

New pulp mill 'good news' for job seekers

By Keith Matthew
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

The president of the isolated Native community of Calling Lake is hoping the construction of a \$1.3 billion pulp and paper mill 40 kilometres away will give some relief to the unemployed in his community.

"Something like this is good news for employment," said Victor Gladue. Short term forestry projects are keeping 80 per cent of the community residents employed but those are only seasonal jobs, he said.

However, Gladue sees this problem alleviated by the announcement Premier Don Getty made in Athabasca Dec. 13.

Getty announced timber for the mill would come from a 73,000 square kilometre provincial forest management lease operated by Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries which is a subsidiary of British Columbia-based Crestbrook Forest Industries.

"This historic project reaffirms our government's commitment to economic diversification in Alberta," said Premier Getty in a news conference. He also said that the project will provide 1,300 direct jobs and an additional 2,600 indirect jobs.

The mill is slated to begin production by late

1991 with a high-grade paper plant slated for construction in 1995.

The news comes as a welcome surprise to the Cree president of Calling Lake. "What we are hoping to do is meet with the company that has a contract for cutting trees and see where we, as Natives, fit in job-wise. There would be a lot of spin-offs like logging and there would be a lot of construction work in 1991 when work begins on the physical plant. We are hoping to get some jobs," said Gladue.

According to one outspoken environmentalist the environmental impact assessment study of the proposed mill was completed without public involvement. "Now, in theory the study is done. Because the public has been kept in the dark — we are at a tremendous disadvantage and we are having to race against time on this issue," said Randy Lawrence, formerly of Toxic Watch, an Edmonton-based environmental group.

However, Gladue said that Calling Lake residents are not overly worried that the proposed pulp mill will be pumping potentially toxic effluent into the Athabasca River.

"I guess there is always a lot of concern about something like that although we are a long ways from the Athabasca River, but I think our community won't be affected much. There are only a few people trapping now," he explained.

Gladue was reluctant to condemn the major pulp and paper mill. "I don't want to be too negative about this because the welfare system has really hurt our people."

Athabasca Member of the Legislative Assembly said he's started a "project watchdog committee" which will monitor the project. Leo Piquette said he will check whether Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries carries out the promises it made to the provincial government.

"We have to ensure that the environment is not compromised and the promises we've heard are fully lived

Continued Page 2



'Too good to be used as just tables': Art teacher Roy Thomas and Alexander students

Dreams come alive on table tops

By Albert Crier
Windspeaker Correspondent

ALEXANDER

The beauty of a young person's dreams strikes viewers of the blazing art work done on table tops by high school students at the Kipothakaw School at Alexander band, 50 km northwest of Edmonton.

Art students relate to their cultural past of a free and harmonious lifestyle when Indian people enjoyed the natural abundance of Mother Earth.

Mural size paintings of wildlife, natural landscapes and Native designs dominate the panorama of color pressed onto the table tops.

Troy Arcand, an 18 year old grade ten student, stands out as having an eye

and talent for artistic expression.

"I have a great feeling for my drawings," says Arcand, a usually shy person who has found his interest in art grow since his days in kindergarten school.

His contributions to the table top art illuminate his personal yearning for his Native roots.

"My art comes mostly from my wondering about how Natives lived in the past," he explains.

Arcand compliments his fellow students for supporting and encouraging each other on paintings done on each table top.

OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE
See Special Report Pages 14

The art class painted the scenes on the 17 tables under the guidance of accomplished artist Roy Thomas. The work was a collaboration with Industrial Arts class who had completed the tables last month.

A surprised Thomas says that he feels good about seeing the creativity of his first art class being expressed on the three by eight foot table tops.

"I didn't expect anything like this to happen," says Thomas. Adding that he is unsure where the tables originally made for school use will now go.

"These are too good to be used just as tables,"

explains Thomas.

"The students feel good about themselves and it shows in their work," he says.

Thomas teaches his students the full scope of the art world from reviewing the source of raw materials, like wood, paints and brushes to the business of selling completed work. Following the Kipothakaw wholistic education philosophy, students also learn to connect their culture with their present learning.

"Art expression helps them see themselves, I only help doctor their eyes," he explains.

Now that the tables are finished, emerging artist Arcand, cannot stop his brushes from moving, so he began painting murals on the school walls.

Some Metis elders feel powerless

By Susan Enge
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Three of fourteen Metis elders sitting on the Metis Association of Alberta's Elders Council are pleased with their advisory role in settling disputes but feel powerless and embroiled in petty and demoralizing conflicts.

"This is the problem with Native people - they never agree. I'm truly ashamed," said Dr. Ann Anderson, an 83-year-old Cree language and cultural instructor referring to the current dispute between the MAA and Edson Local 44's leadership.

Membership cards of Local 44 president Sharon Johnstone-Martel and her

husband, former Zone 4 vice-president Dan Martel were revoked by the MAA last summer, a decision based on their alleged failure to account for a grant of \$4000. The Metis elders met in October in Edmonton to discuss this issue among other items and voted on whether to reinstate or suspend their membership. Some elders claim they voted in favour of reinstatement while others recall a tie vote.

"I like both of those people, but our members have to be in good standing. The issue is not settled," said Dr. Anderson.

Grand Centre elder Ernest Primeau said they agreed to reinstate the Martel's membership but claimed their decision was ignored by the MAA.

"They're making us nothing but guinea pigs. We have no authority."

"I was good and disgusted," recalled Primeau when he discovered an outstanding payment owed to Sam Sinclair, who was contracted to complete a project, wasn't paid. The elders insisted the MAA immediately settle its account with Sinclair. "It (decision) was shot down right away."

Primeau said he "didn't know what the hell we were getting into" when he agreed to sit on the elders' council.

The complaints about the MAA's leadership are also disturbing, says Primeau. "If you keep firing people, you're the one that's going to lose your membership. I don't think he's a leader at all," he said,

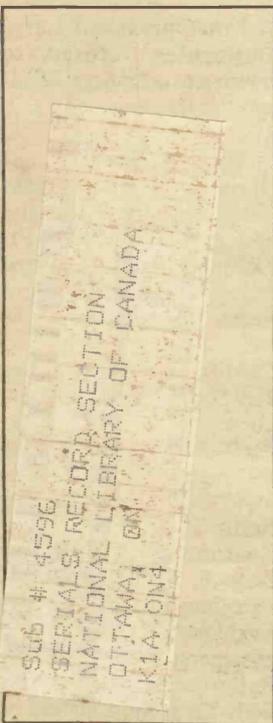
referring to president Desmeules.

Bill Flamand, a 66-year-old elder from Drayton Valley, recalls discussion about both these issues but left his hearing aid in his hotel room, preventing his participation. He says the local "tried to pressure" him during a meeting last month in Edson. "They kept asking me what I thought. I was by myself, alone. So, I just didn't say anything."

The eldest of the elders, 88-year-old Edward Karakonti from Calahoo is the most disillusioned. He said president Desmeules "rejected us right there when we told him our decision to give the cards back to those people (Martels)."

"He (Desmeules) didn't

Continued Page 2



Littlechild describes his first days as MP

By Keith Matthew
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

Native Member of Parliament Willie Littlechild finds the pace on parliament hill to his liking and says that his first days in parliament left him with an indescribable feeling of accomplishment.

"For the longest time I never gave it any thought as to what it would be like," explained Littlechild. "I was sworn in and I went to a provincial caucus meeting then I went to a national caucus meeting and then I went into the house.

"Finally, to be able to take my seat in the house was an indescribable feeling. I don't know how to explain it. It is the final accomplishment for one goal," he exclaimed.

He says it is like "climbing a mountain and then seeing a whole lot of other mountains to climb. It was a good feeling of satisfaction to reach a goal."

Littlechild explained that he has his work cut out for him. "As far as being a Native in the house and the pressures — I am getting a lot of delegations already. I think it is an added responsibility but I am willing to accept that responsibility and try and help as much as I can.

"I want to do well for my constituency and I want to do well for what some

people call the biggest constituency in Canada which is the Native population. It is part of the responsibility of being here," he says.

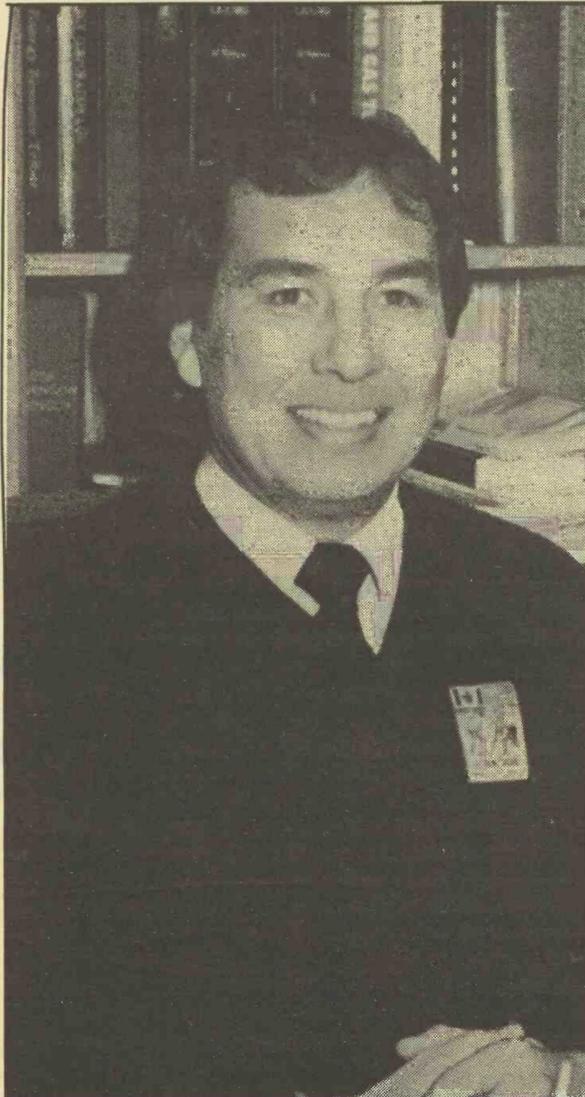
He says the reaction to his being in the house from other MPs has been "very positive" and almost overwhelming.

"As far as reaction from other MP's my first national caucus meeting we went around the room with all of the different provinces introducing their new members — when they got to me I got a really long standing ovation, and, to me, the immediate thing I noticed was the prime minister was the only other one who got a standing ovation," says Littlechild.

He says he has plans to make his first speech to the house in Cree. "I haven't done it yet and I am still waiting for a ruling on that and I will probably doing it sometime this week."

He says that he has been extremely busy in his first couple of weeks and credits good planning to getting off to a good start in Ottawa. "I came here right after the election and I got right to work. I started going through resumes and started hiring staff...I looked for an office. There are some MPs who aren't settled in yet and we are into the second week of meetings already."

He says he is already receiving calls from delegations and is receiving pre-



Got a standing ovation: Willie Littlechild

sentations from people and he didn't have any time to sit back and catch a breather. "I am glad I got right to work," he says.

Littlechild says his first remarks to the house will be on the Free Trade issue because his constituency felt very strongly about the issue. He says the house has extended the hours of debate on the issue to meet the Jan. 1 deadline and "we are going past midnight every night...so our next two weeks are set as far as a house agenda."

He says that all normal

business of the house has been pre-empted until the bill is passed but he has put in for work on various committees. "I've put in for health and welfare, I've put in for Aboriginal affairs, I've put in for energy and I've been going to the agricultural committee already. But I won't know until after the new year what the committee structure will look like."

Littlechild concludes, "I would like to thank all the people who supported me and also wish everyone the best of the festive season."

Metis alliance may dissolve

By Susan Enge
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

The president of the Alberta Metis Nation's Alliance says the organization may be forced to call it quits after suffering from serious financial problems ever since its inception a year ago.

"Notice of a special resolution to dissolve the organization was passed," by alliance members who attended a meeting in Edmonton Dec. 12, said Ron Larocque.

"We can't exist by membership fees on its own," he said. And, plans to obtain a level of self-sufficiency by developing the economic businesses attached to the organization have fallen

through.

"I'm a little concerned that the organization is not substantially different from other organizations. It has to be independent politically. I wanted it to be financially independent from government," said Larocque.

Larocque said the separate economic businesses attached to the organization have not been able to finance the political main body.

A general assembly will be held Feb. 12 in Stony Plain where a final resolution to dismantle or maintain the year-old splinter group will be held.

Alliance members split from the Metis Association of Alberta last year when major differences with the leadership could not be resolved.

Pulp and paper mill From Page 1

up to and the public is fully implicated in the public hearing process.

"I'm getting sick and tired of seeing our Native people bypassed in terms of economic development...we need to get our Native people off of welfare," he said.

"I am fighting for affirmative job designation in the mill and making sure that the company works with Metis and the local people to ensure that they are able to start up small businesses," said Piquette.

