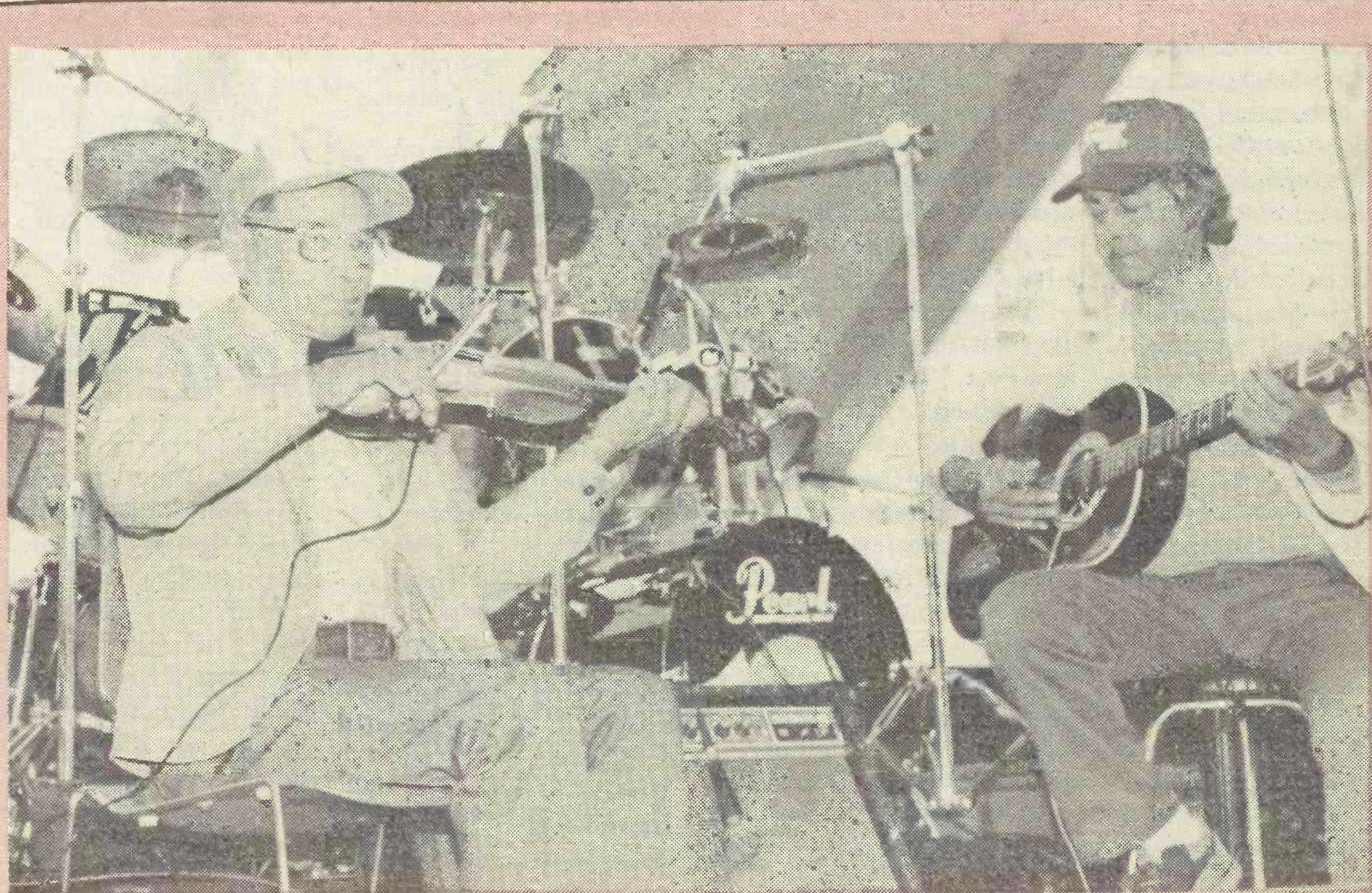
"The same thing happened last year. It rained and rained and finally everyone went home," said Recreation Director Lorne Metchooyeah, elaborating on the cancellation of the general assembly because of the stormy weather.

Prior to the flood warning, Metchooyeah said the poor weather could be looked at, "as a blessing.

"Historically, visitors travelled long distances to attend tea dances and gatherings. To have rain or snow accompany them, it relates life to migrating birds and animals, so traditionally, it is a blessing," explained Metchooyeah who added that the weather was somewhat of a menace to the few who stayed and braved the storm, "but things can't be perfect all the time."

The first two days of the assembly saw Elders speaking to the youth, traditional dancing and other events take place until the rain cancelled the celebration.

More rain has been forecasted for northern Alberta, which includes the Assumption area, and although Didzena admits a flood warning is still in effect, "the water has subsided and we have sunny skies right now." □



FIDDLIN' AROUND METIS STYLE!

Old time fiddler Richard Calahoo and backup guitarist Art L'Hirondelle entertain the early visitors to the 60th annual assembly of the Metis Association of Alberta in Lac La Biche. Festivities were supposed to kick off on Wednesday, July 6 but due to the rainy weather across the northern half of Alberta the athletic competition called Friends In Sports did not start as anticipated. Also coinciding with the annual assembly is the 200th anniversary of the Lac La

Biche Mission. On the entertainment side of the assembly there will be fiddling and jigging, square dance demonstrations, a Mr. and Mrs. Metis competition and many other things. Also on the busy agenda is the regular meeting of the Metis Association of Alberta which is often filled with decision making and other political functions. Look for more follow-up in the next issue of Windspeaker.

— Photo by Lyle Donald

Legislation will change status of Metis settlements

EDMONTON, Alta.

Solicitor-General Ken Rostad introduced two Bills and filed a resolution on July 5 that will result in dramatic changes to the status 1.28 million acres of Metis settlement lands in Alberta.

In making the announcement, Rostad said, "The introduction of this legislation represents the culmination of a long process that was begun by the Ewing Commission in 1936."

The Ewing Commission was established to inquire

into the health, education and welfare of Alberta's Metis and recommended that lands be set aside for use and occupation by

Metis people. In 1938, the first Metis Settlements were established and the Metis Population Betterment Act was proclaimed. This act, now known as the Metis Betterment Act, has

remained virtually unchanged over the last 50 years.

The MacEwan Commission, a joint Metis and government body, inquired into the possibilities for legislative reform from 1982-1984. The recommendations of the commission led to the Legislative Assembly unanimously endorsing, on June 3, 1985, "A Resolution Concerning an Amendment to the Alberta Act", commonly referred to as Resolution 18.

Subsequently, on June 17, 1987, proposals for revised legislation were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The ensuing discussions and public input regarding these proposals led to the introduction of the current legislation.

The newly-introduced Metis Settlements Act, is a form of enabling legislation that would allow for the gradual devolution of

greater Metis authority by regulation through a blend of municipal legislation, Metis culture, and the customs and practices developed over 50 years.

Also filed with the Legislative Assembly was a Resolution to Amend the Alberta Act that would entrench in the constitution in fee simple ownership of the Metis land by the General Council. Under the terms of the resolution, the grant of land could only be revoked or altered with the consent of both the Metis Settlements General Council and the province.

Metis Federation President Randy Hardy says, "The bills move us one step closer to our goal of constitutionally protecting our land. With this, the Alberta government recognizes the unique nature of our land as a home for Metis. They also recognize the need to protect it for future generations of our people."

Hardy says that govern-

ment recognition and protection of settlement land has been the major goal of the Metis settlement people for more than 40 years. "Protecting our land has been a critical concern since the Manning government wiped out the Wolf Lake Metis settlement in 1960."

Hardy indicated that any negotiated package is less than 100 per cent satisfactory. "However," he says, "we believe that the overall package is good for the settlements and — most important for our people — the land base is protected. From that point of view we believe our 'made in Alberta' approach of working with the province has been more successful than the aboriginal rights efforts at the national level.

He concluded, "I can only hope that the Alberta incentive will help encourage more action at the national level to protect the aboriginal rights or all Native peoples."

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ACROSS OUR LAND

Land claim decision pending completion of assembly

By Dorothy Schreiber
Windspeaker Staff Writer

HAY RIVER, N.W.T.

Whether or not to accept an agreement-in-principle which would give western Arctic Dene/Metis 180,000 square kilometres of land will be debated during a general assembly held in Hay River on July 4.

The agreement-in-principle was tabled in Ottawa in mid-June to allow Dene and Metis leaders more time to consult with their communities on a land claim deal which their negotiators initialled last May.

The Dene and Metis leaders were to make a decision on the proposed agreement-in-principle by the first week of June but decided to bring the issue to the July general assemblies. Both assemblies will be held in Hay River and the two groups will meet together on the final two days, to discuss the agreement-in-

principle.

If settled, the claim would make the Dene/Metis the largest private land holder in North America.

In a press release Indian Affairs Minister, Bill McKnight says while the delay does cause problems he understands the leaders desire to have the people study the document very carefully and is willing to let the proposal remain on the table awhile longer.

"Frankly, I had hoped to have an answer by now. However, I can understand how difficult it is to study and decide on a complex 180 page agreement in a matter of a few weeks," he said in a press release.

Vice president of the Dene Nation George Blondin says the proposed agreement to settle the 17 year old land claim is not supported by the majority of the five regions in the western Arctic.

"Two regions really want

to have the agreement-in-principle go through whether it is good or bad because a lot of people cannot afford to wait another 10 or 20 years," he said in a telephone interview.

The Dene vice-president says some of the concerns

expressed by community members who are leery of the agreement range from wanting more control over

the land, to making wording within the agreement much stronger.

He adds that some members also believe that the \$500 million in federal payments to be dispersed once the claim is settled is not a sufficient amount.

If the proposed agreement is not ratified at the assembly, Blondin is unsure of how they will proceed.

The president of the

NWT Metis Association could not be reached for comment at press time.

The settlement also calls for the Dene and Metis to have a strong voice in managing all 1.2 million square kilometres of land in the western NWT and the renewable and non-renewable resources according to a press release.

The Indian Affairs minister says there can be no

further negotiations or changes to the agreement and if it is ratified at the general assembly the next step will involve putting legal wording in place and fleshing out some of the current issues in the agreement.

"I hope we will soon be able to get on with the final talks and get the benefits of a settlement to the people," he adds. □

Local woman to sit on national committee

By Mark McCallum
Windspeaker Staff Writer

National

Hobbema's Nancy Louis recently joined a national advisory committee aimed at preventing family violence.

Louis will help the committee advise federal government agencies on programs and funding priorities for Indian and Inuit community-based projects. Much attention will be focused on sexual abuse, physical and emotional child abuse, spouse assault and abuse of the elderly.

The government will be channelling \$3 million toward strengthening existing prevention programs over the next four years. "To ensure the success of these projects, they will be developed and adminis-

tered by Native people," says Bill McKnight, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

McKnight announced July 1 that his department and the Department of Health and Welfare have entered into joint sponsorship of the committee. "I am pleased that the advisory committee, which is made up primarily of Indian and Inuit representatives, will assist both my department and the Department of Health and Welfare with the administration of this new federal initiative."

Louis is Alberta's representative on the committee. She is also currently the executive director of Hobbema Indian Health Services and is an active member of the Hobbema community, helping establish such helpful services as child day care. □



Alberta's rep on advisory committee: Nancy Louis

Amendment to the Indian Act will clarify taxation powers on reserve

By Dorothy Schreiber
Windspeaker Staff Writer

KAMLOOPS, B.C.

A recent change to the Indian Act has given Indian bands clearer taxation authority on reserve land and will assist in the area of economic development.

The piece of legislation Bill "C-115 or as it is commonly called, the "Kamloops" amendment received royal assent making it law on June 29.

The chief of the Kamloops band Manny Jules said in a telephone interview that he was "relieved" to learn that the amendment is now law as he has been personally lobbying for the change to the Indian Act for the past three years but that his band has been working on it for the past 28 years.

The new bill replaces the phrase "conditionally surrendered land" with the words "designated land" which will allow parcels of land to revert back the reserve.

Under the bill, a 180 hectare industrial park—once considered surrendered

land—situated on the Kamloops reserve will now become reserve land.

The old act allowed provinces to collect the tax on surrendered lands as it was considered distinct from reserve land.

Jules says the British Columbia government collected \$320,000 in taxes annually from the industrial park and hopes the passing of the bill will mean the province will hand over the tax base to the band.

"Designation will enable bands to set aside land for leasing and economic development without losing its reserve status. Individual Indians for the first time will also be able to use leases on Indian land as collateral for investment without risking the reserve status of the lands," says a press release from the department of Indian Affairs.

