

## \$6.2 million boost gets mixed reaction

By Dorothy Schreiber

Alberta Native businesses and economic development projects got a boost of \$6.2 million in funding from the federal government this week but not everyone is entirely happy with the way in which applications for funds are processed.

"It takes far too long... there have been some projects that have been hanging for a long time. It (applications) goes through quite a bureaucratic process," says director of communications with the Indian Association of Alberta Lou Desmarais. He also suspects that "proposals get held back until it is politically wise to make big announcements."

Although critical of the amount of time it takes to process applications and the timing of announcements he doesn't deny the need for the economic development program.

Ultimately you get success but the way in which the whole process runs its course is frustrating."

The president of the Metis Association Larry Desmeules says he would like the program to be more responsive to his people. The Metis people don't

have the resources of treaty Indians and can't hire people to help them secure grants, he said, according to an Edmonton Journal report.

The announcement was made on Feb. 22 by federal minister of Small Business and Tourism, Bernard Valcourt, where he pointed out department officials are looking at ways to streamline the application process.

The 11 Native projects approved include:

- \$190,000 for the expansion of Parenteau Trucking in Peace River

- \$320,000 to a Hinton logging company sponsored by the Fox Creek Development Association. Jobs created: four.

- \$441,300 to Chiniki Restaurant Ltd. in Calgary for expansion. Jobs created: up to nine.

- \$130,000 to establish a Fort Chipewyan tourist lodge. Jobs created: seven with potential for another 50.

- \$442,000 to Fort McKay Developments Ltd. for the construction of a commercial building.

- \$144,000 for a gas bar, car wash, and coin laundry mart at Rimbey

- \$2,510,000 to Kainai Industries Ltd. at Stand Off for the construction of 50 modular home units. Jobs created: 34

- \$475,000 to St. Paul Mannawanis Cultural Development Society to buy a commercial building

- \$1,700,000 to Nakoda Lodge Ltd. to establish a conference centre which would incorporate the existing lodge with a proposed 50 unit hotel, swimming pool and assorted facilities on the Morley reserve.

- \$200,000 to Pimee Well Servicing Ltd., in St. Paul, to buy a second oil well servicing rig.

- \$90,000 to Cree-Ations Weaving Co. Ltd. in Bonnyville to expand production.

The \$345 million Native Economic Development Fund was originally set up under the Liberal government in 1983 to assist Native economic development ventures.



DIANE MELL, Windspea

### GOLDEN EMBRACE

Eddie Holloway, of the Stoney Nation, places an "Olympic" gold medal on 3½-month-old Daniza DePaola, held by mother Yvonne at Nakoda Olympic

Powwow '88 on Feb. 19, 20 and 21 at Morley. Medals and money were given to each youngster at the powwow in honor of their participation.

## Feds under fire over Bill C-31

By Dorothy Schreiber

Doris Ronnenberg has been waiting for two years to gain status under Bill C-31 because her application is a "problem case," and the federal government is coming under attack by Native groups over the method of processing applications similar to Ronnenbergs.

"What seems to be happening is if there's a problem with a particular case (application) then it seems to be put to the side and they seem to concentrate on the easier ones," says the president of the Alberta arm of the Native Council of Canada.

Ronnenberg's application has been hampered by a lack of documentation concerning her mother's birth.

A former employee who recently quit her job with the Membership and Entitlement directorate, the federal unit responsible for registering people under Bill C-31, agrees with Ronnenberg.

Vivian Cuthand says a new system of processing applications has given priority to "straight forward applications" and other more complicated ones which require research are being "put on the shelf."

In the past applications were dealt with on a first-come basis but this is no longer the case under the new system and it's become "a free for all," says Cuthand.

In a telephone interview from Ottawa she said her reason for quitting her job as membership officer were



WINDSPEAKER PHOTO FILE

### DORIS RONNENBERG

...waiting for status for two years, so far

based on personal "ethics."

"What do I tell an applicant if they sent an application in 1985 and they're still on the shelf...I would be defending the department by working under the new system."

Others have echoed her concern saying the difficult applications would not be processed and would wait until all the easy ones are done which could be anywhere from six months

to two years.

But the director general of membership in Ottawa Gregor MacIntosh says that's not true and the problem of processing the more complicated applications stems from the fact that it is sometimes necessary to trace genealogical records back to the turn of the century.

He also says, "The biggest problem we have is writing back to applicants

for marriage and birth certificates, that's what holds a lot of the work (up). Since the Bill was enacted in 1985 the department has received 54,000 applicants for re-instatement which represents 98,000 applicants. There are over 20,000 applications still to be processed.