In a press statement released by Forestry, Lands and Wildlife it states the timber for the mill will be drawn from a Forest Management Agreement area in the northeast part of the province. Working within an area of 73,000 square kilometres the company will limit its annual harvest to about 1 per cent of the total area over the 20 year lease.

Crestbrook Forest Industries is jointly owned by Mitsubishi Corporation and Honshu Paper Company, both of Japan, and by a variety of Canadian investors.

Elders' Council From Page 1

listen to our decision. I don't think nothing of him as a leader, and I'm an old-timer."

In fact, Karakonti believes Desmeules leadership is wreaking havoc on the organization. "To tell you the truth, the Metis Association is going downwards. We need new leadership," he said.

The Metis Elder's Council consists of two elders from six provincial zones with two co-chairpersons. Guidelines outlining the basic principles to assist the elders in their decision making were mailed to them last month. In a covering letter, MAA's lawyer Ron Karoles stipulates "fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory decisions without malice or bias" is the major objective of the council.

It is common practice amongst native people to consult with elders, said

Dr. Anderson. The concept of a Council of Elders is positive. "I think it's a wonderful thing. It makes them feel like they are somebody. Well, they know a lot, so why not use them."

MAA president Larry Desmeules refused to return any calls from Windspeaker for comment.

The Metis Elders Council consists of: Zone 1, Sam Laboucane-Lac La Biche and Adles Tremblay-Ft. McMurray; Zone 2, Lloyd Poiras-Elk Point and Ernest Primeau-Grand Centre; Zone 3, Christine Chalifoux-Medicine Hat and Sophie Hiebert-Coalhurst; Zone 4, Dr. Anne Anderson-Edmonton and Bill Flamand-Drayton Valley; Zone 5, Lawrence Bottle-Slave Lake and Ed Courtoreille-Slave Lake; Zone 6, Bill McAllister-Fairview and Joe Whitehead-Peace River. The co-chairpersons include Len Bellerose-Edmonton and Eddy Karakonti-Calahoo.

Women launch membership drive

By Susan Enge
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

A handful of active Metis women are gearing up for a membership and awareness drive in four major cities in February and March to strengthen their two-year old organization called Women of the Metis Nation.

President and co-ordinator of the organization Muriel Stanley-Venne is excited. "It gives us the chance to identify needs of Metis women."

About 12 Metis women will board a bus, donated by Canative Housing Corporation, a non-profit organization in Edmonton, to tour Calgary, Lac La Biche and Peace River says Stanley-Venne. But first, she

says, a "test run" will be conducted in Edmonton to "work out the kinks" before they hit the road.

The Metis woman spearheading the project plan to conduct each workshop to identify the needs of women at the community and provincial level, develop a method of influencing public policy and decision making, develop the management and administrative skills of Metis women.

Including such a large number of women in the campaign was intentional. "I didn't want it to be a one-woman or two-woman show," said Stanley-Venne.

The federal Secretary of State department in Alberta approved the Metis women's proposal Oct. 31 and provided a \$15,000 grant towards completing the initiatives outlined in the pro-

posal.

Their first meeting is scheduled in Edmonton on Feb. 28; Calgary on March 4; Lac La Biche on March 18 and Peace River on April 1.

"We are very enthusiastic. Interest was kind of lagging, but some persistent women pursued," said vice-president Margerie Friedel from Duffield, Alta. Friedel works as a taxation technician for a private firm in Edmonton.

The project is "critical" to the success of the organization, said Sheila Belhumer, secretary of the Metis women's group.

Secretary of State's regional director thinks this project will "further the causes of aboriginal women" in the province.

"We felt they were addressing concerns specif-

ic of Metis women," said Marc Arnal. The Alberta Native Women's Association has "not been the most effective organization in the province," he added.

A report describing the needs and priorities Metis women will be written and submitted to Secretary of State on completion of the project.

Women of the Metis Nation was formally organized in 1986 when the final first minister's conference on Aboriginal rights was scheduled to take place the following year. It was felt Metis women had special concerns that needed to be addressed.

Some executive members hope the proliferation of this provincial group will lead to the formation of a national Metis women's organization.

CLOSE TO HOME



Died in a city jail: Benita Omeasoo, 18

Recommendations result from Omeasoo hanging Suicide inquiry completed

By Susan Enge
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

A court inquiry into the suicidal death of Benita Omeasoo has resulted in recommendations being made to the Attorney General to prevent similar deaths from re-occurring in Edmonton's jail cells.

The mandatory inquiry, called after the 18-year-old Hobbema resident hung herself in the "drunk tank" at city police headquarters on May 19, concluded Dec. 13 after three hours of testimony.

Crown counsel David Kinlock called police constables, a paramedic and the mother of the deceased to the stand to replay the events of the early morning tragedy that took place last summer.

Omeasoo's mother, Irleen Bull, testified she and her daughter went to bingo together that night. "She won some money and after, she called somebody she was supposed to go out with. She wasn't drinking...she had her sash (woolen belt) on over her shirt...it was chilly that night."

That was the last time, she would see her daughter alive.

According to witnesses, an intoxicated Omeasoo was found lying on a private lawn in a city residential area. The homeowner who discovered her there called the city police. They picked her up at 4:40 a.m. and took her to Edmonton's George Spady Centre, a 'dry out' facility.

But, she was removed to the city jail, because she wasn't "co-operating with

the staff and was being obnoxious," said crown counsel Kinlock. An hour later, she committed suicide. Police officers found her hanging from the cell bars with her sash tied around her neck at 5:20 a.m.

Paramedics were called at 5:30 a.m. and arrived six minutes later. They managed to restore her pulse, but she never regained consciousness. Omeasoo died five days later in the Royal Alexandra Hospital. She was brain dead.

Justice Carl Rolf, the presiding judge, told the court he would prepare a report, summarizing the Omeasoo case. He will also provide recommendations to the Attorney General that may prevent similar deaths from re-occurring.

Since Omeasoo's death,

the city jails have been altered to prevent a similar occurrence. Fine metal mesh has been attached to the cell bars. The mesh is designed to screen access to the bars preventing ropes or string from being tied to them.

Outside the court room, Bull recalled the good relationship she had with her daughter. "She was really outgoing. We were really close. But I'd say in her last two months, she was upset. Her boyfriend wasn't treating her good. She lost interest in school- and she quit. And, she started drinking, not everyday, but on weekends," said Bull.

"I know I can never get her back. I just hope it'll prevent somebody else from..." she said, unable to continue. Bull doesn't plan to sue the city police for negligence.

Elders' wood stolen

By Julie Dick
Courtesy of Athabasca Advertiser

CALLING LAKE, Alta.

Louise and Joe Cardinal of Calling Lake are not feeling too charitable towards hunters these days.

Louise and Joe run a trapline west of Calling Lake; near Long Lake. They have a log cabin and garage set up as well to make life a little more comfortable for themselves when they're working.

Last week they went out to the line to check up on things and discovered one half of a cord of firewood had been stolen from outside their cabin. The wood was dry, peeled and split jackpine that had been covered in plastic.

"They backed up a truck and picked out all the wood but the bottom layer. Then they covered up what was left with the plastic again," said Louise.

"There were at least two guys from the tracks that could be seen," she said. "This is the first time that something like this has ever happened to us."

She isn't impressed with anyone who would steal, period, but she is even less impressed with someone who steals from the elderly.

"Taking wood from an old man and lady; Joe is 74. If they can't get their own wood then they might as well stay home."

The couple reported the theft to the RCMP as well as Fish and Wildlife, although they weren't expecting an investigation, they want the thieves to be aware that they will be on the lookout from now on.

"I hope this never happens again," said Louise.

TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN

This week's fosterchild: John

Can you remember what it was like to be a teenager - getting ready to face this big world as an adult one day - the next day wanting to remain a kid, not being serious about anything? Most of us got through those years, maybe with a few scars - but we did it!

Can you help John, 15, make it through his teenage years? John has been through a number of foster homes - a couple he stayed at for years, others were for short periods of time.

John finds it very hard to let people get close to him. He is scared and angry. To cover up these feelings John acts real tough. He may try to skip school at times, drink when the alcohol is there, mouth off if you get too close.

John needs adults who will lay out the house rules to him and stick to them consistently - with fair rules and fair discipline. He also needs a family who will have the time to be there for him - time to spend talking, making special times for things John's interested in doing like swimming, biking and shopping.

Someone who knows what's happening for teenagers would be good for John. Someone who can sit and talk to John realistically about his future and the choices he has to make right now. John does not need another lecture, but he needs to have someone's time to make him feel special.

Can you teach John how to prepare meals, how to manage money, how to study properly, how to present himself to others? Can you teach him that balance between work and play?

Think about John - you can make a difference!

Call Susan at 431-6680 for more information about foster children who need homes.

KEITH MATTHEW, Windspeaker



Song for the sick

Clara Foster was just one of the Edmonton Native Senior's choir who was at the Charles Camsell Hospital entertaining the seniors who are shut in for the Christmas holidays. Choir organizer Florence Giroux says, "We just started doing it this year and it is to see a lot of happy faces. To share and be happy."



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The editor encourages readers to submit news articles, photographs, features and community news. Submissions should be typed and double spaced whenever possible. Editorial copy must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday in order to be printed in the next issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Windspeaker welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be brief and include the name, address and telephone number of the writer. We will not print unsigned letters unless there is a good reason for withholding your name and even then the editor must know the identity of the writer. Windspeaker reserves the right to edit letters for length, taste and libel.

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Handwritten text in Cree syllabics, continuing the message.

YOUR WORDS

Free trade ad gets more flack

Dear Editor:

Here's more flack on the Roy Louis free trade ad, Nov. 18 issue.

The free trade article has been the most discussed topic in the Canadian nation, while we, as Aboriginal people of this once-great nation, have been totally ignored from day one by Canadian governments.

Our representative of the Indian Association of Alberta has stepped forward on our behalf to say that we support free trade. I am disheartened by this gesture made by our elected representative. It seems to me that there tends to be a lack of consultation between the respective leaders of this province, perhaps not so much on

the tribal representatives' part, perhaps it entirely rests on the IAA.

More and more we are being used and also abused as scapegoats of the governments and yet we always say it'll wear off, it's only a temporary malfunction of the government.

Not being recognized as the original Aboriginals of this country saddens me wholistically, and to see one of our leaders promoting government policy, makes a person wonder what goes on in the deeper depths of the association.

Concerned
Anti-Free Trade Critic
Johnny S. Laboucan
Slave Lake

Lonely and sober, now seeking penpals

Dear Editor:

Hello. My name is Joseph Ward and I am interested in becoming a penpal.

I am a Treaty Indian and live on the Enoch reserve. I am the second youngest out of a family of seven. I am sober and enjoy it very much, but I also am lonely. I would like to reach out to people and see how they are doing or living.

It doesn't matter regarding the age or sex, young or old. I will welcome all penpals. I only speak English. I thank you for your cooperation.

My address is: Joseph Ward, Box 71, Winterburn, Alberta TOE 2N0.

Thank you,
Joseph Ward
Enoch

AS I SEE IT...

Last words

After sitting in the editor's chair for more than a year and a half, this will be the last issue of Windspeaker that will fall under my red pen.

During my time as editor I was able to meet a lot of our readers, but the nature of this job kept me tied to my desk. When I realized I was missing out on what I feel is the most important part of journalism, talking to people and finding out the issues in their lives, I knew I'd eventually have to rectify the situation. I was able to learn a lot about managing a newspaper, but now feel it's time to get back to my first love, interviewing and writing about people.

So now, it's off into the unknown. After some travelling around the southern United States, I'll be back in Edmonton seeking projects that require the services of a writer. Though I'll always keep my hand in journalism, I hope to flex my creative thinking muscles and write some short stories, film scripts and plays. In fact, I'd like to see more plays about Native issues being acted out on the stages of Alberta. Last summer, after seeing a Vancouver theatre group's presentation of No 'Xya (Our Footprints), a play about Native land claims, I began to appreciate the power of drama. The play, which illustrated the relationship the B.C. Indians have with their land, was more effective in getting the land claim fight message across to audiences than any politician's speech could ever be.

So, to all our readers, Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year. It's been a great one and a half years being the editor of Windspeaker and it's been, you - the people, who helped to make it so great.

- By Dianne Meili

GRASSROOTS

Youth workshops promote sobriety

By Bea Lawrence
Windspeaker Staff Writer

SUCKER CREEK RESERVE

Sucker Creek band's Family Sharing Circle workshop program is a model facility designed specifically to enhance the personal, family and community developments among Native youth.

The family sharing circle originated four years ago under the direction of the band's youth worker Marilyn Willier and National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NNADAP) coordinator for the Regional Council of the Lesser Slave Lake area Cam Willier (no relation).