"This bill gives bands a new power of taxation which is basic to every form of government and also enables development of Indian land," said the Minister of Indian Affairs Bill McKnight in a press release.

Minister announces

Funding for satellite network gets approval

By Mark McCallum
Windspeaker Staff Writer

NATIONAL

Media people in the nation's arctic region will be reaching new heights in broadcasting with advanced satellite technology which will focus more attention on northern issues.

The Minister of Communications, the Honourable Flora MacDonald, announced recently that it will be funneling \$10 million into a satellite distribution system over the next four years. The federal government is responding to a request made by a group of Native broadcasters called Television Northern Canada.

"It is a stamp of approval that Native broadcasters have graduated to being true public broadcasters," says Rosemarie Kuptana, President of the Inuit Broadcasting Corporation. She called the decision "a



Reaching new heights: The Hon. Flora MacDonald

milestone in Native broadcasting history."

Until now, the broadcasters have relied on CBC's

distribution system to reach their audiences. However, access times were limited and programming often

suffered, forcing programs to be preempted or put in poor time slots.

Kuptana, who is a member of Television Northern Canada, is pleased to note that the system will convert satellite signals to a channel dedicated to northern regions.

She says it will enable them to offer programming with a "northern flavor" and give their audiences broadcasting more relevant to the needs and interests of the north. The broadcasting network will service places as the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Labrador and Quebec.

Here, in Alberta, Kuptana notes broadcasters will be able to tap into the system as well "because the satellite signals cover most of Canada."

She estimates the satellite distribution network will become operational in about two years. □

CLOSE TO HOME

Batoche Days funding put on hold

By Terry Lusty
Windspeaker Correspondent

SASKATCHEWAN

Everything is still "on hold" for the Batoche days celebrations this summer according to Ron Rivard, the executive director of the Metis National Council (MNC) office in Saskatoon.

The Batoche days face

their biggest threat ever this year due to the rift between the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) and the recently formed Metis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS).

The MSS just formed this past winter when it was moved and carried at last summer's AMNSIS annual

assembly to dissolve AMNSIS and form a totally separate and distinct Metis organization.

AMNSIS took the matter to court and the judge said he would not render a final decision until a referendum involving all AMNSIS members had been conducted. The referendum, which was to be held by June 25, did not go ahead. Instead, AMNSIS, led by Jim Sinclair of Regina, appealed the judge's ruling and that has prolonged the issue still more.

Rivard says the appeal was heard June 28 and the judge has postponed any ruling for yet another month.

In order for Batoche days to go ahead, money remains a problem. Last year Secretary of State (SOS) contributed about \$35,000 says Jim Lanigan, head of program operations for SOS. To this point in time, however, there has not been any money committed for Batoche. A proposal to run Batoche this year was sent in by the MNC but is still in the "processing stage" Lanigan explains.

Lanigan admits that "there's a lot of caution being taken" on their part due to the conflict between AMNSIS and MSS. He adds that they "want to give both parties the opportunity to reach some sort of neutral ground" or in some

way, resolve the matter.

He does not question the ability or integrity of the MNC to host the Batoche festival and says MNC has the written support of the other western Canadian Metis organizations including Alberta and British Columbia.

Rivard, however, is not satisfied. "Time is crucial," he stresses and he states that he cannot understand why SOS just doesn't proceed with putting the money through MNC to host Batoche this year.

Lanigan went on record to say that MNC is in good standing with SOS but it's not that simple. "There hasn't been a decision from the minister yet," although,

he adds, "we would expect something soon."

When pressed as to what he meant by "soon" Lanigan would not elaborate.

Despite the money end of things, Rivard claims to be optimistic. "I think it'll come about," he says of Batoche days. "I don't think political people or organizations should come in the way. It's the pride, culture and heritage of our people."

Batoche was originally scheduled to run during the last three days of July. Now, and if it does transpire this year, it will likely not be at least until August sometime, says Rivard.

Jim Sinclair was not available for comment. □

Foster Child continues winning streak

Windspeaker Photo File

Foster Child, a documentary from the National Film Board's Northwest Centre in Edmonton has collected a total of 8 film festival awards since its fall '87 premiere.

New York's American Film and Video Festival recently awarded Foster Child a Red Ribbon. And recently Director Gil Cardinal accepted a Special Jury Award (with a shared cash prize) from the Annual Banff International Television Festival.

The documentary, Foster Child, is the personal story of filmmaker Gil Cardinal, of his search and discovery of his natural family, and the circumstances that led to his being taken into foster care. Producer was



Foster Child: Gil Cardinal

the NFB's Jerry Krepavich. Foster Child premiered in Edmonton last October and was seen on CBC TV's Man Alive in December. It is now available on video and 16mm from NFB libraries. □

Woman wants grave marker for son

By Dorothy Schreiber
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON, Alta.

Losing someone close to you is always a tragic occurrence but perhaps even more painful is losing a loved one through a violent death.

Mary, (not her real name) knows and lives with this kind of pain.

In July of last year, her three year old son was "brutally beaten" and died as a result of the beating.

The young Native woman who asked not to be identified had been living in a

small northern community and left her son with relatives while she travelled to Edmonton to find an apartment.

She first heard of the crime when she was notified to go to a hospital in Edmonton where her son had been flown and later died from internal injuries.

The man responsible for her son's death was apprehended, charged, and is serving a life sentence.

The young woman who now lives and works in Edmonton is originally from an Indian reserve north of Toronto and she

took her son's body back home to be buried.

For the past few months she has been involved as a volunteer worker with Victims of Violence which is a non-profit organization which gives support and assistance to people whose lives have been traumatized by crimes of violence.

Victims of Violence has started a fund raising campaign to raise money for a headstone.

Judy Gagnon, the head of the organization's victims assistance program says they would like to raise approximately \$1,800 to

cover the cost of purchasing and shipping the headstone. She adds that any money left over would be given to the young woman.

Social services paid for her son's casket and for her flight home to Ontario and her reserve paid for the funeral expenses.

However, the young woman who was a single parent cannot afford to buy a tombstone for her son's grave which is now marked with a small wooden cross.

She says she wants to place a plate headstone on his grave site so "somebody knows he's there and they don't forget about him." □

High Level

Outreach appoints new regional manager for northern Alberta

Windspeaker Photo File



Steps down after 14 years: Ralph Ghostkeeper

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

HIGH LEVEL, Alta.

On July 4th Ralph Ghostkeeper officially stepped down as Native Outreach Regional Manager for northern Alberta after serving Native people and the association for over 14 years.

At his office in the new Native Friendship Centre in High Level, Ghostkeeper cited health reasons for his leaving the organization that provides career and employment counselling services.

Although Ghostkeeper is not sure where he will move with his family, he says a more southerly climate may be better for him.

Taking over the duties as Native Outreach Regional Manager will be Dennis R. Campbell, a Metis originally from Kelly Lake, British Columbia.

"Of course it will be hard for me to follow in the footsteps of Ralph and his staff, but, it will also be a challenge for me to keep up with what the 'Coyote' has done for Native people in the north," said Campbell referring to Ghostkeeper's nickname used by many people who knew him for his "smarts" in negotiating work and services for his clients.

Campbell is a certified addictions counsellor and received his training in drug and alcohol addictions at Grouard, Alberta.

Campbell also combined one year of upgrading and life skills at the Alberta Vocational School in Hythe, Alberta.

During his years in British Columbia, Campbell belonged to the B.C. Louis Riel Metis Association and attended the constitutional talks in Ottawa, as a representative of the Association

in 1982, '84 and '85.

Campbell says one of the main things he will concentrate on as the new Regional Manager for Native Outreach is the new pulp mill presently being built at Peace River. "I hope to get people ready to work, through a job readiness program. I think working with employers, doing a study on what kind of people they need and then train these people is essential," said Campbell who adds that a 1,000 man camp is expected to open very shortly at Peace River.

Next year the pulp mill should be in full operation. Campbell says he will be visiting companies, organizations, services and reserves to find out what's available for his Native clientele. At the moment Campbell says he is going through an orientation period and on several occasions has been invited for coffee by the

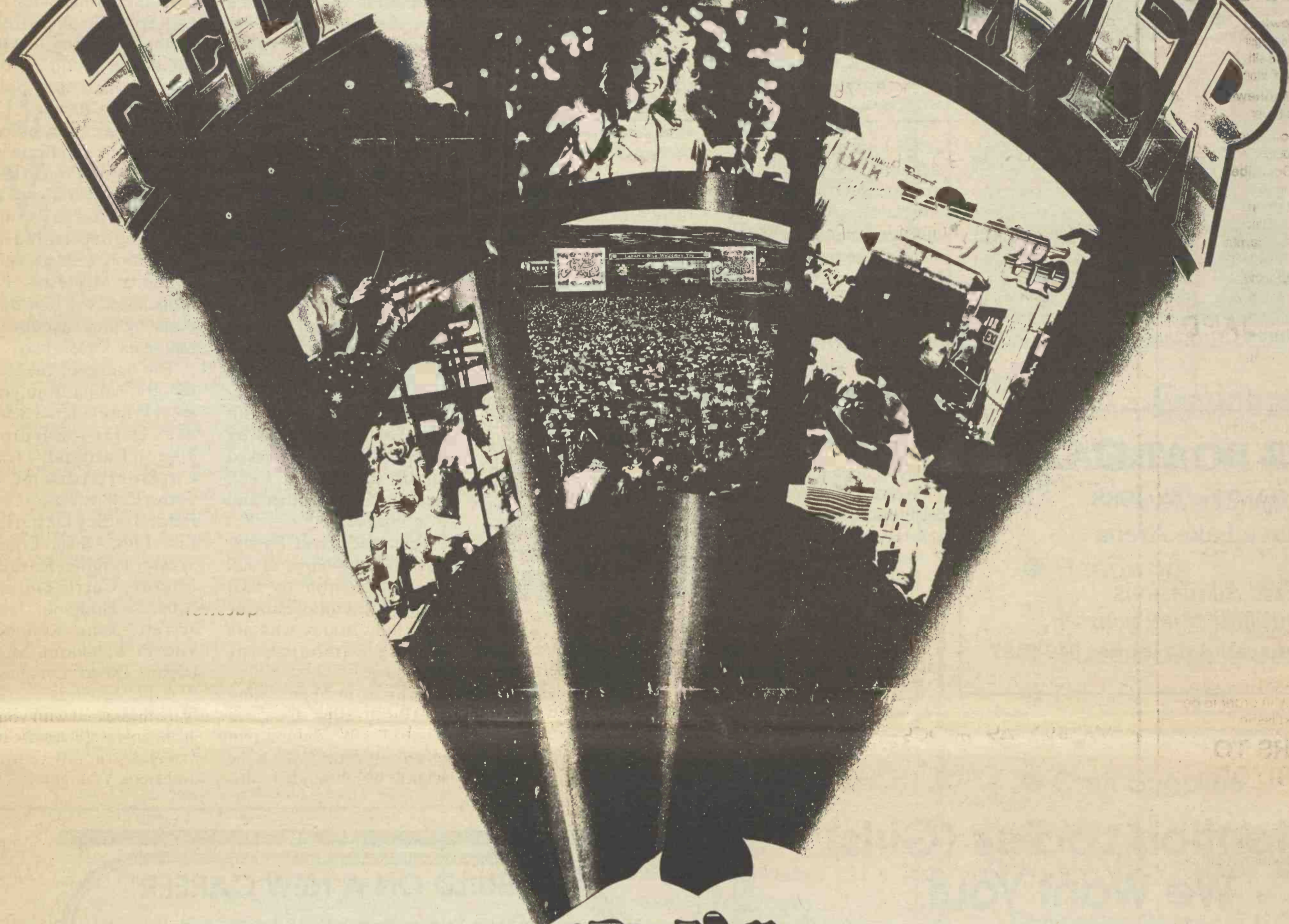
RCMP, Social Services and Indian Affairs. "I believe I'll be an asset to Native Outreach. I speak Cree, a bit of french and know Native culture very well. I know that there is a lot of work and long hours involved but the real payoff for me is doing something for Native people. It's something I've always wanted to do." Along with Ghostkeeper, Violet Forrest has also left Native Outreach and will be return to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Taking her place as Employment and Career Development Counsellor and Secretary is Doreen Poitras, originally from the Metis Settlement of Paddle Prairie.