"People have to understand this is a horrendous task and it's complicated...I guess it's frustrating for people who want to be registered immediately but there's only so much you can do," he says.

The Native Council of Canada has written to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Issues calling for the establishment of a sub-committee with members of the three national Native groups to look at the process of applications and the operations of the membership directorate.

NCC special advisor Bob Groves says the process of putting the more difficult applications to the side has caused the existing backlog "to get worse and worse."

Both he and MacIntosh agree that the backlog resulted because the government underestimated the number of people who would apply for re-instatement.

"When the bill was put through we felt the estimate was about 50,000 people (who would apply) and basically we were out by one hundred per cent," explained MacIntosh.

■ Continued Page 2

# Provincial

## Vancouver bands picket Japanese office

By Dorothy Schreiber

VANCOUVER — The distance between the downtown Daishowa offices

and the remote areas of northern Alberta will be temporarily bridged on March 7, when a rally to support the Lubicon takes

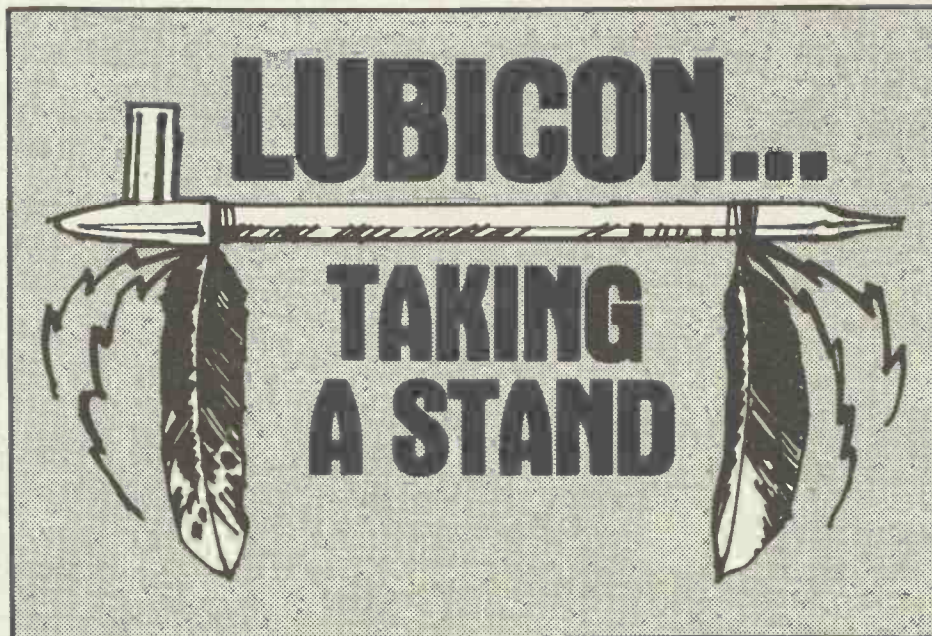
place in front of the Japanese forest products office.

The rally is to protest a recent forest management agreement between the Alberta government and Daishowa which the Lubicon says infringes on their traditional lands.

This spring, the Japanese company will build a \$500 million pulp mill north of Peace River and the timber lease to supply the new pulp mill completely covers the entire Lubicon traditional area, says the Lubicon.

"They (Daishowa) have no business accepting this deal when the land is in dispute," says Aaron Greycloud, who is coordinating the Vancouver rally.

He expects about 300 people to turn out in support of the Cree band, including members of the Nigha, Squamish, Gitksan' wetsuwet'en, tribal councils as well as members from the Stein Valley; who are currently trying to stop the



province of British Columbia from coming into the area to log.

Demonstrators will march from the Vancouver museum to the Daishowa offices, where there will be speakers and drum groups. Greycloud, who is also a local president with United Native Nations, says the rally will last a couple of hours.

Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak will attend the rally which will take place on 100 Block West Hastings

in front of Daishowa's Canadian subsidiary offices.

The Cree band's high profile during the Calgary Winter Games has made the Lubicon situation a "hot issue" here, says Greycloud in a telephone interview from his Vancouver office. He believes the Lubicon situation is the most serious issue facing a Native group today.

"It's not just a land claim they're fighting. They're fighting for their very survival (and) existence as

a band."

The rally will be followed by an evening public forum at the Robson Square Media Centre which will focus on the Lubicon claim and land claims in the province of B.C.

The Lubicon band has recently asked the public to write to Daishowa stating opposition to any logging which may take place on their traditional lands prior to a land settlement.

Vice-president of Daishowa Canada Koichi Kitagawa says "hopefully, they (Lubicon and government) will work things out."