Youth workshop meetings are held every Monday evening at the rec centre to promote and maintain sobriety in the community. In their talks the youths learn to acquire trust, friendship, confidence, and self-esteem (not necessarily in this order).

"The downfall of many communities is caused by alcohol and drugs," said Marilyn at a recent workshop during Sucker Creek band's 4th annual Drug and Alcohol Awareness Volleyball Tournament on Dec. 3. "Our goal this year is to prepare five youths for peer counselling."

"Initially, the youth entering the workshop usually gives his or her account of previous activities with alcohol and drugs," continued Marilyn. "We try to fill up that 'empty space' with sports activities and soon the youths realize they can have fun without consuming these stimulants. Volleyball is tied in with the workshop during the winter months and baseball games dominate the summer season."

Recreational director David Willier is also an active member with the weekly youth meetings. Willier supports his co-workers' efforts for the group by organizing and

officiating youth sports events. The 19-year-old joined the band's recreational committee two years ago.

These workshops are open to the youths of other bands in the district. The bands included are: Drift-pile, Swan River, Sawridge, Duncan, Horse Lake, Grouard, Sturgeon and Whitefish.

Youths are taught and encouraged to facilitate these workshops as a free service for individual and community development. There is no age limit restrictions to join the group. "We are concerned especially with the young ones," explained Marilyn.

"We've seen lots of changes in the youths who attend these workshops and we get a lot of excellent response from the parents," she added.

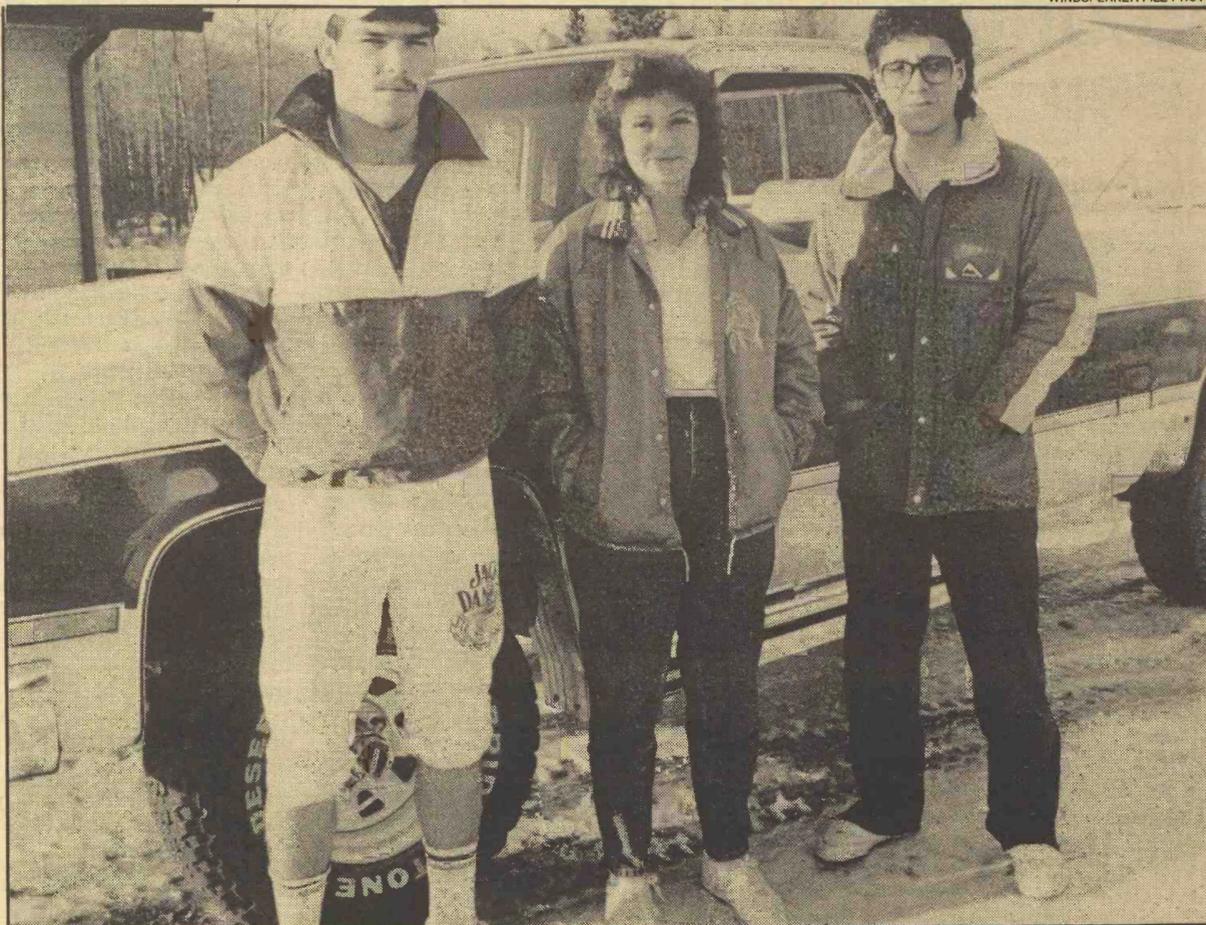
Starting in January, the youth workshops will meet every Monday and Thursday. Presently, the workshop is facilitated by a dozen dedicated regular youth members.

Outstanding youth achievement awards were distributed to a few of these youth members at the recent volleyball tourney. The overall outstanding youth achievement was awarded to Connie Calliou. Other award winners included: Marvin Calliou, Kerri Calliou, Beryl Willier and Bonnie Willier.

The youths in turn awarded plaques of appreciation to the band's chief and council (for their moral and financial funding support); to the group's coordinators; and to the recreation committee.

Volunteer committee members include: Henry Calliou, Steve Willier, Lon Willier and the youth workshop coordinators.

The coordinators are performing commendable tasks for the youths of the Sucker Creek reserve and the youths hold principal responsibilities for the success of their workshop facility service.



Try to fill that 'empty space': Coordinators David, Marilyn and Cam Willier

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GRASSROOTS

East Prairie Metis Settlement

Economic future looks bright

By George LaFleur
Windspeaker Correspondent

EAST PRAIRIE

The future looks bright for this northern Alberta Metis settlement.

The reason for the optimism is rooted in a recently completed elk ranch and an impressive recreational/cultural conceptual plan which includes a complex, skating rink, playground, two ball diamonds, picnic area, parking lots and a grade school. The skating rink, playground and the shell for the complex are currently being constructed with the remainder of the plan to be put into effect at a future date.

The elk ranch, which was opened in July, 1988, now has 18 elk. The settlement is currently implementing plans to expand this enterprise.

Alphonse L'Hirondelle, chairman of East Prairie settlement council, is quick to point out the potential of the elk ranch and some

future goals. "Even if we sold out right now, we would make a profit of \$150,000. The small herd we have now plus the time and effort the community has put into the project makes the elk ranch worth close to half a million dollars.

"We have a state of the art designed system which makes the elk easy to manage. The government and the people at Elk Island National Park want to come out and see how it is designed, as we believe it is designed in a unique fashion."

Right now, the elk ranch occupies a quarter section of land with the total area available for expansion being one and a half sections.

The elk ranch currently employs seven people on a Priority Employment Program (PEP).

The elk were purchased with funds borrowed from Settlement Investment Corporation.

East Prairie is named after the river which flows

through the settlement and covers a land area of 337 square kilometres. The population is 430 with the majority of the people being under 50 years of age.

Settlement members go to High Prairie for goods and services. Harry Supernault, former chairman, runs a small confectionery store and gas bar. He also manages a video outlet.

The RCMP detachment from High Prairie serves the settlement. The nearest airport and bus service is located in High Prairie. There is a Roman Catholic Church on the settlement.

Oil and gas exploration activity is sporadic with some seismic work being done in 1988.

Hunting, trapping and fishing were once the main source of livelihood, these activities are now only done by a few to supplement their way of life.

The settlement land is capable of maintaining continual agricultural use with crops such as barley, oats, canola and other for-

age crops.

L'Hirondelle cites the lack of employment for settlement members, housing and bad drinking water as the prime concerns of the settlement council.

L'Hirondelle heads a five-member council which governs the settlement. Besides L'Hirondelle, vice-chairman Elmer Patenaude, Margaret Supernault, Louis Haggerty and Edward Supernault also sit on council. Each councillor is in charge of one or more portfolios including: elk (game) ranch, recreation, bingo, education, personnel, protective services, bylaws, housing, and water and sewer.

Another social concern of the settlement council is the high drop out rate among Metis students and the fact there are so few students from the settlement continuing their education in high school.

"The kids are not taught the importance of education," said L'Hirondelle. "Students are bused to High Prairie, leaving at seven in the morning and return at five in the afternoon. Plans for a school have been put on the backburner for now. Very few of the people have gone on to further their education."

Despite the lack of higher education, Harold Bellerose, settlement manager, says the settlement does not have a problem of substance abuse or alcoholism. "It's there, but is not a widespread thing."

One of the earlier settlers on the settlement was former Alberta Federation



Half million dollar industry: One of 18 elk

of Metis Settlement Associations (FMS) president Maurice L'Hirondelle.

L'Hirondelle moved from Lac La Nonne to East Prairie in 1941. Initially, just he, his father and brother went to check out "the new land that was being offered to the Metis."

He adds, "When my dad saw the land, he told us this is where we will stay. Dad was a trapper and hunter and he told us we would do the farming and he would take care of the hunting. When we came to East Prairie, the Belleroses and George Harvey were already here.

"There was plenty of timber, moose, deer and other game.

"There was no logging in those days, everybody went into farming and we worked on a co-op basis, with people helping each other out."

Another former East Prairie member also became president of the federation. Joe Courtepatte was elected in 1984 and resigned because of health reasons in late 1985.

Chairman L'Hirondelle says many people on the settlement are going back to farming and "many settlers are raising cattle, some are into mixed farming while others just have horses."

A wilderness camp with survival being part of the program is offered during the summer to the East

Prairie youth. Harold Bellerose told of the last outing in the summer of '88 where 27 youth and nine adults took a nature trip where they had to "live off the land, hunting and snaring. The group killed a moose and learned how to make dried meat and how to cook."

Every year the settlement puts on a dinner at Christmas and an annual picnic during the summer. They sponsor a bingo in High Prairie to raise the funds for these events.

East Prairie intends to hold a 50th anniversary celebration this coming year on its own for "the people from this settlement who will not be able to go to the big celebration being planned by the FMS," said Bellerose.

In the history book on East Prairie Metis Settlement: 1939-1979 40 Years of Determination, the message ends with this paragraph: "I hope we have the heart, mind and soul it takes to leave our children the same type of world where they can develop into men and women who live their life, rather than spend it - like a true Metis."

With optimism like that, it is obvious that good things are in the future of the East Prairie Metis settlement.

East Prairie is located about 365 kilometres northwest of Edmonton.



Christmas brings a welcome opportunity to wish you the best the holidays can bring...peace and joy and the special closeness of family and friends. Have a happy, happy holiday and a bright New Year.



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GRASSROOTS

Volunteers and donations keep Xmas spirit alive

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'sleigh bells ringing!' (You
hear it ...?)

Festive activities this
time of year bring us closer
together. Together, to love
to give to share and to
remember.

We inevitably reminisce of 'days gone past'. These
memories confront us with mixed emotions. We
remember, we pray, and we celebrate.

Though commercialism (what a pity ...) has taken over
this holiday season, our sense of sharing is ever
increasing.

The mass anonymous donations and volunteers who
provide assistance to comfort needy families at this time
is evident indication of the caring and sharing felt by all.
'People helping people' is indeed the true spirit of
Christmas.

Keeping this in mind let's visit our neighbors across
the nation for some news ...

Bonnyville: A Dolphus Crier Memorial Trophy
award is up for grabs by the best all 'round entertainer at
the third annual Northeastern Alberta Cultural Committee
talent show Dec. 26. (Boxing day ... Happy Birthday,
Dad!)

The show will commence at 1 p.m. in the town's
Agriplex. Cash prizes will be awarded in each of the
approximate eleven talent competition categories. Cash
prizes are tentatively set at \$25-\$75. Door admissions
are: Adults \$3; Seniors \$1; Students \$2; Children 6-12-
years-old \$1; and free admission for children 5-years and
under.

A dance at 9 p.m. will follow the talent award



DROPPIN' IN By Bea Lawrence

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years and under.

Dolphus Crier was famous in this district for his
fiddling and musical talents. The late 48-year-old Crier
was a Beaver Lake resident.

The talented individual who places in two of the 11
talent competition event categories will be honored with
the Crier Memorial trophy award. The trophy will carry
the winner's insignia and be maintained by the Zone II
Metis Association regional council.