Both Campbell and Poitras agree that more work-and travel into the communities in northern Alberta will be a big part of their job description. □

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


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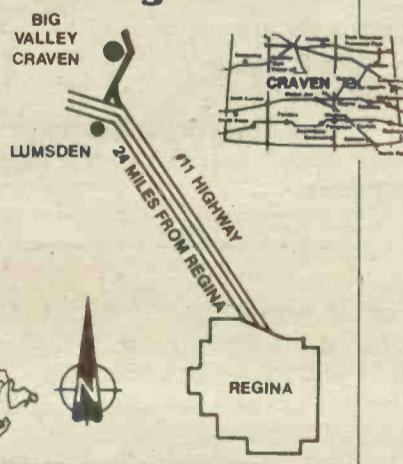
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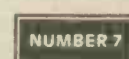
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OUR CHILDREN, OUR FUTURE

Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker



Hashing over cultures: Cst. Baynes and Bradley Cody

Edmonton city police join Awasis Day celebration

BY ROCKY WOODWARD
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

About 200 participants at the Awasis Day Celebration, held at the Prince Charles school in Edmonton, June 24, were on hand to witness a hawk that suddenly appeared over the school grounds. "A sure sign that the grandfathers are here with us," said entertainer, Winston Wuttunee, who along with five members of the Edmonton City Police Department attended the celebration.

With the hawk circling overhead parents, relatives and friends joined in traditional dance to celebrate the graduation of the children this year from Grade 6 to attend junior high elsewhere in September.

Awasis Day is an annual celebration held for all the students attending the Prince Charles school.

In order to foster a more friendlier relationship between the Edmonton City Police Department and Native people, espe-

cially Native children, Wuttunee and his band Rainbow Bridge have been touring with the police to various schools and Native institutions.

Talking to the crowd of children and adults, Wuttunee assured everyone that policemen, even though they wear uniforms and carry guns, are still human.

"When you usually see a policeman it's usually when there's trouble. So consequently, we associate them with trouble. This is very unfortunate. They have children, some of them are aunts and uncles and the only difference is that they wear a uniform.

"Today we want to show you the human side of the police," and with that Wuttunee barked out his order.

"Squad! Four steps forward. Quick, march!" Laughing and smiling the police squad stepped up behind microphones and sang the ABC song to everyone's enjoyment.

Having the city's finest and Winston Wuttunee attend the Awasis Day celebration was truly a blessing said David Forster, principal of the Prince Charles school.

"It added to our celebration and it would be nice to have Winston attend every year," remarked Forster adding that Awasis Day is a time when culture and education along with the Grade 6 graduation come together in celebration.

"The Awasis program here has a fair amount of Native culture and basically this is a day of celebration for the children," said Forster.

The celebration opened with a prayer by spiritual leader, Francis Bad Eagle.

"The hawk that came here is a very good sign and I hope that the Great Spirit is always with you, one day at a time," said Bad Eagle.

The day was spent with powwow dancing led by Gary Boudreau and backed up by drummers, Cecil Redstar, Lyle Trottier and Ron Powder.

Principal David Forster was given a Native shield, handed to him by two young students, Tammy and Cody Bruno, who are leaving Edmonton for Vancouver.

"This is in appreciation to the Prince Charles school," said Tammy. In return, students leaving the school were handed pins

with the school's logo engraved on them to commemorate their years at the Prince Charles school.

At the closing of the day, City Police Sgt. Vern Colley reminded students that they should be proud of their heritage and that police officers "are human."

"We, as police officers, can only be as effective as you are. I want you to know that we are your friends and are human just as you are."

Wuttunee ended the celebration with his spiritual song Museecho. Everyone faced the four directions bidding goodbye to this years Awasis Day.

The names of the children graduating from grade six at Prince Charles School are: Delany Cardinal, Joseph Cardinal, Trevor Cardinal, Adrien Cho, Tanya Collins, Susan Cornfield, Bradley Desjarlais, Lisa Ellis, Olivia Ermine, Wesley Ermine, Roxanne Fliczuk, Carrie Gullion, Amanda Hodgson, James Jerrett, John Kennedy, Vincent Laboucan, Shane Logan, David Longmore, Ardelle Moshuk, Trent Nunemaker, Jeremy Rabbitskin, Myra Schmitz, Ben Tribiger, Tammy Turner, and Irene Youngpine. □

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BUILD ON A NEW CAREER

The Alberta Vocational Centre in Lac La Biche is presently accepting applications for enrollment in its various trade programs. These programs provide students with theoretical and practical experience in the trade of their choice. Students successfully completing the Pre-Employment programs may challenge the Provincial Apprenticeship Exams.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT CARPENTRY
August 29, 1988 - December 16, 1988 (16 weeks)

Entrance requirements: Completion of Grade 9 or successfully pass the trade exam. Minimum age of 18 or adult status.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT WELDING
August 29, 1988 - December 16, 1988 (16 weeks)

Entrance requirements: At least 18 years of age or adult status. Successful completion of Grade 9 or passing the Apprentice Entrance test.

PRE-EMPLOYMENT MOTOR MECHANICS
August 29, 1988 - December 16, 1988 (16 weeks)

Entrance requirements: At least 18 years of age or adult status. Successful completion of Grade 9 or passing the Apprentice Entrance exam.

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DROPPIN IN

By Mark McCallum

Friendship centre to co-host Shrine Circus

W.O.W. is certainly a good way to describe a program that placed several students in jobs this summer. For about 10 students at Red Deer, the program is really living up to its name. The Red Deer Native Friendship Centre accessed the program, which is offered through Canada Manpower, and helped the students find full-time summer jobs. W.O.W. stands for Work Orientation Workshop.

This is just one of the many helpful and interesting things the friendship centre is offering to residents in the Red Deer area. And, the organization caters to young and old. Elder Tom Crain Bear, who spends much of his time lecturing to young people in the community about the old ways is a fine example of the excellent people working there. I met Mr. Crain Bear recently and could feel his genuine concern for people and love for life.

The centre's staff also help parents concerned with their children's future through something called the Child Development Program. "It's like a drop in and it's for anyone that needs it," explains Vickie Bergum, one of the students who found employment through the centre, she's a secretary's aide there.

For more light-hearted and cultural activities the group takes part in a number of community events such as the up-coming Western Days July 19 to 24. Staff members will be setting up a teepee at Red Deer's exhibition grounds where food and crafts will be sold. They will also be entering a float in the Western Days Parade.

Gift Lake: A new Community Vocational Centre was officially opened in Gift Lake on May 27 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. But, I hear the most popular part of the day came later when CVC students Doreen Nahachick and Freda Gladue cut up a cake made to commemorate the special event. The two students, who prepared the bakery item, are seen here (in the picture) with instructor Norm Merry. Mr. Merry was later presented with a plaque from the students, thanking him for two years of excellent instruction. He will be leaving the learning centre at the end of this school year.

Peace River: Sagitawa Friendship Centre staff members will be serving bannock, coffee and tea at the Kinsmen Arena where a Heritage Days celebration will be taking place on Aug. 1. The event will feature fancy dancer Brent Sokwaypnace, who will be performing the grass dance for on-lookers. The fancy dancer is also an education development worker for the friendship centre.

Sokwaypnace is a gifted dancer. "He brings the dance alive," says Judy Norstrom. The centre's executive director also sang praises for Sokwaypnace's ability to communicate with the audience and his understanding of the tradition surrounding the dance, colorful pow-wow costumes and Indian ways.

The centre's staff will also be entering a float in the Heritage Days Parade.

Lac La Biche: The friendship centre here will be welcoming the Shrine Circus to town July 18. The centre's acting executive director Lester Whitford says they will be co-hosting the circus which has gained a reputation for entertaining crowds abroad. He invites everyone to come down and see performances like tight-rope walking, clown acts and human fire-eating displays.

Have a safe and happy week. □

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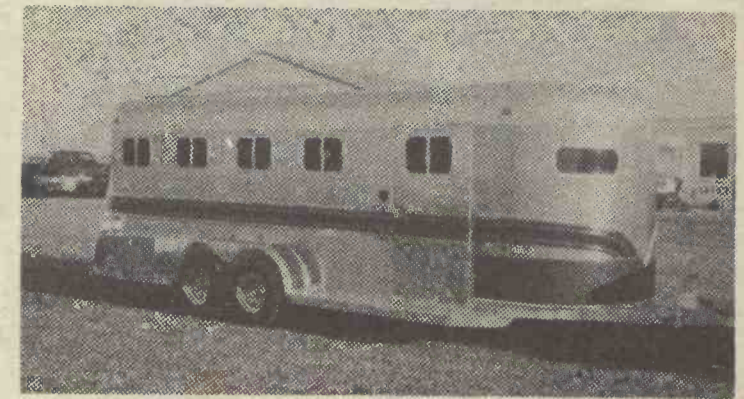
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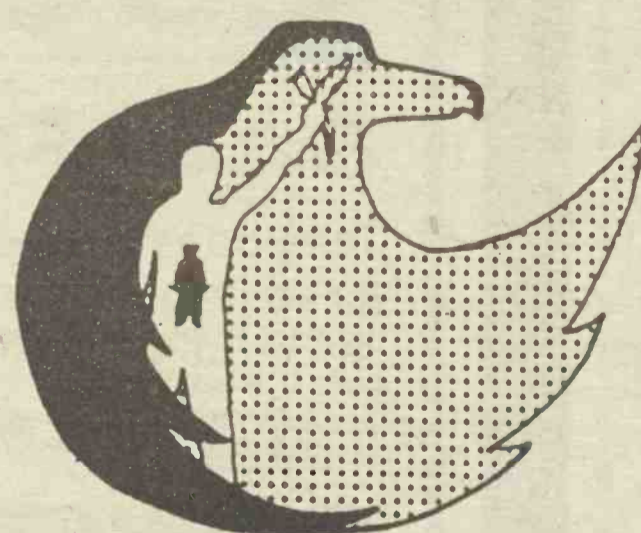
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Rocky Woodward, Windspeaker

Dene Tha band

Helping youth important



"They are our future": Alexis Mercredi

By Rocky Woodward
Windspeaker Correspondent

ASSUMPTION, Alta.

Dene Tha' Native Education Counsellor Alexis Mercredi, at Assumption Reserve, says a lack of attendance and interest in education by the Dene Tha' youth has changed for the better, especially over the last year that he has been involved.

Mercredi says one reason for the improvement is because of the band members taking an interest in the youth. Through individual counselling and home visits Mercredi says the youth learn of the importance of education,

"and that we care about them," said Mercredi.

"We have to help in building up their self-esteem and let them know that we, as Dene Tha' ourselves, are there to help them. They are our future so we have to think of them," added Mercredi.

Mercredi works on his own at Assumption and says much of his time is spent talking to parents of students who face problems when attending school. "Some of these problems arise because of the students' home environment and so it is essential to visit with parents and sometimes the whole family together so we can work out a solution that will benefit the student.

Mercredi has been an educational counsellor for almost two years at Assumption and in the last 10 months he has seen attendance of the Assumption School rise from 40 to 70 percent. "The reason for the climb in attendance is the 'real' interest given to the student," he said.

In the past there has never been a graduation held for students finishing their grade nine and grade 10 at Assumption School. This year the very first one was held.

"They were excited and happy before and during the graduation. It helped the younger students to think about following the excellent example set by the students who graduated," said Mercredi.

Mercredi believes that the Dene Tha' people must work with Dene Tha' people and in doing this an example is set for the youth to follow in their footsteps.

"We become role models for our own people by working with them whether it is as a counsellor or in construction. They look up to us then and in turn it gives us a sense of pride. I like to set a good example as a family person myself," Mercredi explained.

In the past 10 years Mercredi has seen a huge change at Assumption. "Our people are now working in offices right from receptionist duties to managers. We're in schools as teacher's aids, in social services and have our own people working in the community as health (CHR's) representatives.

"There has been a big change in the past 10 years because of the involvement of our people." Although Mercredi says it sometimes becomes a handful for one

counsellor at Assumption, this year he will be working with summer students, "and hopefully we will train some of the students as future education counsellors."

Although a proposal is still being worked on for the band's administration to approve, the plan is to have summer jobs for students made available at Assumption, Meander River and Bushie River.

"Our main goal is to keep care of the students and I must add that they are making the job easier by helping themselves now. They have a students union that sets up activities for themselves and through the student union they are playing a more responsible role."

Mercredi concludes that as an educational counsellor, he does the best that he can. "We speak the same language, everyone knows me and when we work together the whole community benefits."

"I always wanted to work with younger people and now I have that chance. It's also gratifying to witness the changes for the better. The only thing that isn't changing here is the weather and mosquitoes," says Mercredi. □

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SLAVE LAKE GOING HAIDA

Students from Slave Lake Community Vocational Centre recently travelled to the Queen Charlotte Islands in British Columbia and were treated to a ride in "Lootaas" which was built by famous carver Bill Reid. The 35 students and instructors were royally welcomed, treated to potlatch feasts, given gifts and

entertained with traditional dancing. They were also treated to the fine tastes of the coastal people and were treated to a Haida delicacy of roe-on-kelp which is fresh herring eggs laid on both sides of a piece of green seaweed when they were in Skidegate.