The Northeastern Alberta Cultural Committee
sponsors and hosts include: Local 641 Elk Point; Local
222 Cold Lake; Local 201 Lloydminster; Bonnyville
CNFC; Bonnyville Rehabilitation Centre; Kehewin Tribal
Administration; Cold Lake Alcohol Program and Zone II
Regional Council.

The group is in the process of organizing a winter
carnival in February. Tentative dates are slated for the 17-
19. Watch for posters.

Hobbema: Cheques and contract presentations were
passed Nov. 24 between the Muskweches Ambulance
Authority Ltd. and the department of Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada in agreement for the handicapped busing
program on the reserves (Samson, Louis Bull, Ermineskin
and Montana).

"This five-year contribution agreement is the first of
it's kind on a reserve in this province," said Randy

presentations. Music will
be provided by the local
talents, "like a jam
session," said August
Collins Zone II Metis
Association vice-president
for the regional council of
the MAA. Admission for
the dance are: Adults \$5;
Seniors \$2; Students \$3;
Children 6-12 \$2; and free
admission for children 5-

Baptiste general manager of the Ambulance Authority in
a memo to Windspeaker. "The agreement is worth
approximately \$681,000 over the term."

Chief Jim Omeasoo on behalf of the Samson Band and
George Saddleback chairman of the board of the
Ambulance Authority accepted the presentation from the
director of education Sheila Carr-Stewart and
transportation officer Debbie Churchill on behalf of
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

"The busing service relieves the parents of transporting
their children to and from school in the neighboring towns
each day," continued Baptiste. "We were concerned about
the safety and well being of the handicapped children
living on all four reserves and wanted to secure their
futures as far as their transportation needs are concerned."

"The Ambulance Authority provides qualified medical
technicians to ride on the buses to attend to any medical
problems that might arise. We have received nothing but
praise from the various schools we drive the children to,"
said Baptiste.

"Through persistent and dedicated group effort, the
agreement was reached," said Chief Omeasoo.

"These negotiations could be used as a model when
dealing with various difficulties facing Indian people,"
said Saddleback.

High Level: Adult literacy development course
programs have commenced on the Dene Tha' reserve in
Meander River. Applicants can contact Rick Cookson-
Hills at Fairview College 926-4272 for assistance with
this 'ongoing' project. Grade 10 education is the
minimum qualification standards for the program.

Closed: For the Christmas holiday!

The Slave Lake CNFC Dec. 23-28.

The Edmonton CNFC Dec. 23-Jan. 3, 1989.

Poundmakers Lodge (the month of Dec.-Jan. 2, 1989).

Windspeaker offices Dec. 26-30.

Do have a safe and happy Christmas everyone! God
Bless and all the best in the New Year! Smile ...!

Season's Greetings

May peace be with you this
holiday season and
throughout the coming year.
From the Board and staff.



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GRASSROOTS

Morin celebrates 74th at CNFC

Well, another year is almost over and a new year is just around the corner. A time for resolutions, fresh or new ideas, etc. Almost like being a brand-spanking new person or baby. Regardless of the ups and downs many of us have gone through we can only hope for a better and brighter 1989. Have a happy New Year and let's hope for the best for our family, friends and acquaintances.

Happy Anniversary: A belated eighth anniversary goes out to Melvin and Brigitte Willier of Driftpile. Lucky Brigitte also got a belated anniversary gift at a local bingo hall the other night. Congratulations and may you have many more happy moons.

Sunshine Boy: Terry Lusty is a Mosom now! Baby Nevin was born Nov. 16 weighing 3 1/4 pounds to proud parents Sonny Lusty and Shannon Bear Chief in Calgary. According to Terry this is a "significant



HAVE YOU HEARD...
By Margaret Desjarlais

Telephone (403)455-2700 to have your birthdays, births, weddings, deaths, etc., considered here free of charge.

birthdate" because his grandson was born on the same day Louis Riel died. As a matter of fact he is trying to convince his son into using Riel as one of the baby's middle names. Congratulations to the family.

Belated Birthday: Lena L'Hirondelle celebrated her 78th

birthday Dec. 6. She's from St. Albert and recently contributed to the publication of the Metis Alberta Prairie (Grade 4 social studies textbook).

Happy 74th: Mabelle Morin celebrated her 74th birthday, December 14 in conjunction with CNFC's senior's Christmas party last Wednesday evening. According to Lyle Donald a good time was had by all seniors.

More Birthdays: Marcella Isadore, Dec. 16; Delores Isadore, Dec. 21; Leroy Isadore, Dec. 27; Charlie Willier, Dec. 29 (from all the kids and grandchildren); Dion Isadore, Jan. 3; Sid Big Charles,



Mabelle Morin, centre, flanked by Florence Giroux and Vivian Cardinal

Jan. 3 and Lorna Wright, Jan. 5.

Dancing Shoes: Seen boogying at a downstairs lounge at Chateau Louis last weekend was none other than Bob Stevenson. (Bob is affiliated with the Aboriginal Trappers Federation of Canada in Ontario.) Actually, it was my first meet with the fellow and he's quite all right with his silly sense of humor. When asked what kind of fur hat he had on his reply was usually "Otter, it's the otter one!" He also does the Red River Jig very professionally.

Lady Di Leaves: Our dear friend and editor Dianne, as you all know by now, has bowed out from the crew. Knowing Dianne she'll do just fine wherever or whatever she does with her carefree ways, patience and brains. Oh, Dianne isn't leaving us entirely - she plans on coming back to freelance after a holiday in Arizona for a month. Must be nice!

Last Crack: A busload of Indians (61 in all) were heading down the highway one hot summer night when they came upon a sign that said "Maximum 60." Without giving it a second thought and to much relief, they threw one off.

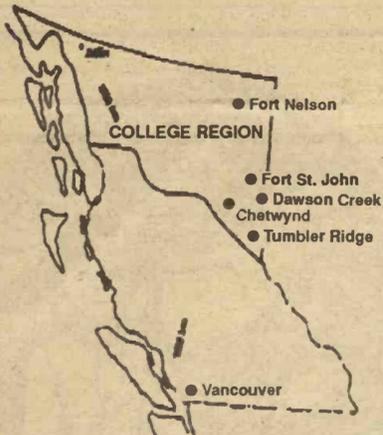
See you next year and drive carefully!

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Keep up the good work!

GRASSROOTS

LYLE DONALD, Special to Windspeaker



Danny Sinclair and the CNFC choir, above, and Herb Bell and Stan Belcourt pose with Mrs. Claus, Florence Giroux, below

LYLE DONALD, Special to Windspeaker



Seniors celebrate Xmas

By Lyle Donald
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

Over 100 Native seniors got together Dec. 14 at the

Montgomery Legion to share Christmas greetings at the annual Canadian Native Friendship Centre seniors Christmas party.

Along with a great buffet the seniors enjoyed the entertainment of CNFC's

Cree choir and good old-time music of Rod Sutherland and Country Pride.

Everyone received a present from "Mrs. Claus" Florence Giroux, the seniors worker, and a good time was had by all.

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From the Director & Staff

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the youth who have
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From the Chief, Council
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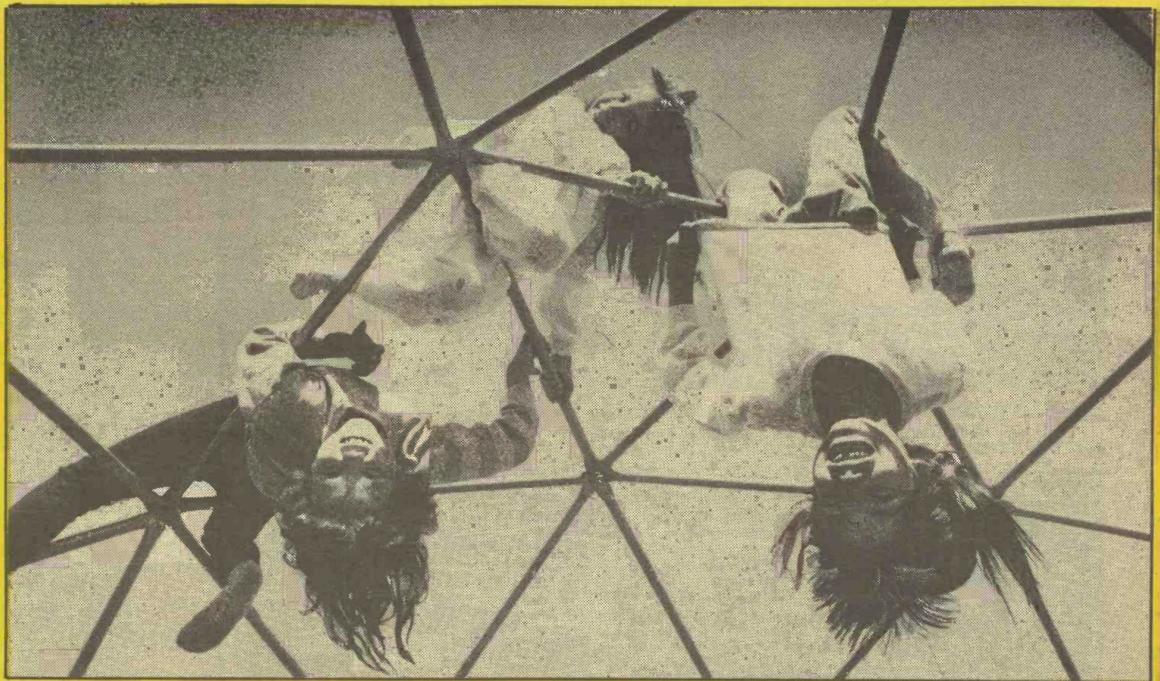
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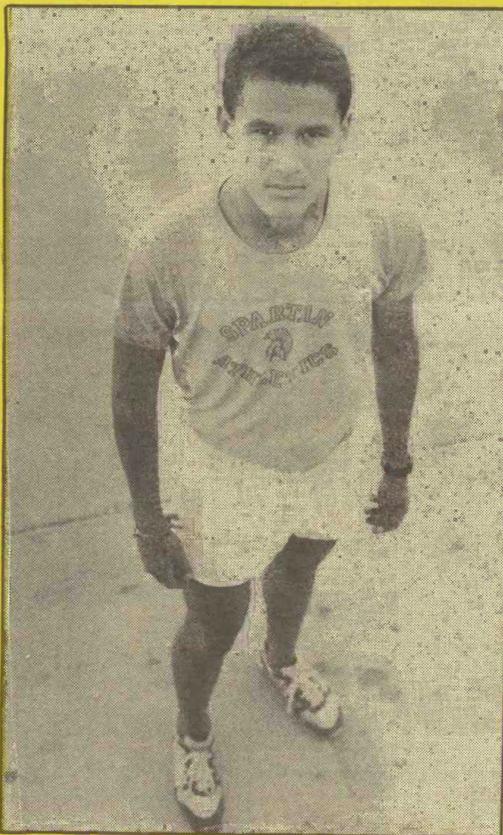
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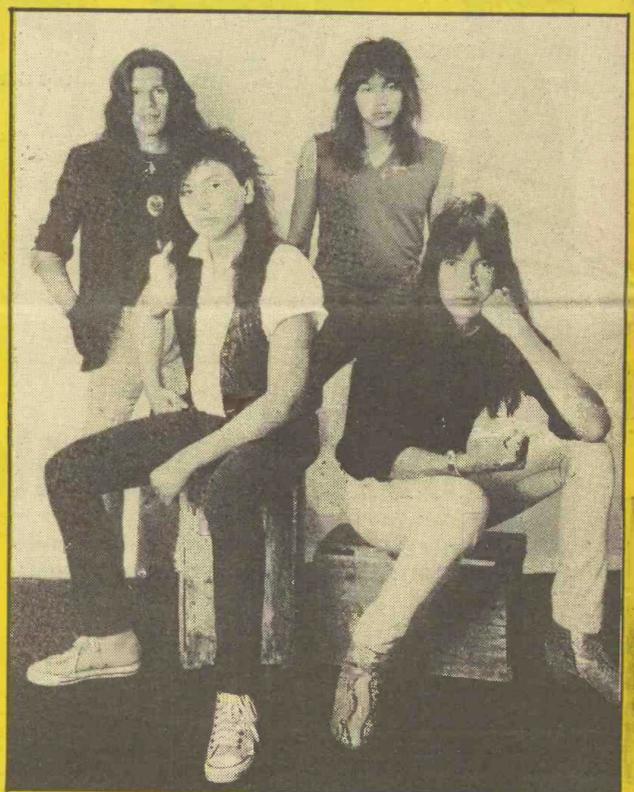
Our youth, ou



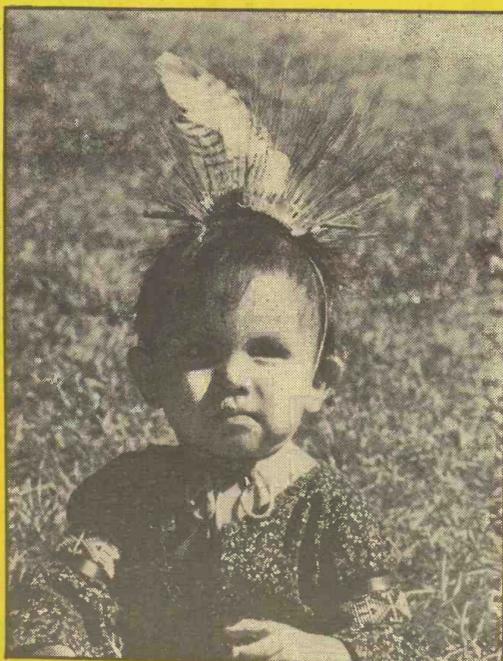
A hair raising experience: Leah Auger, Christine Anderson and Lena Houle, Calling Lake.