Photo Courtesy of CVC Slave Lake

Community happenings at Saddle Lake

By Joseph Steinhauer
Windspeaker Correspondent

SADDLE LAKE, Alta.

The Saddle Lake First Nation has been experiencing some beautiful weather lately as well as some fascinating newsbits in the heart of Treaty Six country.

The Deputy Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Donald Mazankowski met with the people of Saddle Lake on Sunday, June 5, 1988 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Saddle Lake council chambers. A crowd of approximately 60 band members attended this informal encounter whereby Mr. Mazankowski, who now holds a high political profile would be addressing the concerns of Indian people from the Cree Nation.

The major highlights of this encounter saw the Deputy Prime Minister give assurances that the trust obligation between the Saddle Lake First Nation and the federal government in the right of the crown be upheld and intensified to ensure that the concept of self-government from an Indian perspective becomes a reality.

Mr. Mazankowski also presented a plaque to the people of Saddle Lake commemorating Twenty Years of Service as a member of parliament.

In education, Nora M. Cardinal has informed me that applications are now available to attend the 1988 National Native Youth for Business Workshop which is being held at the main campus at the University of Ottawa from August 21-26, 1988.

The Onchaminahos School has been very busy lately with a Kindergarten Graduation on June 13, with 54 little people beginning their journey into the world of education.

Congratulations to Patsy Anderson on her achievement in winning the Alberta Region Annual Fire Prevention Poster Award. Well-known Cree entertainer Winston Wuttunee was on

the rez recently to entertain K-4 up to the Grade 12 level.

Jeremy Jackson - age 12 and Derek Houle - age 16 are currently on a 400 mile canoe trip from Smokey Lake to Fort Vermillion. Mrs. Joanne Jackson who is the mother of Jeremy Jackson stated that, "it's a great challenge for him and I know he is going to succeed. It will probably make him a stronger person."

I also interviewed Ms. Rose Maria Cardinal who recently received her Bachelor of General Studies at the Blue Quills First Nations College Graduation which was held Saturday, June 18, 1988.

What makes her story so unique is that she is the mother of six boys and she is planning on going to the

University of Calgary for her master's in Psychology. Her message to the younger people of our nation is loud and clear, "I would like to tell the younger generation to stay in school while they have a chance now to complete it, otherwise when you have a family, it is much harder. The Indian way has really helped me to be strong. It is a powerful source of strength."

I also went rambling over to the Saddle Lake Counselling Services to talk with the staff and they are welcoming a new staff member. His name is Hector Cardinal and he told me that, "I have worked actively in the community in the areas of Recreation and Economic Development before, however, I feel we must straighten out the social

aspect before we can move ahead with the other areas."

Mr. Jeff Bull who has been the Director of Counselling Services for the past twelve years stated, "life is very important to the community and we are experiencing an increased clientele." Jeff informed me that A.A. meetings are being held every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m.

Have an enjoyable summer. □



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15th Annual Poundmaker/Nechi Powwow

Powwow fever hits Alberta

— PHOTOS BY TERRY LUSTY

By Terry Lusty
Windspeaker Correspondent
EDMONTON, Alta.

The 15th annual Poundmaker/Nechi Powwow at St. Albert was a resounding success again this year. The July 1-3 event has become one of Alberta's most attractive powwow celebrations drawing no fewer than 27 drumming and singing groups and close to two dozen princesses.

Indeed, one would be hard put to refute that this particular stop along the powwow circuit is one of today's major drawing cards. Despite its semi-urban location, Poundmaker's has now developed and matured in the last few years according to organ-

izer Carl Quinn.

Few other powwows can boast of attracting over twenty drum groups yet, this year, that figure pushed its way up to 27, a half dozen more than the norm for most large powwows in Alberta such as the one last weekend at Saddle Lake and Hobbema's four band powwow in August.

When asked by Windspeaker why they're so attracted to the Poundmaker's powwow, several drummers and dancers explain that the liquor ban is one good feature, but in general, they always have a real good time and enjoy themselves tremendously at Poundmaker's.

To look at the campers who invade St. Albert over

the weekend can be somewhat deceiving when attempting to estimate the number of visitors because many live in greater Edmonton and some put up with friends or relatives in the city.

Close to 400 dancers participated with 280 of those being registered and some 40 or 50 participating tiny tots not registered plus a number of others who simply turn up to dance but do not register explains Marie Peters who was responsible for registrations. As for the overall attendance, Peters estimates in excess of 3,000 people.

As with post powwows, Poundmaker's offers a little something for most eve-

ryone regardless of age or sex. There are the hand-games, card games and Nevada sales. There are also the food concessions where many friends meet and share words over a hot cup of coffee and craft booths which always attracts many of the youth.

Over in the main camp area, one can find dancers organizing their outfits, families cooking up a stew or drying meat and children scurrying about, climbing up trees or in and out of the backs of half-ton trucks, vans, tents, or what-have-you.

There's something almost magical about a powwow. It is an occasion that never fails to seduce its audience. To some, the lure is an

undeniable magnetism not easily explained.

Powwow organizer, Carl Quinn, tried to explain the success of their event. "It's probably the reputation of the lodge (Poundmaker's) which has attracted still larger numbers of both participants and visitors. Other features he adds include: good security and facilities, the respect shown to visitors, the structure and organization of the powwow, and the closeness of the city itself.

The success of the powwow is a statement in itself given the fact that there is no prize money at stake for dancers. The same holds true for the handgame players. People come just because they enjoy themselves and they have the opportunity to visit with friends and relatives.

Again this year, powwow organizers offered a rock dance featuring Kinroq from the Blood reserve on Friday night and the Peter Morin country and western fiddle band from Enoch for Saturday night.

Quinn states that the dances will be a continuing feature in succeeding years and that attendance has increased over the last few years. The Saturday night country dance, he points out, lures more people than the Friday rock dance.

A Fox Morin eagle carving from moose horn was raffled with the lucky winner being 21 year-old Carl Shirt. A beaded buckskin was also raffled and won by Don Loyie. Seems, however, that most everyone was a winner just for turning up at the powwow and supporting Poundmaker's.



Elders: the real judges



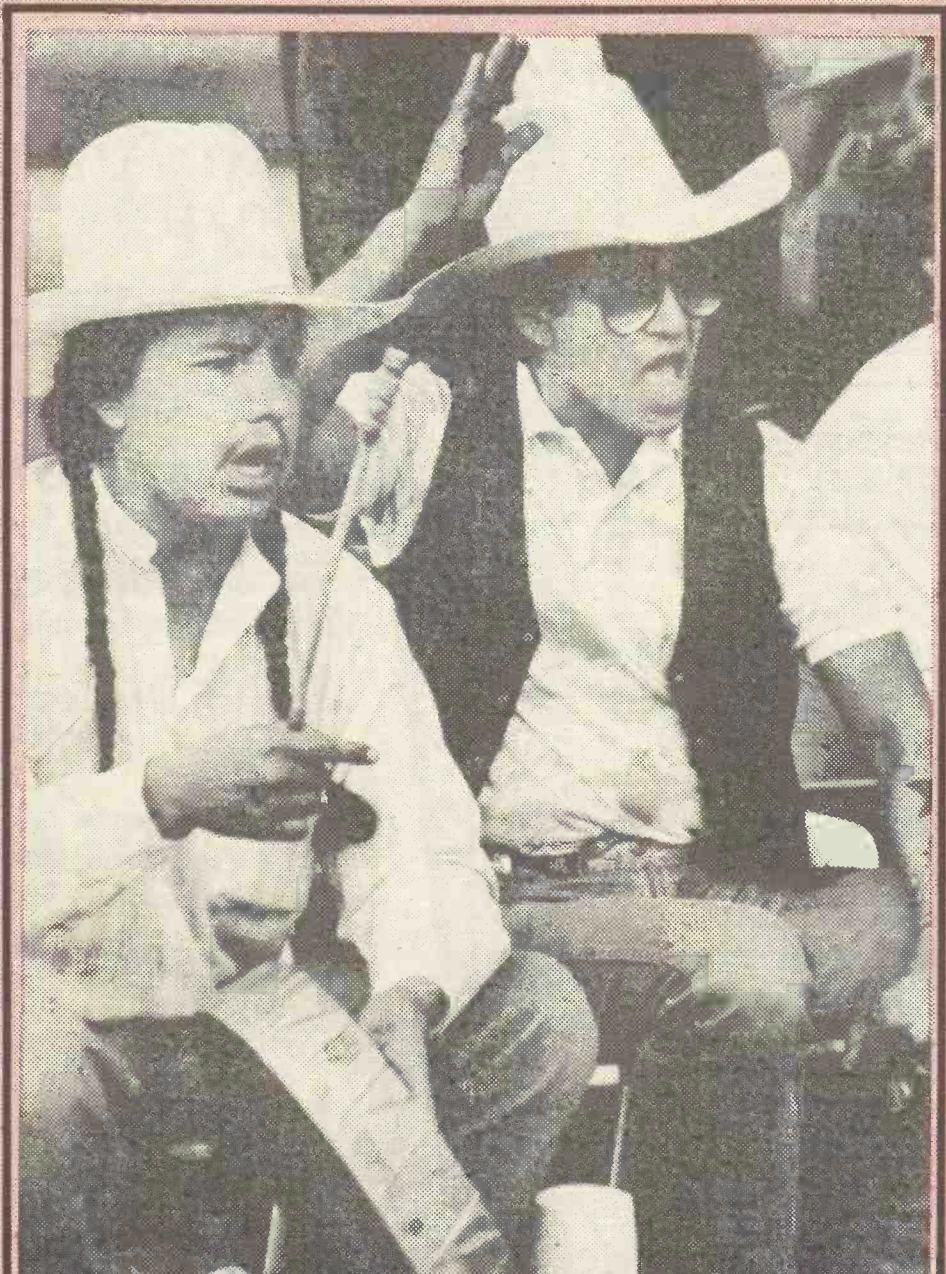
Jingle dance
Manitopye



Traditional giveaway: Organizer Carl Quinn gives to Elder



Onlooker: fans came from far and near



Handgames entrants: Jim Whitefish & Eugene Louis



Dry meat: a powwow sight

RESULTS

FANCY: Boys 7-12: Shane Red Star, Whitebear, Sask.; Donovan Saddleback, Pigeon Lake; Joey Frencheater, Rocky Mountain House. **Boys Teen:** Craig Lewis, Onion Lake; Bradley McGilvery, Saddle Lake; Stanley Isadore, Dript-pile. **Mens:** Boye Ladd, Montana; Elmer Rattlesnake, Smallboy Camp; Les Goforth, Regina. **Girls 7-12:** Jamie Sokwaypnae, Little Pine, Sask.; Anna Daychief, Sun-child, Alta.; Alaine Rain, Hobbema, Alta. **Girls Teen:** Rhonda Cardinal, Edmonton; Georgette Johnson, Hobbema; Irene Onepennee, Toppenish, Washinton. **Ladies:** Pat Shirt, Saddle Lake; Danelle Tailfeather, Warm Springs, Oregon; Suzette Bull, Little Pine. **GRASS: Boys 16 & Under:** Jeff Moosomin, Mosquito, Sask.; Cameron Francis, Lethbridge; Sidney Paul, Alexis. **Men 17 & Up:** Gerald Baptiste, Red

Pheasant, Sask.; Goodwill, Fort Qu. Sask.; Winstron W. Fort McLeod. **MENS TEAM:** Byron will, Sask.; Art S. Morley. **LADIES TEAM:** Jeanman; Suzette Bull, Little Pine. **TRADITIONAL:** Darwin Daniels, Lake, Sask.; Jason A. Edmonton; Bobby Morinville, Boys T. Daniels, Sturgeon L. Whitstone, Onion L. Smallboy, Hobbe. Walter Bull, Little P. Pompana, Armstro. Art Scalplock, Morl. 12; Sekwan Acha. brook; Annie Bird, Monica Bird, Duff. **Teen:** Roberta Ag. Crooked Lake, Sask. Pism, Shellbrook; Bird, Duffield, La. Bull, Little Pine; Ag. cis, Lethbridge; Cin. Hobbema.



Judges



Snagging: Winston Watsworth & Shelley Tootosis



A young participant: no age limit for weekend's activities
Traditional dancer: Donney Raine, Duffield, Alberta



Jingle dancer: Willena Manitopyes, Calgary



Teen dancer: dances to the beat



A break at Inter-tribal: Gordon Willier, Sucker Creek

Shane Red
Sask.; Dono-
geon Lake;
er, Rocky
Boys Teen:
ion Lake;
ry, Saddle
Dript-
add, Mon-
tlesnake,
es Goforth,
12; Jamie
ittle Pine,
chief, Sun-
ine Rain,
Girls Teen:
Edmonton;
son, Hob-
nnee, Top-
Ladies: Pat
e; Danelle
n Springs,
Bull, Little

Under: Jeff
uito, Sask.;
Lethbridge;
Men 17 &
tiste, Red

Pheasant, Sask.; Byron
Goodwill, Fort Qu'Appelle,
Sask.; Winstron Wadsworth,
Fort McLeod.
MENS TEAM: Byron Good-
will, Sask.; Art Scalplock,
Morley.
LADIES TEAM: Jolene Red-
man, Suzette Bull, Little Pine.
TRADITIONAL: Boys 7-12:
Darwin Daniels, Sturgeon
Lake, Sask.; Jason Agecutay,
Edmonton; Bobby Hunter,
Morinville. Boys Teen: Jason
Daniels, Sturgeon Lake; Leon
Whitstone, Onion Lake; Jared
Smallboy, Hobbema. Men:
Walter Bull, Little Pine; Alden
Pompana, Armstrong, B.C.;
Art Scalplock, Morley. Girls 7-
12: Sekwan Achak, Shell-
brook; Annie Bird, Duffield;
Monica Bird, Duffield. Girls
Teen: Roberta Agecutay,
Crooked Lake, Sask.; Kishey
Pisim, Shellbrook; Germaine
Bird, Duffield. Ladies: Ruth
Bull, Little Pine; Agnes Fran-
cis, Lethbridge; Cindy Wolfe,
Hobbema.

Graduates from Athabasca University

10 years of struggle pays off for mother of six

BY DIANE PARENTEAU
Windspeaker Correspondent

ST. PAUL

Rose Marie Cardinal, 34 year old mother of six boys, was one of the University of Athabasca degree graduates. She has been working

towards her degree for 10 years and had to overcome enormous obstacles and hardships. "It's been very tough trying to get where I

am today," said Cardinal during her acceptance speech.

A pretty lady with a warm smile, Cardinal dropped out of school when she got pregnant at 16.

"I always wanted an education," said Cardinal. "But raising my children was important too, to look after them."

She began drinking and spent time in and out of jail. In 1975 she was referred to the Poundmakers/Nechi treatment centre. After a 4 week stay she began training and working as a counsellor spending the next two years there.

She moved to Saddle Lake in 1980 and started Alberta Vocational Centre upgrading.

It was in the following year that she enrolled in the Athabasca University program. The last stretch of her education has been the hardest.

"I've had so many family problems because I have an alcoholic husband. I've had to be both mother and father to my children. I had to keep dropping out and running away because I was an abused wife. Each time I came back."

Cardinal says her two oldest boys were a great help to her throughout her schooling but it sometimes broke her heart to listen to the youngsters.

"Sometimes we'd walk three or four miles in the winter (to catch a ride). If you're out of gas you have to make your way. My son would ask, Mom why are you freezing me? But we made it."

"Throughout all our struggles together we finally accomplished something. This piece of paper will

make a life a little easier for us."

Cardinal encourages other Native people to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered to them. "I went through life the hard way," she said. "With nobody telling me what to do. In my time education wasn't important, it was important to be a housewife."

She attributes much of her success to Blue Quills, its staff and students. "There is so much sharing and closeness for Native people. This is the best institution they could've got for Native people."

Larry Kaida, director of post-secondary at Blue Quills knew Cardinal well. "If you knew what these women go through to obtain a university education you really appreciate it," he said. "She has the tenacity and determination. She kept coming back and coming back."

Cardinal is enrolled and accepted at the University of Calgary. She is pursuing her masters in psychology. □

Community hall and homes on Janvier reserve receive major face-lift

BY MARK McCALLUM
Windspeaker Staff Writer

JANVIER RESERVE

A community hall and a number of homes at the Janvier reserve are currently being restored and brought back to life through a massive renovation project.

The community hall, abandoned and forgotten for some time now, is getting a major face-lift. The Janvier chief and council has set aside some \$50,000 for the restoration and construction costs of the hall.

And, 17 homes belonging to status residents of the

reserve are also being upgraded. The renovations to the homes are being paid for with \$40,000 from the band and nearly \$100,000 from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

Such renovations as the addition of water and sewage pipes should be complete by the end of the summer, says the band manager.

Marvin MacDonald explains the hall, which was once the band office, is for "the entire community status and non-status." The community hall is the latest project treaty and Metis leaders have agreed upon in

a joint effort to unite residents, split in the past by differences.

"It's for the good of the community," says Chief Walter Janvier.

"It will be a gathering place and recreational facility for the whole community," adds MacDonald, noting the hall should be completely renovated by the middle of July. And, he's quick to note it already came alive with the sounds and sights of celebration June 23 and 24 at Janvier's annual Treaty Days event.

However, work will continue on the hall, enlarging

the dance floor and improving the acoustics of the place. It will also include some office space and an upgraded kitchen area.

MacDonald says the hall may be expanded upon at a later date but adds it is more likely that they will build an entirely new building after approaching "all levels of government" for funding assistance. He points out the community would benefit greatly from a multi-plex with more options for residents; "something that could house a store, gas bar, training centre and provincial and federal services." □

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GRASSROOTS

76 Students celebrate graduation at Blue Quills First Nations College

BY DIANE PARENTEAU
Windspeaker Correspondent

ST. PAUL

On June 18, 11 high school and 65 post-secondary students celebrated their graduation at the Blue Quills First Nations College west of St. Paul.

An estimated 600 family, friends and invited guests filled the school gymnasium to capacity for the colorful, ceremonious sometimes emotional afternoon.

Honored guests included Saddle Lake Chief Eugene Steinhauer, John Trefanenko, representing the town of St. Paul, Peter Kossowan, chairman for Board of Governors, Grant MacEwan College, Lakeland College director John Dahmer and Dr. Dominique Abrious, dean of the Athabasca University. Each had words of congratulations and encouragement for the graduates.

The graduates entered the hall to the sounds of the honor song done by the Saddle Lake McGilvery Juniors drum group. They were proud in their cloaks

and caps.

Elder Edith Memnook from Goodfish Lake performed the opening invocation. She referred back to 1969 when she was a member of the sit-in at Blue Quills lobbying for the school.

"Nineteen years ago in middle July, I was sitting here crying," said Memnook her voice was powerful and proud. "Today I just stood there in the next room watching the students getting ready. I said I'm not crying anymore. If I do it's for happiness."

"I'm very proud standing here today to see this graduation — something I never got to do."

Blue Quills school board president Joe Dion introduced the guest speaker Chief Rita Marten from the Fort Chip band. Marten was a past student of the first Morning Star program at Blue Quills.

"Education is good," said Marten speaking to the grads. "But for the Native people, try and retain the best of both worlds as Indian people. We should

always look at ourselves and be proud of who we are."

Each of the graduating students received eagle feathers in addition to their respective diplomas and certificates.

Sam Windyboy Jr. an educator from the Rockyboy reserve in Montana was called up to explain its significance.

"The eagle represents truth, strength, unity and freedom," said Windyboy. "You're being honored with an eagle feather today. Respect it and remember your accomplishments."

High school diplomas were the first certificates awarded. Making the presentations acting principal Viewlan Striula congratulated each student on their determination and individual strengths.

The University and College Entrance Preparation Program (UCEPP) students received their certificates to the beat of the drums. All 29 will be entering post-secondary institutions in the fall.

In turn student after

student filed onto the streamer and balloon-filled stage. Reaction ranged from howls of jubilation to tears of relief.

The management studies/-accounting class was the largest ever honored at Blue Quills. Twenty-two received first year certificates and an additional 11 were awarded with Grant MacEwan Community College diplomas.

This year three Athabasca University degrees were handed out. Two recipients received their degrees personally. The third was for Beatrice McGilvery (deceased). Joe Dion accepted the degree on behalf of her family.

Awards were presented to deserving students for achievement, proficiency, extracurricular, student union, Native awareness and the Bella McGilvery Memorial Award.

Following the closing remarks, a banquet and dance were held. Sam Windyboy called it the largest multicultural event to be held in this area in a long time. □

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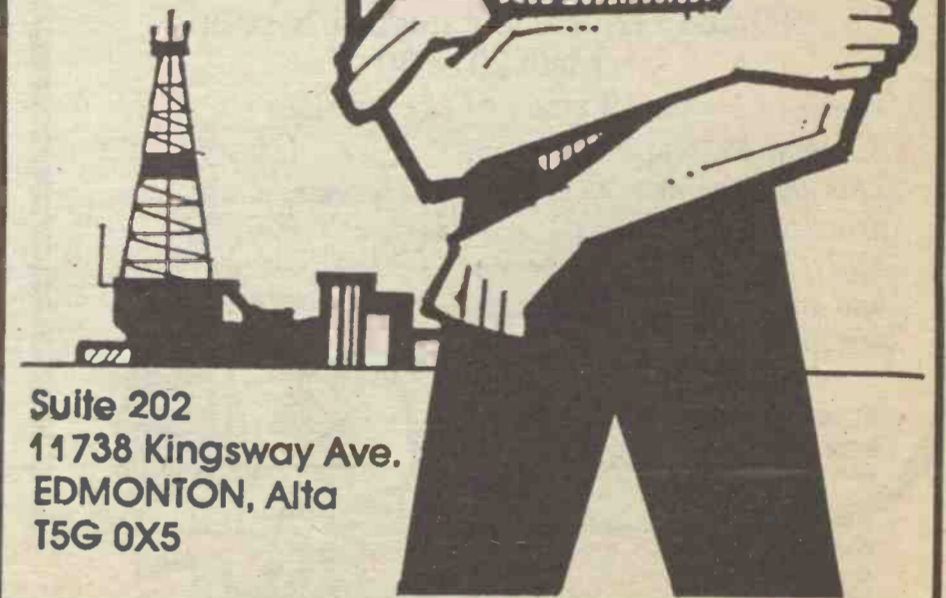
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GRASSROOTS

The sky's the limit for Lorna Gladue

Student shows determination in finishing school

By Diane Parenteau
Windspeaker Correspondent

FISHING LAKE, Alta.

Five years after completing Grade 12 at Heinsburg high school Lorna Gladue was back in the classroom and if her plans work out

she will remain there for two more terms.

The 24 year old Gladue was a student at Fishing Lake's Alberta Vocational Centre upgrading 1987/88 class and will be advancing to post-secondary training in Lac La Biche come Sep-

tember. She was accepted in the Early Childhood Services one year transferable program at the AVC institution there.

In addition, Lorna Gladue's name was submitted for the annual Northlands Scholarship Award given to deserving students who graduate from an adult training institution and continue into post second-

dary. She was chosen for the wall plaque and \$200 cash award to help with her further education.

"Every year we nominate candidates from the satellites," said Roy Salbury, director of the St. Paul AVC office. "People we feel need financial assistance and a little extra encouragement."

He adds, "It was felt that

she (Lorna) had worked hard and really persevered this year. Not just academic standings but an overall effort as well."

Salbury also said that award nominees were based on recommendations from the instructors.

A mother of two pre-school daughters, Gladue was short just 10 credits for her high school diploma. Her initial goal was to acquire the necessary credits.

"I wanted to get my diploma, at least try," said Gladue shyly. "You realize once you're older that school is good and you should try to finish."

She found the satellite program which was operated out of the community hall basement a lot different from high school. It was enjoyable and easy.

"Last year I took upgrading (to review), I found it really easy, I was really surprised," she said with sincerity. The program gave her confidence in herself.

"I'm glad I went back. I think it really helped me in a lot of ways. I made new friends, people I never talked to now are my friends." She added, "You

also have to give credit to the teacher, she was really good."

Gladue received a lot of push and encouragement from her husband Tommy who told her she should go back to school. "There was a lot of times when I wanted to quit, but I kept going. I wanted to finish," she said. "Sometimes I'd walk to school just to be there." She lives over three miles away.

Everything is green lights for Gladue in Lac La Biche starting September 6th. She just has to find some sort of housing for herself and oldest daughter. The youngest will be staying in Fishing Lake with her father.

"We talked about that, the distance and being away from home," said Gladue a little concerned. "If I come down every second or third weekend and Tommy said he could come up sometimes."