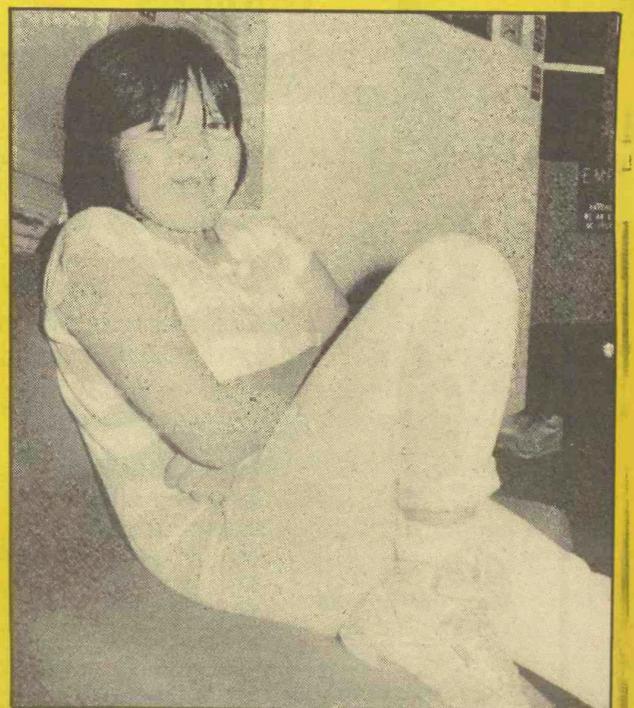
Marathon Man: Darrell McKay



KINROQ: Garret, Lance, Myron and Curt



Mini-sekatchess: Traditional dancer



Clean and sober: Patsy Crosinah



Sharp eye: Georg



Miss Peigan: Cam



Lotsa laughs: At a



Lights, camera, ac

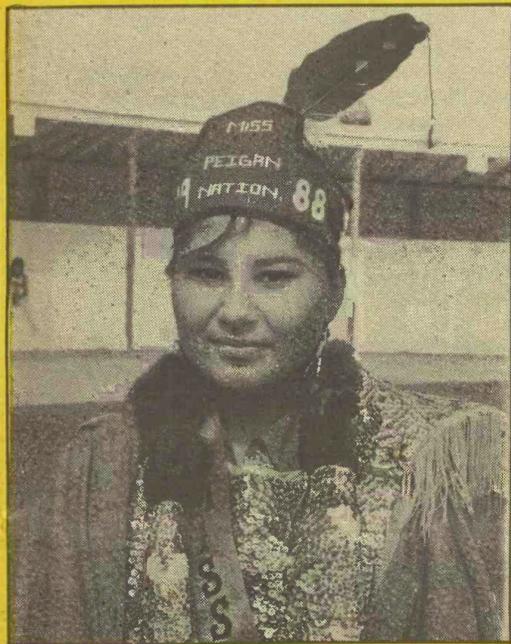
h, our future



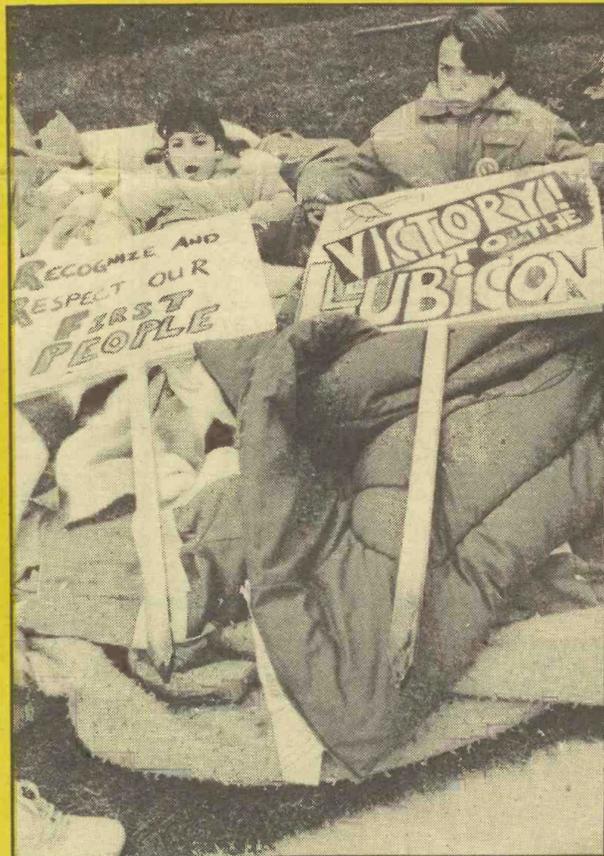
Sharp eye: *George Saddleback*



Little drummer boy: *On drums at a powwow*



Miss Peigan: *Carmen English*



Young protesters: *Caleb Hughes and Jess Sinclair*



Lotsa laughs: *At a summer powwow*



Lights, camera, action: *Kim Bruised Head and Michelle St. John*

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We take this opportunity to congratulate all the youths who have excelled in the past year. And may 1989 be bright and beautiful.

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OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE

Miss Metis' personality spells 'T.N.T.'

By Everett Lambert
Windspeaker Correspondent

EDMONTON

Miss Metis Alberta Twila Turcotte has initials that spell T.N.T and her sign of the zodiac is Scorpio. Scorpios are known for independence, make good bosses and are ambitious and powerful people. T.N.T, of course, is the abbreviation for trinitrotoluene - dynamite.

She says she finds that kind of weird but running for and holding a Miss Metis Alberta title puts that type of dynamic personality to use. But given the aggressive approach she also experiences the scary and unpleasant feelings many youth face.

Twila Nicole-Ann Turcotte is 19 years young and was born in this city. Her mother, Freda Flamong, is a Metis originally from the Fishing Lake Settlement and her father is a Saulteaux from Winnipeg.

In a stiff competition Turcotte ran against eight other competitors for the crown of Miss Metis Alberta back in September of this year. The 10-member judges panel chose her for first place with well over half of them voting for the lady who's thinking about possibly running for Miss Edmonton someday. She says she thinks a Native can win the Edmonton title too.

Turcotte displays a positive attitude. She admits that she was scared and

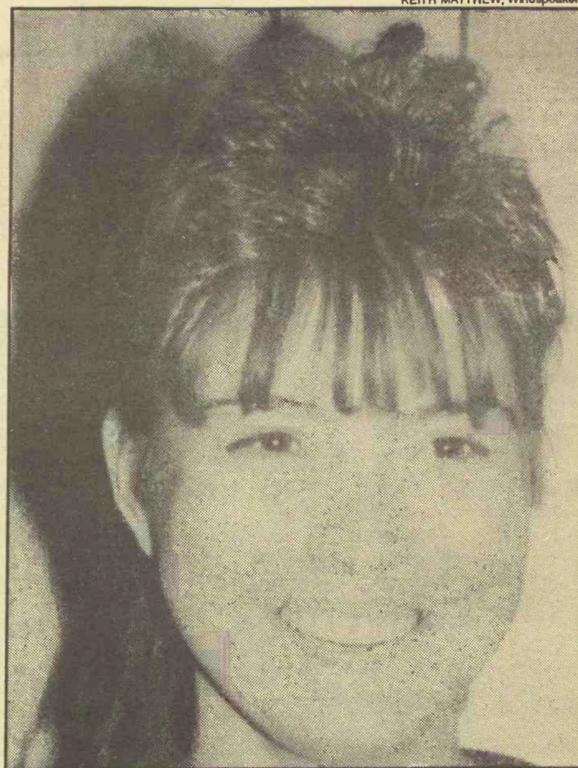
was thinking of dropping out two days before the Metis pageant but someone changed her mind. "A friend, Yvette, she encouraged me, she had confidence in me, which I was lacking. I did not want to wear a bathing suit in front of all those people," she recalls.

Turcotte works at the Royal Bank in the downtown area as a customer service representative. She also played a part in the movie "Bye Bye Blues" to be released in 1989. She says she did it because she likes challenges. In other related work a photo of herself is to be used on public relations material to be distributed by Alberta's Solicitor General's department.

The Grade 12 graduate also likes dancing, singing, going out, jazz, fitness and modelling. She also enjoys working with youth and recently taught modelling to students in the Ben Cal-frobe program in Edmonton. She said she enjoyed doing it because it "gives them confidence and self-esteem."

Coming from a Cree, Iroquois and Saulteaux background, Turcotte is also part of a growing movement in Native youth toward pride in their heritage. "I strongly believe in Native culture," she says. "Because, it's there. It's strong, it's powerful. Everything always seems natural."

She also mentions a friend who had a big



KEITH MATTHEW, Windspeaker

A Scorpio: Twila Turcotte

impact on her thinking, "Rodney Sinclair taught me a lot about Native ways, the strength and the love, the power that we can use and not abuse."

In her reign as Miss Metis Alberta, Turcotte has given some thought to the title. "I really don't think a title should be held for a year. A title should be held for two years." She says this would give Miss Metis more time to gain a profile in the Native community

and more time for the lady to fit into her role. She would also like to see larger centers hold Metis pageants. She mentions a Miss Metis Calgary and a Miss Metis Canada.

In closing the interview Turcotte expresses her aspirations to work with the youth. "If there's anything or anyway I could help with the youth, I'd be really glad to." She would also like to be contacted about Metis functions and events.

We salute

Our S.R.C. students for all their wonderful work on behalf of the school and community from Daryl Kingfisher, Education Coordinator; Leonard Ermine, Education Counsellor and staff.

STURGEON LAKE CENTRAL SCHOOL

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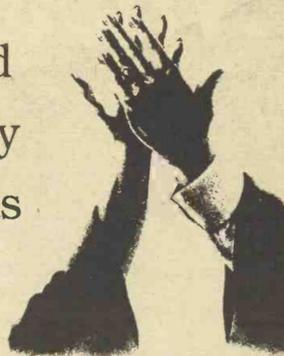
The coming New Year will see our youth gain even further ground in the fields of business, recreation, sports and education, as well as many other fields of endeavour. Congratulations From Chief Ernie Houle, Council, & Band Members.

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Todd Williams, Vicki Crow, Tera Williams, Jason Mitten, Niki Sky, Jason Bomberry, Shawn Jenkins
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OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE

ALBERT CRIER, Special to Windspeaker

ALBERT CRIER, Special to Windspeaker



Heart felt poetry comes easy: Alexander students Paul and Arcand

Youthful poets show it

By Albert Crier
Windspeaker Correspondent

ALEXANDER

Writing poetry comes naturally when it comes from your heart say two emerging poets Shawna Paul and Jessica Arcand who are high school students at the Kipothakaw School at the Alexander band.

Six years ago Paul, 17, found she enjoyed writing

and that she could express her feelings and thoughts easier on paper than through talking.

Creative writing by Paul, in the form of essays, short stories and poems have already been seen by the public in various newspapers and other publications.

Just about any experience or events around her can trigger an inspiration for a poem, says Paul.

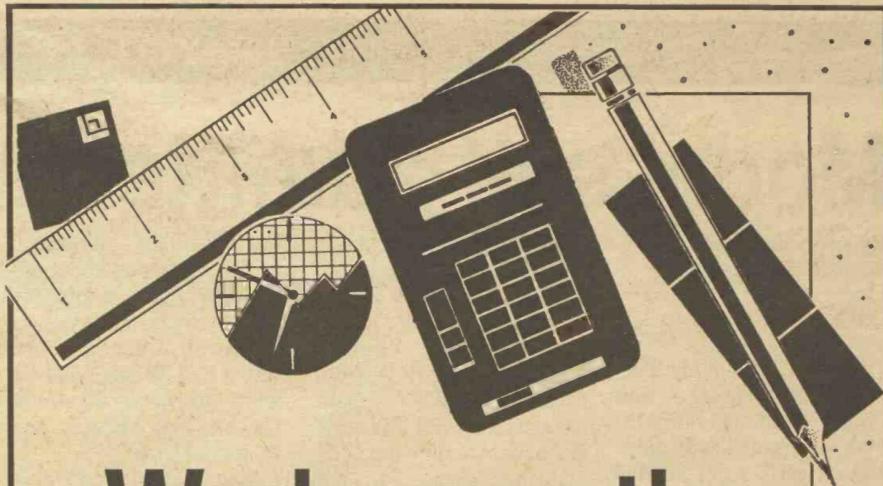
Jessica Arcand, 15, writes about her life experi-

ences, dreams and her culture.