As far as transferring for the second year, it remains a bit uncertain. "If I like it, I'll continue and finish it. Someone said you might be able to take correspondence for the second year so maybe I'll even do that," said Gladue with determination. "What I really want to do is work around here." □

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July 22 - 24, 1988

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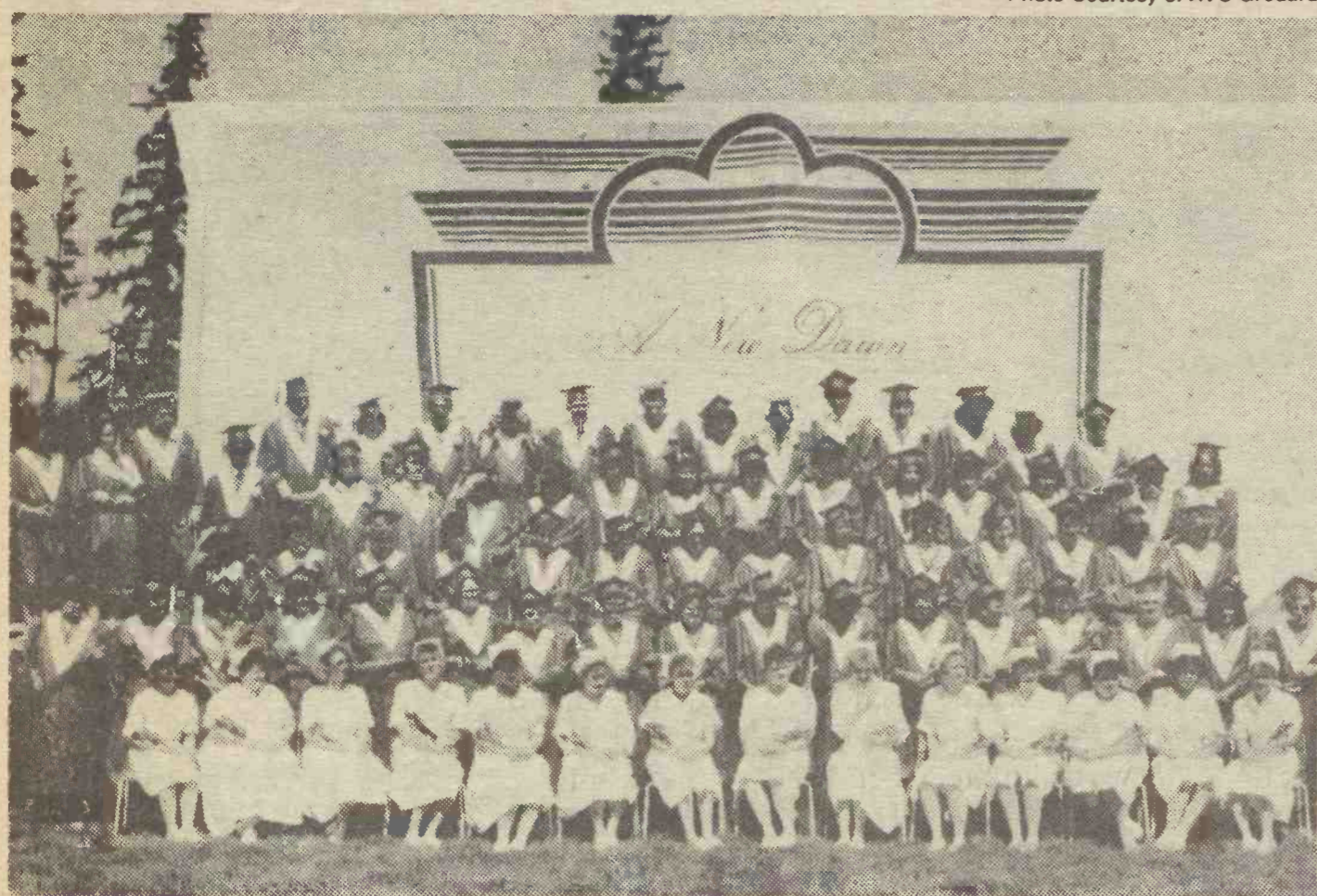
Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, located 18 km north and west of Fort Macleod, Alberta, Canada



The Friends of Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Society.

GRASSROOTS

Photo Courtesy of AVC Grouard



Northern Alberta's only outdoor convocation: AVC Grouard's Class of '88

AVC Grouard

Outdoor convocation a proud moment for many

BY ALBERT BURGER
Windspeaker Correspondent
GROUARD, Alta.

Some 175 graduates of 21 different programs of studies at Alberta Vocational Centre (AVC) had their day in the sun, June 17, at what was billed as "northern Alberta's only outdoor convocation on campus at Grouard."

An estimated 500 people attended in the hot sun on a hillside overlooking Buffalo Bay to hear greetings brought from the governments of Canada and Alberta, and valedictorian addresses by Marge Matthews and Brenda Calihoo. **Student awards:** Adult basic education achievement--Sharon Houle; 50 credit--Marguerite Mathews and Veronica Moore; Orlean

Deschamps memorial--John BigCharles; commercial division achievement--Velma Bellerose; Secretarial arts achievement--Debbie Gaudet; Native cultural arts division achievement--Glenna Supernault; Nursing assistant perfect attendance--Ione Perry; Citizenship--John BigCharles.

Four scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 were awarded to Yvette Cloutier, Marcel Dupuis, Dennis Meunier, and Brian Dawson. Bursaries in the amount of \$200 went to Cathy Erickson, Veronique Drouin, Sandy Carifelle, Daniel Badger, and Karen Cunningham. Scholarships in the amount of \$350 through the Edmonton Northlands Endowment

program were awarded to Nicole Ulrich, Marguerite Mathews, Ginger Zahacy, and Christine Potts. Bursaries of \$300, also through Edmonton Northlands, went to Maggie Gervais, Harry Reay, Jean Jess, Debra Austin, John BigCharles, Suzanne Gauchier, George Cross, Cheryl McDonald, Scott McIntosh, Jean Papineau, Laurette Payne, Ed Plante, Sandra Ulrich, Gwen Villebrun, Brian Wright, Alana Villebrun, Arlene Smith, Howard Shaw, Calvin Badger, Duane Lyle Cunningham, Shelly-Ann Petz, Christine Mindel, Margaret Lamouche, Peter Laderoute, Joseph Laboucan, Alfred Hamelin, Darrel Fors, Brian Dawson, Wade Carruthers, Brenda Dale Callihoo, Paul Blais. □

Class valedictorian does not fit mold

BY KEITH MATTHEW
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

"It is one of the toughest schools in Edmonton," says Martin Meyer. The school is W.P. Wagner and graduating has not been easy for this 20 year old Native class valedictorian.

Meyer had to fight to graduate. He failed Grade 9 twice. His parents split up, his father lives in Norway while his mother lives in Calgary. Things haven't come easy.

Still, he has succeeded despite these problems. He credits his grandmother from his mother's side, Lillian Wuttunee from Red Pheasant reserve in Saskatchewan, as being his spiritual guidance. "She taught me a lot about values, how to grow old gracefully." He adds, "I'm proud to be an Indian, proud of my heritage."

He now lives with his girlfriend and her mother and has "moved three times this school year." The house he lived in before moving was "a party house." He lived with six roommates (five guys and one girl) and they partied a lot, "at times I would get to sleep at three or four o'clock in the morning. It was tough. There was no one there to wake me up in the morning."

Meyer lives on student financing and he describes it as "essentially a student grant" from Social Services. This grant allows him to attend school in Edmonton while his mother lives in Calgary.

However, despite the tough circumstances out of school he succeeded academically scoring in the "70 to 80 per cent range" in commercial art, English, economics and sciences. Meyer admits that he scored well academically and was consistently among the top of his classes and he says, "It wasn't hard."

Among some of the awards he won: the David T. Long Music Award and the Strathcona Youth Leadership Awards for W.P. Wagner students.

Meyer's main interest outside of school is music. "I like all sorts of music -- from Mozart to Metallica." He adds, "Once I am fin-

ished school I would like to go to music college."

He was also the student in charge of the Radio Club at W.P. Wagner which plays music in the mornings before class, at break and during the lunch hours.

He credits the teachers at W.P. Wagner for much of his success. "The teachers at Wagner really care about their students. They go out of their way to help a student that needs help. A lot of the problem is that students don't realize that teachers are human too. It is not worth it to skip out, do your work."

He adds, "Do what you believe in and be happy." □

Keith Matthew, Windspeaker



"Do what you believe in...": Martin Meyer

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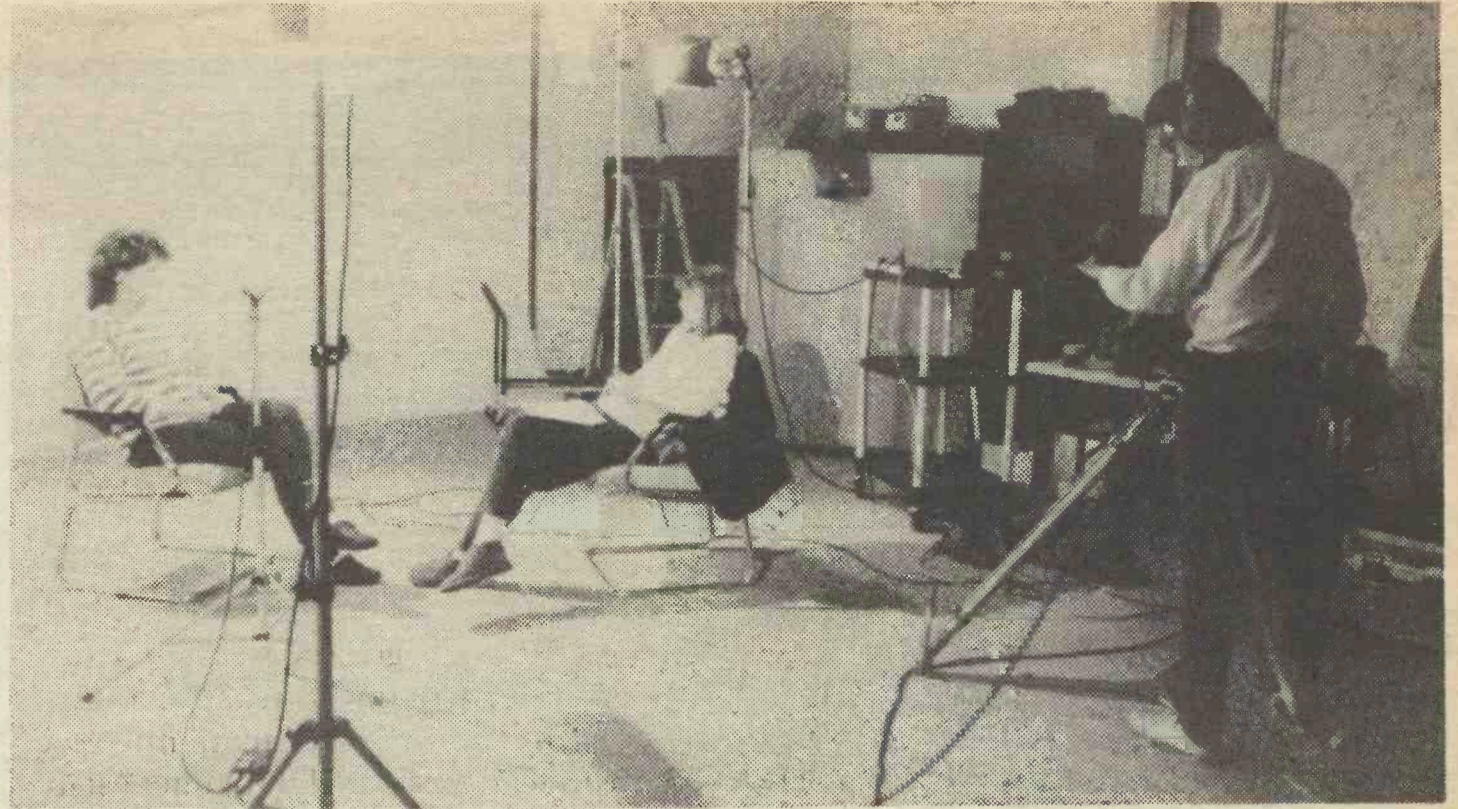
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Interviewing Native role model: Heather Inglis (center) and William Singer (right)

Native student finds a job which relates to studies

Native student William Singer thought he'd have to "comb the streets" to get a job this summer but Singer and two other students, Heather Inglis and Peter Mitchell, have career oriented jobs for the summer.

These students will be producing and researching two videos for Native Counselling Services of Alberta (NCSA). The videos will center around Native youths in Alberta, and how they cope with negative peer pressure, the other video will present positive young Native role models.

The students wages are subsidized by the Summer Employment Experience Development (SEED) program which is part of EIC's Challenge '88. The SEED program is a high volume program that gives secondary and post-secondary students the opportunity to gain valuable summer employment with private, public and non-profit businesses.

The priority for the program is to subsidize employers that will give students career oriented jobs.

The Native Counselling

Services of Alberta (NCSA) is one such non-profit organization that applies to the SEED program every year. NCSA is a well established Native organization that is constantly expanding.

They offer services throughout Alberta to assist Natives that are involved in the legal system. Lloyd Gwin, program director of NCSA says, "the videos are already in great demand, even before the actual shooting has taken place."

Gwin is also the executive producer of the videos, he says they will be available throughout Alberta to any agency where youths are involved. The role model video will contain eight unique young Native individuals who have achieved personal success in their lives.

The peer pressure video will explore some of the feelings and experiences encountered in peer pressure situations. It will also introduce ways to deal with negative peer pressure. The productions will be completed by the middle of August. Each will be approximately eight min-

utes long.

The SEED program and NCSA has given the students the chance to gain valuable job skills, such as working together as a team. "We all help each other." Singer says it has been a learning experience for everyone. The Native students says it gives him the chance to apply his newly acquired techniques that he learned while studying television at Grant MacEwan Community College's Native Communications Program.

Singer plans on attending the college's two-year audio-visual program in September. But, eventually Singer plans on taking his knowledge gained from working on the NCSA videos back home to the Blood Indian Reserve where he worked as a cameraman at the Inastako (Chief Mountain) Cultural Center.

The Blackfoot student is proud of his heritage and says he wants to use his skills to promote his language and culture. Singer says the Elders have so much to offer Native children, but that it's hard for them to reach these children because, he says "nowadays kids expect Rambo." This summer the SEED program and NCSA are giving the aspiring cameraman the chance to learn more effective ways to compete with that kind of competition.

The peer pressure video offers an important message to Native youths. It is especially challenging and rewarding for Singer because it offers him the chance to present suggestions and ideas that are based on his own experiences with peer pressure.

Growing up on the reserve Singer was subjected to a great deal of negative peer pressure. Singer feels his insight could benefit other Native youths. His road to recovering from the negative effects of peer pressure was a painful one. "It took a car accident and a few broken bones before I learned who my friends were," says Singer. He hopes other Native youths will learn from their mistakes before it's too late. □

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LEARNING

Courses offered right in community

By Mark McCallum
Windspeaker Staff Writer

RED DEER, Alta.

The Red Deer College is providing students at nearby reserves with the chance to take accredited training courses right in their own communities.

College administrators are currently working with educators at the O'Chiese, Sunchild and Hobbema reserves to establish accredited courses like high school upgrading, carpentry and early childhood development programs.

"Clearly, the most

obvious advantage of all this is that the courses are all accredited and therefore recognized by other mainstream education facilities," says academic vice president Dr. Donna Allan.

But, the community must show some interest and initiative before college

educators will assist them, explains Allan. "We haven't pro-actively started any programs; we've waited until the people have said here's a need, could you meet it."

Allan also notes students are asking that courses be developed further, making them more comprehensive so students can go after jobs in more competitive markets.

The college is also working with Rocky Mountain House, providing programs

that can be accessed by people from surrounding reserves.

If students are not satisfied with the courses being offered on the reserves, Allan says the Red Deer College has a number of other educational opportunities for its students.

She points out it may be ideal for students interested in university. The college offers a two-year university transfer program that helps students adjust in more

ways than one.

"For people from small communities, sometimes cities like Edmonton and Calgary are overwhelming. There's a lot of distractions, not to mention crowded class rooms.

But, here in Red Deer we're kind of in between the two places which might make it easier for some of the students to adjust."

The college also has residential facilities and counselling services available. □

Community Vocational Centre hikes learning standards

By Mark McCallum
Windspeaker Staff Writer

PROVINCIAL

Community Vocational Centre educators are hoping to hike learning standards for students in northern Alberta through recently established centres in five remote communities.

The centres are "double-wide" trailer units and are now all in place for the next school year at the following communities: Peerless Lake, Cadotte Lake, Smith, Calling Lake and Gift Lake.

CVC officials are optimistic the new learning envi-

ronment these units bring to the communities will help improve students' grades. Acting CVC president Bert Seinen says the units are "second to none" and are a far cry from earlier training centres.

CVC first began teaching students in northern regions in 1972. But, at that time, Seinen recalls a number of centres were "run-down" and "substandard" buildings. "Teaching often occurred in old buildings already in the community."

But, all that has changed now. The five new trailer units cost an estimated \$625,000 to install and prepare for teaching purposes.

The units are each about 1,420 sq. ft. and can accommodate up to 20 students. Each of the units include two class rooms, an office, washroom, kitchen and storage area.

CVC offers people upgrading courses at all levels of elementary and junior and senior high school, often preparing students for post-secondary education at universities or colleges. CVC also offers courses that prepare people for the immediate work force in a wide variety of trades. "We try to accommodate the community. If they request a course, then we'll do our best." □

Director of Social Services

Duties.....Assure that the social assistance guidelines in the manual are followed and implemented by the staff.

- ☛ Prepares the annual budget requirement for the program.
- ☛ Directs and supervises staff consisting from the social assistance program, Homemakers, and child welfare.
- ☛ Other duties assigned by the tribal administration or acting personnel.

Qualifications.....Must possess Bachelor of Social Work.

- ☛ Ability to speak Cree an asset.
- ☛ Valid Class 5 Driver's Licence, provide own transportation.
- ☛ Good physical and mental health.

Salary commensurate with qualifications.

Closing date July 15, 1988, 4:40 p.m.

Interviews July 18, 1988.

Orientation for one week from July 25-29, 1988.

Commencement of work August 1, 1988.

Please forward resume to:

**Bigstone Cree Band
c/o Leonard Okemow
General Delivery
Desmarais, Alberta T0G 0T0**

For more information call Robert Moberly 891-3891.

LAC LA BICHE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 51

The Lac La Biche School Division No. 51 requires the half-time services of an individual for the 1988-89 school year to fulfill the requirements of Cree Language/Culture Instruction and other related Native Education programming at the J.A. Williams High School.

Please forward a resume of educational and/or training background to the undersigned by July 14, 1988.

Salary will be commensurate with education and/or training background.

**Mr. Glenn Zacharuk
Co-ordinator of Instructional Services
Lac La Biche School Division No. 51
Box 870
Lac La Biche, Alberta T0A 2C0**

Full Time Permanent Position COMMUNITY HEALTH NURSE

required by Frog Lake Band. Position will have a 3-6 month probationary period.

JOB DESCRIPTION: She/he will be nurse in charge at the Health Centre; will provide a variety of health care needs/services specific to community needs.

Salary Negotiable

Interviews to be held August 3, 1988

Please forward resumes before July 25, 1988 to:

**Attention: Melvin Abraham
Frog Lake Band Administration
General Delivery
Frog Lake, Alberta
T0A 1M0
Telephone: (403) 943-3737**

LAC LA BICHE SCHOOL DIVISION NO. 51

The Lac La Biche School Division No. 51 requires the full-time services of an individual for the 1988-89 school year to provide Cree Language Instruction and Home Liaison work at the Vera M. Welsh Elementary School and Cree Language Instruction at the Dr. Swift Junior High School.

Please forward a resume of educational and/or training background to the undersigned by July 14, 1988.

Salary will be commensurate with education and/or training background.

**Mr. Glen Zacharuk
Co-ordinator of Instructional Services
Lac La Biche School Division No. 51
Box 870
Lac La Biche, Alberta T0A 2C0**

SPORTS & LEISURE

EMS Tigers win Fort Chip slowpitch tourney

By George Poitras
Windspeaker Staff Writer
FORT CHIPEWYAN, Alta.

The Fort Chipewyan Softball Association hosted a co-ed slowpitch tournament on the Canada Day weekend which saw two teams visiting this northern community for the success-

ful weekend of softball.

The round robin tournament which included four local teams brought the total number of teams in the tourney to six, began Friday night when the visiting teams, the Fort Smith Steelers and the Uranium City Huskies, unpacked for

the weekend. The total games played per day totalled five.

First place went to the E.M.S. Tigers of Fort Chipewyan who outscored the Fort Smith Steelers 32-21, although both teams won four games each. The Tigers took first place tro-

phies plus \$500, leaving second place prize money of \$300 to the Fort Smith Steelers. They Strykers of Fort Chipewyan and the Uranium City Huskies each had three wins, but, in points the Strykers beat the Huskies 26-9 to take third place prize money of \$200.

The ladies MVP was captured by Melanie Cyprien of the local school team, while for the mens MVP was awarded to John McKay of the Fort Chipewyan E.M.S. Tigers. According to Irene Tuccaro, official scorekeeper for the weekend's games, the roster included nicknames and not proper names, like "Moon", who took the trophy for Top Batter in the ladies cate-

gory. Moon represented the Uranium City Huskies team.

Wayne Benoit of the E.M.S. Tigers took the Top Batter trophy. Most R.B.I.'s for ladies went to Margaret Villebrun of the Fort Smith Steelers, while "Gilligan", another nickname on the roster, took the most R.B.I. trophy for the men's side of things. Gilligan, apparently, was in town from the Uranium City Huskies team. Overall Top Pitcher trophy was awarded to Bev Davies of the Fort Chipewyan E.M.S. Tigers. The Sportmanship trophy went to the local school team for their effort in a sportsman-like manner.

Also held during this weekend was a batting

derby. The derby cost anyone who wanted to enter a whopping \$5 which included 10 tries to hit the ball over the fence. The one with the most hits over the fence was considered the winner, in this case, Russell Antoine of the E.M.S. Tigers was the big winner.

William Tuccaro, president of the Softball Association was glad that the visiting teams were able to join in the competition for the weekend. "Their interest and support by attending made this event a successful one." Tuccaro also had praise for the umpires for their time and excellent work and especially for wife Irene Tuccaro, who did a marvelous job keeping score the entire weekend. □

Students teach DIA a lesson

BY ANN ANGEBRADT
Windspeaker Correspondent
DEVON, Alta.

University students from the Indian Management Assistance Program (IMAP) earned the title of intercultural days' softball champi-

ons June 22 when they defeated the Indian Association of Alberta (IAA) team 8-6.

The students trounced their earlier opponents, a team from the Department of Indian Affairs, 42-9 during the annual competition

held this year in Devon.

The softball tournament was one of several activities at intercultural days, which brings together government officials and members of the Native community. It is sponsored by the Department of Indian Affairs. □

NORTHERN ALBERTA NATIVE SLOWPITCH TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 13 & 14, 1988

- Entry Fee \$200
- 16 Teams
- Deadline for Entry August 10, 1988



Call John R. Giroux 355-3868 (office)
355-2141 (home) or Ross Giroux
355-3868 (office) 355-2128 (home)

Hosted by the Driftpile Swingers
Fastball Club

Poundmaker's 12k run draws few entries

By Bea Lawrence
Windspeaker Staff Writer
EDMONTON, Alta.

The Sturgeon Golf Course near St. Albert was the starting point for the Sunday, July 3, Poundmaker Annual 12K Run for the fourteen runners who entered this year's event.

Three ladies and eleven men took part in the com-

petition which awarded winners with a jacket for first, a trophy for second while third prize received a t-shirt and souvenir pins were given to fourth place runners. These prizes were supplied to the winners courtesy of Poundmaker's Lodge which also was the designated finish line for the footrace.

Sixteen-year-old Cheyenne Fletcher of Edmonton won first place in the Ladies 12K with her time of 1 hour, 17 minutes and 59 seconds, while thirteen-year-old Shauna Cook also from Edmonton, placed second with her time of 1:31:00; Fort Chipewyan runner, Ruby Gibot took third spot for the race. At time of press, Gibot's score was unavailable for record.

In the men's 12K, nineteen-year-old Darrel McKay of Edmonton took first place with his time of 49:29:01 while second place went to Dean White of Saddle Lake with his time of 51:22:83. Twenty-year-old Curtis Cross of Frog Lake took third with his time of 54:20:30.

Poundmaker staff counsellor Roy Bighead indicated that, "although the weather was good that day, the audience turnout was fairly small." □



Good News
Party Line

Invitational Track & Field Meet, July 21, Hobbema. For all youth, 17 and under call Loma 585-3088.

Slowpitch Tourney, July 15-17, Jaycee Park, High Prairie. For further information call 523-3705.

PUT IT HERE.

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



SPORTS
ROUNDUP

By Kim McLain
...is on vacation

SPORTS & LEISURE

25th anniversary jamboree

Prince Albert event attracts big crowd on long weekend

By Bea Lawrence
Windspeaker Staff Writer

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask.