She also shares her personal messages easier through writing.

However, this creative person enjoys other forms of expression and she practices free style dance which she taught herself by watching other dancers.

Poetry is something Arcand enjoys and feels when someone enjoys doing something and are good at it then they can only continue to improve.



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Indian Association of Alberta

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Telephone: (403) 452-4330



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moderate drinker, an abuser or non-user of drugs.

Choose to be the best you can be. And bring out the best in somebody else.

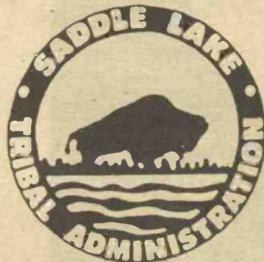


ALBERTA ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION, AN AGENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA.



We honor the youths who have excelled in 1988.

From the Chief, Council, Staff & Members



SADDLE LAKE Tribal Administration

Saddle Lake, Alberta T0A 3T0
(403) 726-3829

OUR YOUTH, OUR FUTURE

Model self-admitted radical

By Keith Matthew
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

"My people are my life," says Native actress and model Michelle Thrush. "When I model with non-Native girls I am always really emphasizing my culture and I am always trying to push my proud identity to these people."

In the so-called glamour world of modelling and acting this 21 year old Calgary resident actually admits to supporting Native causes and is proud of being an Indian.

Thrush is an admitted "radical" and says before she started working in films she wanted to work with the Native youth by becoming a school teacher but changed her mind because "I can't put up with the propaganda that the education system puts out. I cannot stand the b.s. that goes on in the history books where Indians are labelled as savages and that we don't have anything to put into (today's) society."

She laughingly says, "I like getting involved in radical protests — like the Lubicons." Thrush travelled up to Little Buffalo on

her time off from her job to be part of the group which blockaded the roads.

"I like following the politics in other countries...South Africa, Nicaragua, Chile. My main interests are with countries that have Aboriginal people in them," she says. "I went to New Zealand last year for six weeks and I stayed with the Maoris, who are the Aboriginal people of New Zealand."

"They are really a strong people and they taught me a lot about speaking up for what you believe in," she explains.

Although she didn't grow up on a reserve she says she visits her mother's reserve in Maple Creek, Saskatchewan whenever she gets a chance. She goes home for sundances, powwows and to just visit her relatives. Her father is from Ontario and is an Iroquois.

Currently, she works as a customer service representative (teller) at a Royal Bank in Calgary and has plans to join Spirit Song, an all-Native theatre group in Vancouver, in January to hone her skills as an actress.

Her road to this point

has been filled with travelling and learning about different Native people and their ways. "I used to belong to a dance troupe called Red Thunder and we went to New Zealand, Hawaii, Los Angeles, and we toured Utah."

She was eleven years old when she appeared in her first drama production and "it was a musical," she says. "From there on I kept on auditioning for different plays and I got different roles. I was always really good in drama and really bad in everything else. Drama, English and Social Studies were always my best," she points out.

It was at Plains Indian Cultural Survival School that she landed her first role in film. "I would always try to get together plays and nobody was ever interested. Everybody thought I was crazy."

"A filming company phoned from Toronto and they were doing a casting search. They called the school but I was on a trip...when I got back I went and auditioned."

Needless to say she received the part in the movie Issac Littlefeathers which was filmed in Alber-

ta and she has been working off and on since that time. "It was one of the best experiences of my life," she exclaims.

The filming of the movie took place at the same time foster child Richard Cardinal hung himself. Thrush says it had a big effect on her, "It really, really freaked me out because my interests are with young people and Native identity."

When the movie premiered it was dedicated to the memory of Cardinal and Thrush says she was "overwhelmed."

Then, the next movie she appeared in was a National Film Board release called Daughters of the Country.

Thrush says she enjoys acting because "you can play different people and you get to know yourself too. When you take on roles you expand your own personality."

The work is hard but the financial rewards are very good. Thrush earned \$600 a day for her last movie. "It is not at all glamorous because you have to spend such long hours on the set. There is a lot of stress. People get mad at each other 'cause there is so much money being spent every day."

"You really get into your characters," she says. In one of her roles she was pregnant and wore a fake tummy; after she finished the movie she got the "baby blues" because she missed the feeling of being "pregnant."

She says she just finished a play called Stolen Horses which she co-wrote and directed with Murray Ashley who is from southern Alberta. "It was his



Hard work behind the glamor: Michelle Thrush

storyline but I added lines. We got a \$2200 grant from the government to do it.

"My other interest is modelling and it took over from acting for a long time," she says. "Mostly I (model) Starlight Designs which is (owned and operated by) a lady from Sarcee — Carol Starlight. I've been a professional model for five years and I've done all kinds of different designers from southern Alberta."

Thrush is the adventurous type and has done her share of shattering misconceptions about Natives. "I was recognized as the first Native to ever participate in the Miss Calgary Pageant."

On the personal side, she says she is single and looking for someone "who is going to be there when I

need him and I don't see any plans in the immediate future. Right now I am single and really enjoying it."

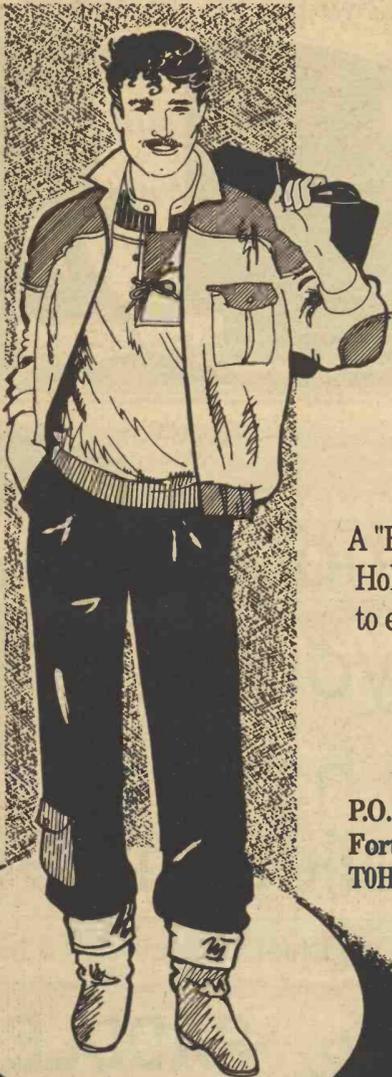
Her move to Vancouver in January has her very scared because it is a big city. "I want to take off and try to do my best out there in the modelling and acting fields. All I can do is go out there and try and if I come back empty handed I hope I still have my friends."

"If anything does come out of it I want to make sure that I am always representing Indian people," she proudly exclaims. "I am not representing Michelle Thrush and I am not representing the Crees of Saskatchewan — I am representing Native people and that is my main goal."

TALLCREE

Chief, Chairman of the Board of Education, "Bernie

Meneen" & Staff would like to congratulate all youths of 1988 who excelled in their many achievements.



A "Happy Holiday Season" to everyone.

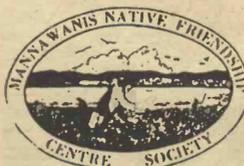
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Tall Cree School Division
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We salute the youth who have excelled throughout 1988.

MANNAWANIS



Native Friendship Centre Society
P.O. Box 2519, St. Paul, Alta. T0A 3A0
Telephone: (403) 645-4630

LOOKING BACK

Ex-principal reminisces**Rez schools tried to make Indians white**

By Heather Andrews
Windspeaker Correspondent

ST. ALBERT

Indian residential schools existed in Alberta as recently as the early 1970s. One in particular, near St. Albert, was home to about 150 Native children who lived at the school, many miles from their families, for several months of every year.

Recently, Don McBride, a former principal, recalled how the students spent half a day in their classrooms, but the rest of the day working on the 165-acre farm on which the school and residence was located.

"The idea was to teach the youngsters how to raise cattle, horse and pigs, as well as various other agricultural activities, and take the knowledge back to the reserves with them," he explained.

The school was opened in 1924 and students at first ranged in age anywhere

from five to 24. "While there were a few from Saskatchewan most were from Alberta and B.C.," continued McBride. Later, as schools improved on the reserves, the younger ones stayed home until Grade 7.

Run by the United Church of Canada, it was one of the only four Protestant schools in Alberta; the remainder was operated by the Roman Catholic Church, but religion played a big part in all the daily lessons.

Segregated dining rooms and classrooms meant brothers and sisters, while living in the same residence and attending the same school, often had little opportunity to talk to, or see one another. In the early days, Native languages were not allowed to be spoken, nor were any traditional or cultural observances permitted.

"They tried to make a white man out of the Indian," McBride continued. He added, however, eventually

the strict rules were softened and a more humane approach was adopted.

McBride recalled lighter moments, too. "A youngster was hiding behind a grill in the ventilation system to escape doing chores, but the scheme backfired on him when he became firmly wedged in the shaft, and had to be rescued."

The two unidentified young lads pictured above were enjoying a weekend outing with Reverend Jim Ludford, far right, who was a United Church minister at the school in the 1950s. Ludford, far away himself from his family in Ontario, often invited two or three boys to accompany him on visits to friends in and around the Edmonton area.

Today, while the schools no longer operate, many people can claim to be former students of the St. Albert Indian Residential School, including band leaders, lawyers, successful business people, and MLAs.



1950s: Unidentified St. Albert students and Reverend Ludford, right

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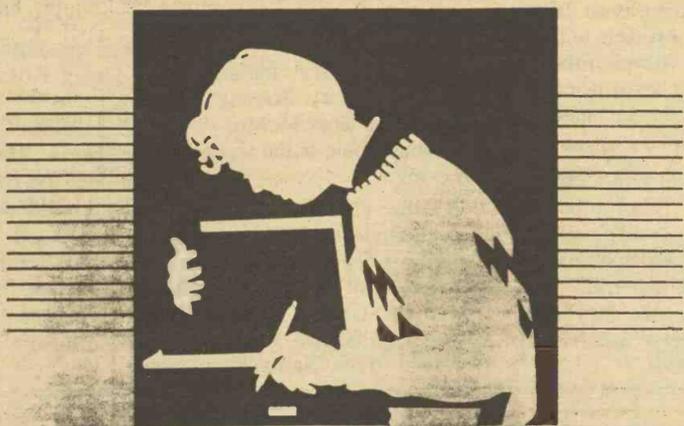
The coming New Year will see our youth gain even further ground in the fields of business, recreation, sports and education, as well as many other fields of endeavour. We congratulate those who aspired and achieved.

Congratulations

From the council members: Archie Collins, Madeline Cardinal, Lee Desjarlais, Lydia Cardinal, Allan Wells, Pam Anderson and Staff

Elizabeth Metis Settlement

Box 420, Grande Centre, Alberta T0A 1T0 Telephone: (403) 594-5026



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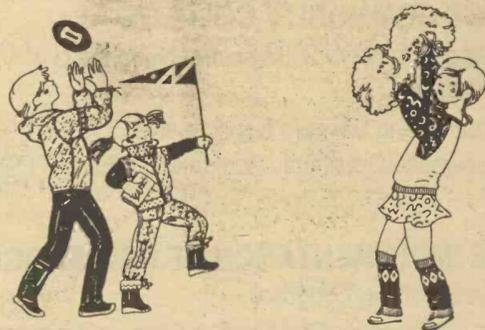


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We salute the youths who have excelled in 1988. Good luck in your future endeavors.



**From the Staff & Students
Ben Calf Robe School**

12214 - 128 Street, Edmonton, Alberta
451-6066

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Family Dance**, Dec. 26, Saddle Lake Community Hall. Music by Moses Cardinal & Band – sponsored by Saddle Lake Counselling Services.
- **No-Hit Hockey Tourney & Round Dance**, Dec. 26 & 27, Goodfish Lake. Contact rec department 636-3622.
- **Handgame Tourney**, Dec. 27 & 28, Saddle Lake Community Hall. For more info call 726-2491 (Al Delver).
- **CPRA Xmas Pro Rodeo**, Dec. 26-28, Panee Memorial Agriplex. Dance Dec. 26 & 27. For more information call 585-3898.
- **Minor Hockey Tourney** (atoms, squirts, novice), Dec. 28-30, Goodfish Lake.
- **New Year's Eve Ball**, Dec. 31, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre featuring the Fourth Generation Band. Contact Carol Letendre at the centre 849-3039 for details.
- **New Year's Sober Dance**, Dec. 31, Beaver Lake Community Hall. Limited seating. For advance tickets call Eric Lameman at 623-4549.
- **Bring in the New Year**, Dec. 31, 6 p.m. with Metis Local 2085 & Max L'Hirondelle Band, Saxony Motor Inn. \$22/person or \$40/couple – call Lyle at 452-6100 or 484-6550 after 5 p.m. for advance tickets.
- **Prince Albert Hockey Tourney**, Jan. 13-15, 1989, Prince Albert Communiplex. Contact (306) 764-3431.
- **Men's & Ladies' Volleyball Tourney**, Jan. 14 & 15, Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre, Ermineskin. Call Michelle at 585-4017 for more information.
- **Minor Hockey Tournament** (novice), Jan. 14-15, Saddle Lake.
- **All-Native Senior High Volleyball Tourney**, Jan. 14 & 15, Onchaminahos School, Saddle Lake. For further info call Gloria McGilvery at 726-3730 or Gary Jackson.
- **Minor Hockey Tournament** (Tykes), Jan. 21-22, Saddle Lake.
- **Clifford Metchewais Memorial Hockey Tournament**, Jan. 27-29, Goodfish Lake. Contact Randy Metchewais 594-1457.
- **Commercial Hockey Tournament**, Feb. 3-4, Saddle Lake.
- **Senior Hockey Tournament** (& Oldtimers), Feb. 25-27, Regina, Sask. Contact Melton Tootoosis (306) 584-8333.

SPORTS & LEISURE



Tylee hammers Forbisher: At right, coach Jim Gilio



Ermineskin boxers triumph

By Kim McLain
Windspeaker Staff Writer

WETASKIWIN, Alta.

Boxers from seven clubs paired off Dec. 18 at Wetaskiwin's Drill Hall at a card hosted by the Ermineskin Indian Nations Boxing Club.

The host club, coached

by Jim Gilio, won the best team award by winning seven gold medals.

Coach Gilio and band councillors have developed a five year plan for the team which will hopefully result in Olympic calibre fighters by the year 1992.

"We're just rejuvenating our team," said Ermineskin band councillor Maurice Wolfe. The club is the oldest in Hobbema, forming five years ago. The recent focus on boxing is an effort by the band officials to help local youth "develop themselves...they need a lot of incentive," added councillor Art Littlechild.

Coach Jim Gilio said of his boxers: "They're beginning to see there's another side to life other than sex, drugs, rock and roll." He adds "each time they win, their confidence as a human being increases."

The best junior award went to Kelsey Crane, while Kevin Weisgerber won the best intermediate award and Dennis Tylee won the best senior award.

The event was video taped by Edmonton's QCTV cable company and will be aired Jan. 5 at 9 p.m. on the aforementioned station.

The following are the results of the final fights:

80 lbs. (Jr. A): Samson's Cameron Pike won a decision over Lethbridge's Matt Tartal.

100 lbs. (Jr. B): Indian Nation's Jake Soosay knocked out Fort McMurray's Obby Tobin in the second.

85 lbs. (Jr. B): Lethbridge's Guy Stewart won a decision over Red Deer's Trevor Andre.

110 lbs. (Jr. B): Labor Club's Lee Bastin won a decision over Samson's

105 lbs. (Jr. C): Indian Nation's Kelsey Crane knocked out Fort McMurray's Jamie Simms in the second.

125 lbs. (Jr. C): Fort McMurray's Bill Bories won a decision over Indian Nation's Dwayne Soosay.

132 lbs. (Jr. C): Lethbridge's Devin Stewart won an unanimous decision over Samson's Joey Rain.

165 lbs. (Jr. C): Indian Nation's Mike Tootosis knocked out Fort McMurray's Craig Koish in the first.

165 lbs. (Int.): Medicine Hat's Kevin Weisgerber won a decision over South Side Legion's Mike Anderson.

178 lbs. (Sen.): Indian Nation's Dennis Tylee win a technical knock out over Fort McMurray's Dan Forbisher.

Old Sun Community College welcomes new students to register for the following programs:

WINTER 1989

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A one-year program for students who wish to enter the many pre-employment programs offered at SAIT which require pre-careers as a prerequisite.

UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

Computer Science 203 – Intro to Computers

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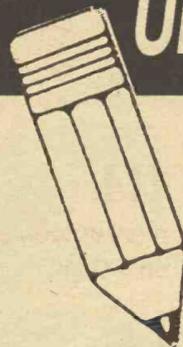
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SPORTS & LEISURE

Volleyball and hockey on post-Xmas agenda

Time and space are short this week, so I'll keep my two bits to myself...if I had two bits. Instead, here's a low down on post-Christmas sports events.



SPORTS ROUNDUP

By Kim McLain

Telephone (403)455-2700 to have your community sports happenings considered here free of charge.

Hobbema: There will be a men's and ladies' volleyball tournament at the Howard Buffalo Memorial Arena Jan. 14-15. For more information contact Michelle at 585-4017.

Saddle Lake: There will be lots of minor hockey tournaments here in January.

Novices will start things off with an eight-team tourney scheduled Jan. 14-15. Then the tykes take over Jan. 21-22. And, finally, the atoms get the ice Jan. 28-29.

For the big kids, there will be a men's commercial hockey tournament Feb. 3-5. Organizers hope to have 12 teams show for that event.

For more info on any of these happenings contact the band office number at 726-3829.

Also at Saddle Lake, is an all-Native high school volleyball tournament hosted by the Onchaminahos school on the reserve. The deadline for entries is Jan. 9 — the tournament will take place Jan. 14-15. Contact Gloria McGilvery or Gary Jackson about this event at 726-3730.

Cold Lake: The family of the late Clifford Metchewais are hosting a memorial hockey tournament Jan. 27-29 at Goodfish Lake.

Entry to the no-hit slapshot event is \$300, says Randy Metchewais, younger brother to Clifford. Prize money will depend on the number of entries, he adds.

Those who knew Clifford — who passed away a couple years ago — will recall his good-natured presence at many of Alberta's powwows and hockey

tournaments. He never powwow danced, but he played hockey.

I knew Clifford very well, since I practically grew up with him — he's my cousin. Once, when we were about 10, we were pretending to be spies. Our

headquarters were in his dad's attic. We became convinced that we needed a spy escape hatch, so we sawed a hole in his roof. Boy, was his dad mad. I've so many fond memories of Clifford and miss him very much.

For more information about the tournament, contact Randy at 594-1457.

Duck Lake: Congratulations to the high school soccer team at St. Michael's Indian Student Residence here in northern Saskatchewan. The reason I send my congratulations is because the team has been the Saskatchewan provincial champions for the last three years!

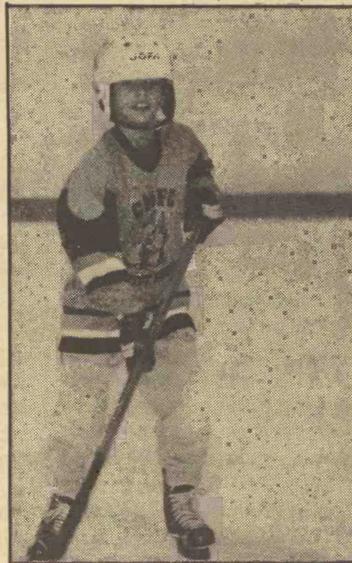
St. Michael's residential school is one of seven still in existence in Saskatchewan since 1894. Today, the school population is about 150 students grades 2-12. The school has been operated by the Saskatchewan District Tribal Council since 1982. Before that, the Department of Indian Affairs ran the school, and the church ran things before that.

More recently, the soccer team spent a month touring Germany, England, Sweden and Denmark playing 20 games in 30 days.

"The didn't win a lot," said school administrator Gail Hartsook, "but they sure learned a lot."

The school is on the outskirts of the town of Duck Lake, about 60 miles north of Saskatoon. Most of the students come from central Saskatchewan.

LYLE DONALD, Special to Windspeaker



This is an unidentified Edmonton Native Son hockey player. The team, coached by Lyle Donald, doesn't belong to a league and is looking for exhibition games. For more info contact Lyle Donald or John Sinclair at 452-6100.

(306) 764-3431.

Last Laugh: A little boy nicknamed Mooniyaw didn't get what he wanted for Christmas. He looked wistfully at a friend's dog and said, "I'd like to have a dog, too, but my folks always say no."

"You don't go at it right," advised his buddy. "Just keep asking for a baby brother to play with, and pretty soon you'll get your dog."

Prince Albert:

While we're in Saskatchewan, I might as well mention the 5th Annual Aboriginal Hockey Tournament scheduled Jan. 13-15 at the Communiplex.

Although the entry fee is \$500, prize money starts at \$2,500 for first place, down to \$1,000 for fourth. The defending champs are the Dog Lake Raiders.

There will be dances both nights, trophies, championship jackets, final game televised locally — the whole bit. Send certified cheque payable in advance to: PAIMFC, Box 2197, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 6Z1.

The PAIMFC stand for Prince Albert Indian Metis Friendship Centre, and the number there is

PRINCE ALBERT INDIAN METIS FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

5th Annual Aboriginal

HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

January 13, 14, 15, 1989
PRINCE ALBERT COMMUNIPLEX



Prince Albert Saskatchewan

PRIZES:

- 1st \$2,500 - Trophy - Championship Jackets
- 2nd \$2,000 - Trophy
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ENTRY FEE: \$500 Certified Cheque payable in advance to: PAIMFC, Box 2197, Prince Albert, Sask. S6V 6Z1

ADMISSION: \$5 Per Day - Children 12 & Under \$2 - Senior Citizens Free - *EVERYONE PAYS*
Defending Champions Dog Lake Raiders

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- * 12 Team Limit - Double Knockout
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- * Embroidered Hockey Bags For All Star Team
- * Final Game Televised Locally

- * Two nights of Dancing at P.A. Exhibition Centre with C-Weed & Friends
- Admission \$10.00 Per Person I.D. May Be Requested

Onchaminahos School All-Native Sr. High

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

January 14 & 15, 1989

Saturday: Vilna Agriculture Centre
Sunday: Saddle Lake School Gym

- Entry Fee \$90 per team
- First 8 teams in each division will be accepted.
- (Ages 13-18 as of Sept. 1) Proof of age required upon request
- Deadline for entry Jan. 9, 1989

IN BOTH CATEGORIES

- Five All-Star Selections
- One Most Valuable Player
- One Best Spiker
- One Most Sportsmanlike Team

PRIZES

- 1st - Trophy and All-Native Sr. High School Banner and jackets
- 2nd - Trophy
- 3rd - Trophy



PHONE ENTRIES TO:

Gloria McGilvery or
Gary Jackson
(403)726-3730
Box 70, Saddle Lake, Alberta
TOA 3T0

Tournament organizers are not responsible for loss, theft, or accidents.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

KEITH MATTHEW, Windspeaker

Cree designs coastal jewelry

By Keith Matthew
Windspeaker Staff Writer

EDMONTON

It is not unusual these days to see Native people who are designing jewelry. However, it is unusual to see a Northern Cree incorporating northwest coast figures into his work.

Mission, B.C. resident David Quist (born in La Ronge, Saskatchewan) and his wife Christine Oliver-Quist own and operate Heritage Studios production company which features the famous west coast designs on metal jewelry.

Christine Oliver-Quist

was recently in town to publicize and sell some of their work and says that her husband's artistry "is not very well accepted" by the Natives from the west coast.

"At one time, when he became better known, some of the Native carvers who are from the west coast were resentful and at one point he gave away all of his carving tools. That lasted for two months and then he just realized it was his life," she explains.

The Quist's, after overcoming the rejection, then worked on opening their own production studio and borrowed \$3,000 to test market some of his work. "We just contracted out all of the work and we found there was (a market).

Almost two years ago we opened our own manufacturing studio in Mission."

Quist creates the jewelry using a method in which metal is poured into a cast and allowed to cool.

"He has perfected the art of casting. He uses the lost wax centrifuge casting method. We are told by the jewelry industry that we have the largest facility in western Canada," she adds.

"That is probably not saying much because the jewelry industry is centered in Ontario, but certainly west of Ontario we are the largest."

Quist is moving into other areas to improve himself. "He is taking a degree in gemology and there are less than 100 people with

degrees in gemology in Canada."

He is also moving out of the area of the so-called traditional designs "where people will look at the jewelry and know it is Native but it is more European. He is going to continue with the traditional stuff but he is becoming more and more innovative and creative," she says.

His casting process allows for either an unlimited number of productions of one particular piece, or a limited edition of usually five, then the mold is destroyed.

"David's reason for doing castings — he doesn't call them that, he calls them reproductions — is that you can do more than one and he feels that is his contribution to educating non-Native people by making the art more available," says Oliver-Quist.