Three thousand people packed the Prince Albert Exhibition Grounds for the

25th Anniversary Jamboree over the Canada Day long weekend. The Double Knockout Co-ed Slo-pitch Tourney and North Saskatchewan Association Chariot Chuckwagon meet

brought a positive response from the crowd as did the dance bands who performed nightly from June 30 to July 3.

The Co-ed Slo-pitch attracted 16 teams with a

ratio of 7 men to 3 ladies per team. Green Lake came in from the B-side defeating Sandy Lake in two games for a first prize of \$1500. Their first win was 5-4 and the second was 6-5. Sandy Lake scooped up \$1000 for second place while the Hawkeye and the Blue teams collected \$500 each for third and fourth spot respectively.

The fastest chariot outfit championship driver is none other than the 1987 pony chuckwagon champion, 'Big George Sander-son.' The holder of this year's fastest pony chuckwagon championship though, goes to Abe Hildebrand. Best dressed chariot outfit winner is Lionel Parenteau and the best dressed pony chuckwagon victor is Ryan Peterson.

Ten dance bands all of whom were of Native descent performed nightly for a most appreciative crowd.

Executive Director of the Jamboree, Eugene Arcand said: "A good time was had by all and I'm sure that everyone went home with fond memories. The bands travelled from across the country, some from as far away, Ft. McMurray, Janvier Settlement, Lac La Biche, Manitoba and Halifax. There was also a group from Saskatchewan and one no-show, the Wildwood Band. That particular band showed us much discourtesy and unprofessionalism because I especially did my utmost in accommodating a spot for their performance.

He added, "otherwise the rest of the bands put on extraordinary performances, especially Gerry Greyeyes and Rick Laliberte who were the MC's nightly. They performed without any practices and had to improvise their sets which made it all the more

fun and interesting to watch."

The band list included: C-Weed and Friends, Road House (formerly The Breeze), Free Bird, Mike Malcolm Band, Kelly Athchynum and the Blue-water Band, Just the Boyz, Young Blood, Misdeal Midnight Sun, Fourth Generation (St. Jean Family and also the only Alberta band of the entire group), Gerry Greyeyes and Rick Laliberte and Priscilla Morin who performed with the B.C. Native Music Heritage Society.

Four kids also performed in a jiggling contest to the audience's delight. Their names were unavailable at press time.

"I would like to thank Mother Nature for cooperating and giving us the tremendously good weather for all the activities at our 25th Anniversary Jamboree," concludes Arcand. □

Mens and ladies fastball tourney attracts 26 teams to Regina

By George Poitras
Windspeaker Staff Writer

REGINA, Sask.

The Regina Friendship Centre played host to the Canadian Native Men's and Ladies' Fastball Championships July 1-3.

A total of 26 teams entered this tournament including 12 mens and 14 ladies teams from Regina and the surrounding areas. And, according to Garth Geddes, the executive direc-

tor of the Regina Friendship Centre, the tourney was considered a "first class tournament" because of the good organization shown the entire weekend by organizing officials.

In the ladies tournament The Pas Mixed Cree defeated Portage La Prairie in the final game to capture the first place prize money of \$2000, leaving the Portage La Prairie team second place prize money of \$1000. Third place in the ladies tourney was won by Gor-

don's Reserve who took home \$700 of prize money.

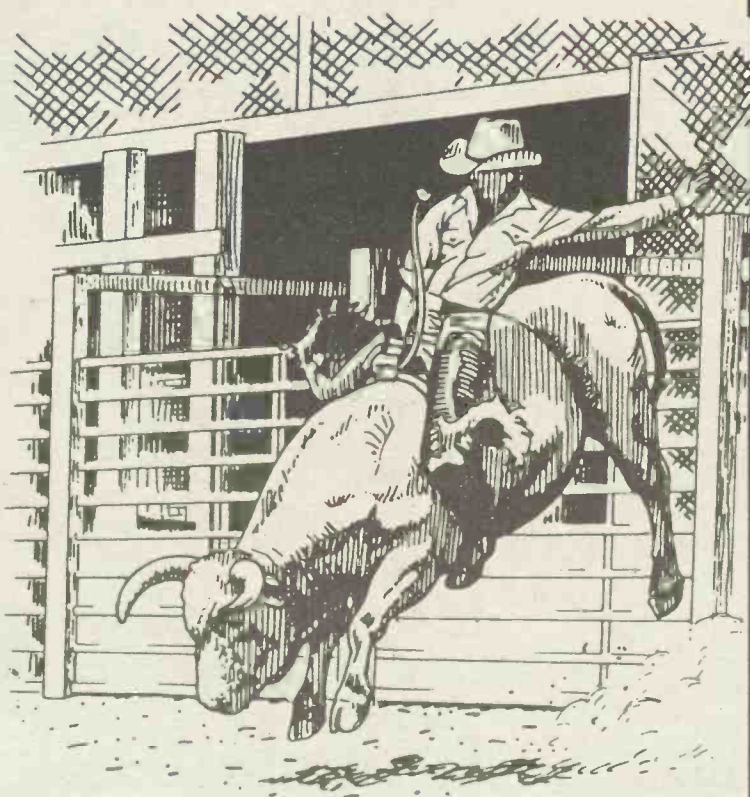
As in the ladies tourney, there was a lot of good competition in the men's tourney, said Geddes as the Cowessess Reserve outscored the Regina Braves for first place and a \$1100 first place finishing award. The Regina Braves took home \$800 to their advantage in the second place finish. Finishing third and a total of \$500 in prize money were the team from Little Black Bear.

SUCKER CREEK RODEO DAYS

NANCA Approved Rodeo

July 23 & 24, 1988

- ☆ Entry open July 18
- ☆ Call back July 20
- ☆ Mechanical bull riding contest
- ☆ Dance on the evening of July 23 - \$8 single \$15 couple



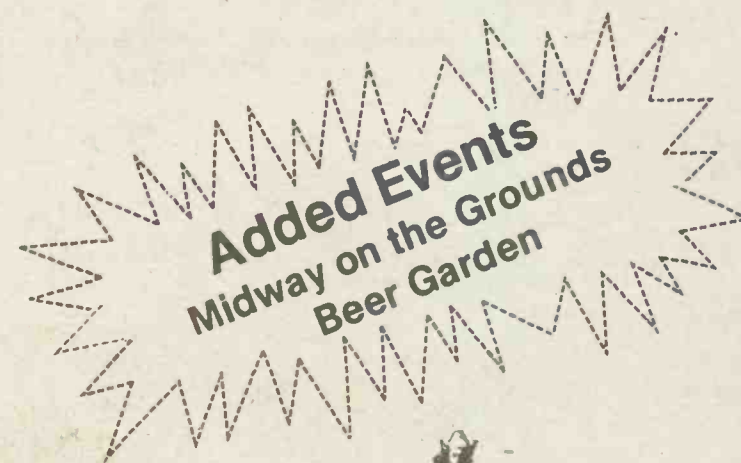
For more information call Cref 585-3852

Hosted by Sucker Creek Recreation

Ma-Me-O Beach



**Saturday and Sunday
July 16 & 17**



Entries Open July 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Call Back July 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information call Jim Yellowbird or 585-3852



Pony Chuck Wagon & Pony Chariot Races

Both Evenings

Sponsored by Jim Yellowbird & Family

Events

- Saddle Bronc
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- Bull Riding
- Calf Roping
- Steer Wrestling
- Senior Barrel Racing
- Entries \$50.00
- Team Roping
- Entries \$50.00 per man
- Purse \$500.00**
- Buckles for the Champions**
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Welcome to the 21st Annual
Kainai Indian Days
POWWOW & RODEO

July 21-24, 1988

Red Crow Park
Stand Off, Alberta, Canada

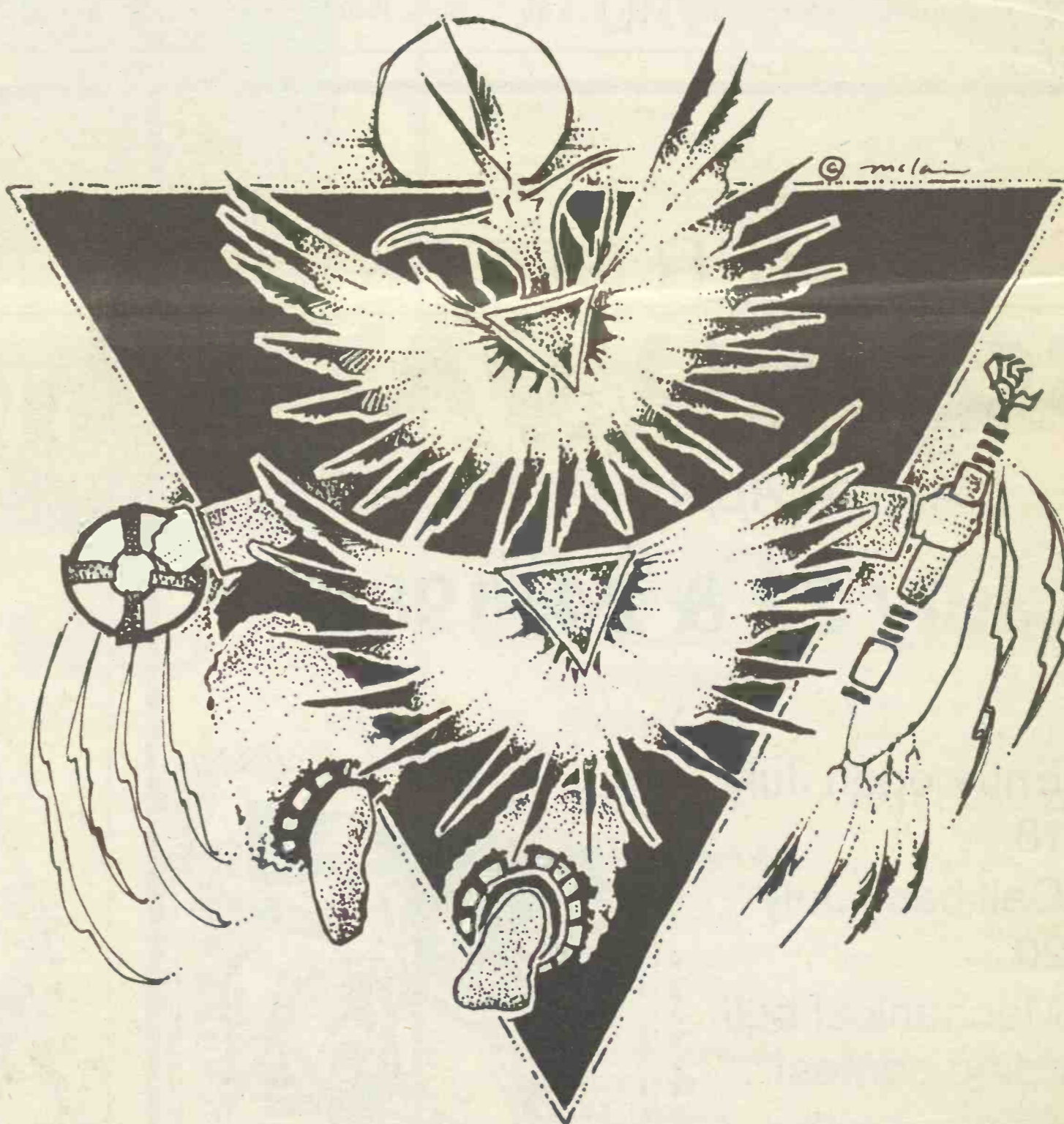
COMPETITION POWWOW \$25,000 in Prizes
All Categories: Jr. & Sr. - Drum Competition

- Rations for campers
- Elders Feasts (Sunday)
- Church Services (Sunday)
- Handgames
- Fastball Tournaments (Ladies' & Men's)
- Kainai Golf Classic Waterton Lakes
- Midway Attraction

Entertainment Attraction:
C-Weed, Kinroq, Oly Rose,
Life in the Spirit - All Native
Talent

Championship Rodeo:
Sanctioned by IRCA, Rodeo
announcers - Wilton
Goodstriker, Barry Many
Fingers

Special Attraction: Open
Chariot Races



REGISTER FOR: Trade Fair, Powwow, Concessions, Tipi, Parade (Saturday, 10 a.m.), Tug of War (Friday 10 a.m.) - Married Men vs Single Men, Married Women vs Single Women, Mixed Married vs Mixed Singles

HOSTED BY THE BLOOD TRIBE - Organizing Committee: Blood Tribe Education; Powwow Directors: Art Calling Last & John Healy; Announcers: Earl Old Person (Browning) & Peter Big Head (Stand Off)

24 Hour Security - Absolutely No Drugs or Alcohol - For more information: (403) 737-3966
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