The couple tell their customers about the west coast



Silver innovation: Oliver-Quist shows husband's work

art and "we explain the symbolism...we tell them myths and legends." All of the figures used in the jewelry have a meaning "whether it is a salmon which is a major food source, or the raven," explains Oliver-Quist.

She says they answer critics who say that Native art shouldn't change and should stay the same by explaining "a lot of people think there should be no innovation to Native art. But art is a gift to all people."



Good News Party Line

New Year's Sober Dance, Dec. 31, Beaver Lake Community Hall. Limited seating. For advance tickets call Eric Lameman at 623-4549.

Healing Mass, Dec. 26, 7 p.m., Native Pastoral Centre. Celebrant, Fr. Black from Cluny.

PUT IT HERE.

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

Executive Director Sagitawa Friendship Centre

The primary function is to direct the total organization towards a high standard of operation in achieving the goals and objectives of the Sagitawa Friendship Centre.

DUTIES: Responsible for all phases of management, including administration; supervision of staff and promotion of all areas of the organization; responsible and answerable to the Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS: Administration and management; experience in service organization; good communication skills (written and oral).

REQUIREMENTS: Knowledge of aboriginal culture and able to speak Cree; must be willing to travel.

SALARY: Negotiable with experience

Send resume to:
Personnel Committee
Sagitawa Friendship Centre
P.O. Box 1283
Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0

Closing Date: January 10, 1989

SOCIETY OF CALGARY METIS Scholarship Fund

As of Nov. 25, 1988 we are now taking applications for our scholarship fund to further the education of Metis people. The funds are available to anyone presently enrolled or planning to enroll in any school, trade, university upgrading or continuing education. The chosen candidates will be notified in writing.

Applications may be obtained by calling: (403) 280-4144

Group Home Supervisor

You will be responsible for the daily operation of a six-bed fully staffed group home in Wetaskiwin working with Native adolescents.

Duties include staff supervision, budgeting, documentation, programming activities, client contact and community liaison. The successful applicant will possess a related degree/diploma plus two years direct experience.

Will work weekdays and will report to the director.

Resumes must be forwarded to:

Resources for Community Living

201, 9918 - 82 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1Y9

Telephone: (403) 431-0470

Do you want to become a nurse?

The National Native Access Program to Nursing (NNAPN) is a 9-week spring program which assists students of Native ancestry who wish to obtain a university degree in nursing. The 1989 program will run from May 1 to June 30. Applicants are eligible if they meet the minimum entry requirements of the university of nursing that they wish to attend.

For further information please contact:



**THE CO-ORDINATOR
NNAPN
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, Sk. S7N 0W0
or phone: (306) 966-6224**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Museum shows Ft. Chip's past

When the doors opened to Northwind Dreaming: Fort Chipewyan 1788-1988 recently at the Provincial Museum of Alberta, a three-year detective story ended.

Central to the plot has been exhibit developer Dr. Patricia McCormack, whose clues have taken her to New York, Ottawa, Edinburgh, and the Orkney Islands in search of pieces of the Fort Chipewyan puzzle. Influences from Europe, the indomitable Hudson's Bay Company, and the Native community combine to make this settlement an historical vignette of northwestern Canada.

But how do you portray its historical significance in 279 square metres? You play detective, as McCormack discovered.

Hundreds of artifacts, maps, special documents and photographs used in the major feature exhibit were located in the Provincial Museum's own collections as well as institutions in Canada, the Unit-

ed States, and Scotland. There are exquisitely-decorated clothing, bags and pouches, as well as the more ordinary items used by hunting, fishing, trapping and wage labor. It was with enthusiastic support of the people from Fort Chipewyan and participating museums that many of these artifacts were obtained.

The earliest-known ethnographic artifacts from Fort Chipewyan will come from the Royal Museum of Scotland, in Edinburgh, Scotland. On loan will be woven and birch bark baskets, a babiche hunting bag, finely-crafted stone pipes and other items. The artifacts were sent to the Edinburgh Museum in 1859 by Robert Campbell, the Hudson's Bay Company factor at the post.

From the Orkney Islands, where the Hudson's Bay Company once recruited most of its laborers, come items which a young man may have brought with him when he left home to serve in the fur trade.



A sample of artifacts displayed: Swan's foot bag, Athapas'kan dress, 1900s



Some rare maps are also part of the story. Especially important is a 1790 hand-made copy of a map drafted by Peter Pond, the first European trader to establish a post near Lake Athabasca. The beautifully-crafted map has been loaned by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University.

The exhibit celebrates the lives of the people of the region, Dr. McCormack explains. Indian, Metis and non-Native peoples have made this community their home for the past two centuries and more.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Business course offered at Sask.

The Touchwood File Hills Qu'Appelle District Chiefs Council, in association with the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology and Palliser Campus of Moose Jaw, Sask. are pleased to offer the Indian Business Management Program. The program is scheduled to begin in September, 1989 in Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask. It will be accredited through Palliser to offer a certificate after

one year and diploma upon completion of two years.

This program will be unique in that it will follow the course content of Pallisers Business Administration Program but will place additional emphasis in various subject areas addressing Indian management. This additional course content is designed to meet the needs of individuals, Indian entrepreneurs, as well as

band and district levels of Indian government administration.

This unique approach to an existing business program will make the course more useful, meaningful and applicable to Indian people. Graduates of the program will obtain a background of sound business training with an added enrichment geared towards Indian administration.

Submitted by Joan Peigan, Co-ordinator, Indian Business Management Program

Picture our message with your art!

A picture is worth a thousand words... and yours could be worth \$500 when you enter the Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs poster contest.

The contest theme is **Dollars and Sense: Information is the Key**. Entries should show that consumers can benefit by using information available at the public library. The winning original artwork will receive a \$500 cash prize and will be

made into a poster to promote the Consumer Corner section of public libraries throughout the province. Five runners-up will each receive a \$100 cash prize.

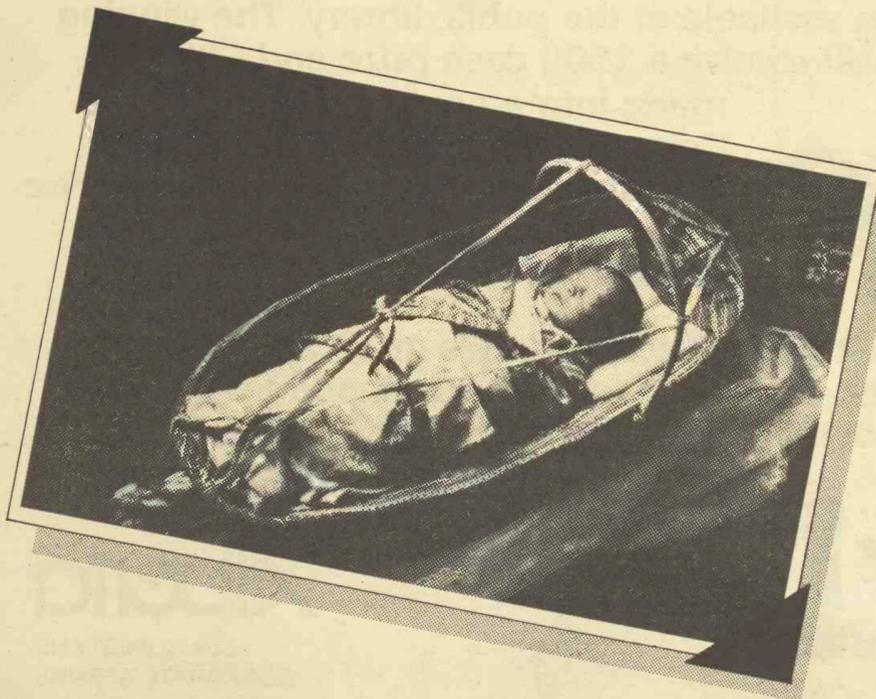
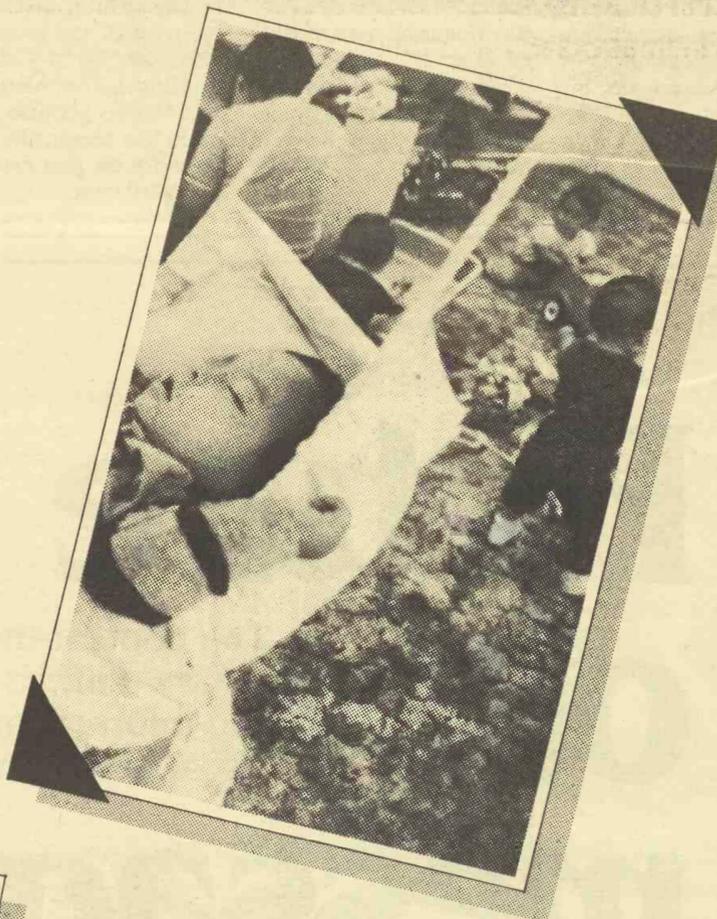
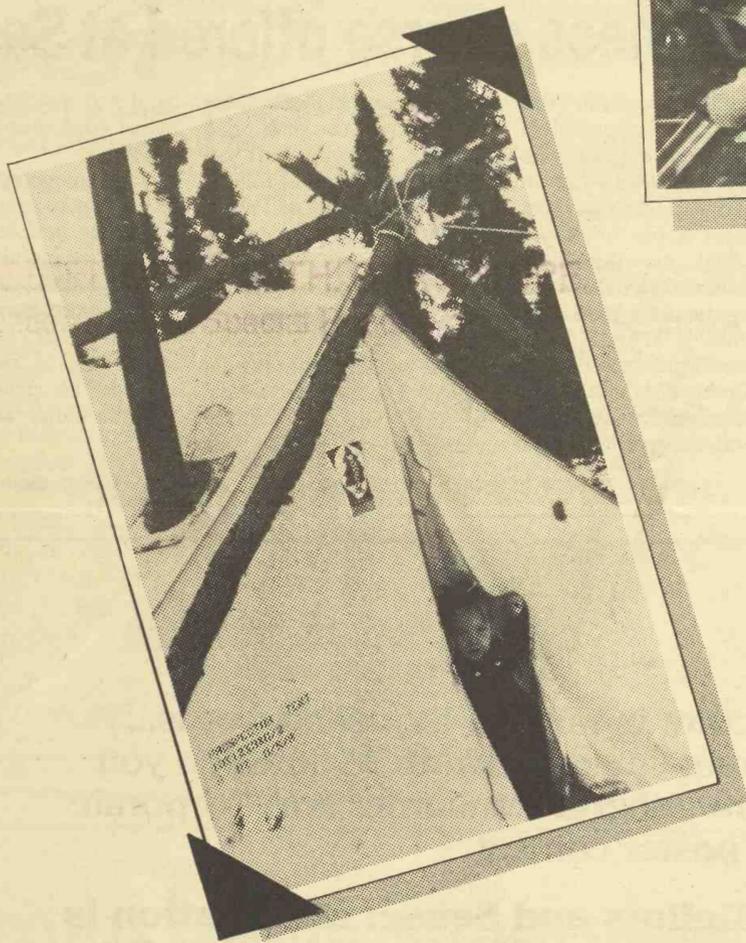
Entrants must be between the ages of 15 and 19 as of March 31, 1989. Deadline for entries is January 10, 1989.

For contest details and entry forms, visit your local public library or any Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs office.

Alberta
CONSUMER AND
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

A TIME FOR CARING

CARING. THERE ARE COUNTLESS GOOD REASONS TO CARE FOR YOURSELF. HERE ARE A FEW SMALL EXAMPLES...



I HINK ABOUT IT. GIVE LIFE A CHANCE. A MESSAGE FOR YOU FROM THE COMMUNITY PROJECTS IN THE NATIONAL NATIVE ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE PROGRAM AND THIS NEWSPAPER.



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