In the meantime Daishowa maintains they will not be logging in the disputed area.

"We know the area that the government has set aside and that possibly there could be a larger area than that...we're aware of that and we're not intending to be in that area," Kitagawa said from his Vancouver office.

### National Briefs

#### Convicted killer dies — Donald Marshall inquiry

SYDNEY, N.S. — Roy Ebsary, who was charged in 1985 with killing Sandy Seale after wrongfully convicting Micmac Indian Donald Marshall spent 11 years in jail, has died at the age of 75 of natural causes.

Marshall protested Ebsary's innocence and was finally released after an RCMP investigation. Ebsary spent a year in jail for manslaughter.

He was also the first and strangest witness at the inquiry into how the justice system failed the 34-year-old Marshall. Calling himself "the Rev. Capt. Roy Newman Ebsary," he was reported to have scolded, threatened and openly flirted with lawyers who cross-examined him. He admitted to stabbing Seale in 1971 but said the teenager ran away and that Marshall must have finished him off later.

Donald Marshall's father, Donald Sr., Grand Chief of the Micmac Indian Nation offered his condolences to the Ebsary's. "We sympathize with the family," he said.

#### Northern Cree students leave dangerous Ft. Albany school

FORT ALBANY, Ont. — For two weeks Cree students in this remote northern community have been unable to attend classes because their school has been declared "a threat to life and property."

The school was closed by the Department of Indian Affairs following an architect's report which called the school "totally inadequate" and cited fire safety as a major concern.

Chairman of the tribal council Norman F. Wesley says, "The fire alarm system is not functional, there are no emergency exits...there isn't enough water pressure to make use of the sprinklers."

Other schools inspected were also found to be equally dangerous, but Winnipeg architect Donald Courtneage said the Fort Albany school was "the most glaring example."

Fort Albany is located 1,300 km north of Toronto.

#### Fatal distemper outbreak killing Arctic sled dogs

YELLOWKNIFE, N.W.T. — An outbreak of distemper has killed hundreds of Arctic sled dogs and is threatening to bankrupt local hunters and guides. The epidemic which has killed almost 1,000 dogs started in the central Arctic last year and has now spread as far east as Greenland.

In Arctic Bay, on the northern tip of Baffin Island 145 working dogs have died and polar bear hunts in the area will either be cancelled or drastically reduced.

#### Sexual assault charges laid in foster child case

WINNIPEG, Man. — Eight people face sexual assault charges in connection with a young girl who was removed from her Alberta foster home against her will and returned to her natural parents on a northern Manitoba reserve.

The teenage girl has been returned to her foster parents, who had cared for her since 1972, after she threatened suicide to end the torment and regular sexual assaults she had been subjected to on the reserve.

The case led to an investigation of Awasis, a Native child care agency, which had pushed for the return of the girl to her natural parents.

A report by the Manitoba Department of Community Services says the agency needs better trained workers and more funding from the federal government to help pay for the training.

### INSIDE THIS WEEK



■ *In Assumption a Dene Tha' youth group is finding strength and unity in the beating of a drum. See page 18.*



■ *"Take their eyes and faces...there are so many trails and details — it's like a reflection of the land itself." So says artist Dale Auger, who's art shows his love for Elders. See page 12.*



■ *You can tell a lot about people just by the movies, book and food they like. For a different kind of look at the Native Perspective crew see pages 10 & 11.*

### Fears of disease spreading prompts action

## Gov't to decide fate of sick bison

By Mark McCallum

Government officials are seeking a panel to make recommendations in a special inquiry to decide the fate of a diseased bison herd at Wood Buffalo National Park.

The bison, roaming freely in the 60,000 sq. km park in northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, suffer from tuberculosis and brucellosis (an infection that can cause the animals to become sterile or the females to abort their calves).

Fears that the diseases could spread to domestic cattle in the Peace River area and another herd of rare purebred wood bison at the MacKenzie Bison Sanctuary near Fort Providence, N.W.T. has prompted government officials to take action. The healthy herd of 1,600 wild bison is the largest of its

kind in the world.

The most severe action being considered is to kill the entire diseased herd of 4,500 bison. But the extermination of the bison has been complicated because it is estimated about 50 per cent of the herd is healthy and does not have either of the diseases, says Bob Redhead, an authority on the herd at the national park.

Redhead is a member of a task force that compiled a 400-page report on the diseased animals. The report, which includes four options for dealing with the herd, was met with discussion at a meeting in Winnipeg Feb. 11 by officials from the federal, provincial and N.W.T. governments.

The options are to fence the entire perimeter of the park, corral the bison and do more research, kill the

entire diseased herd or do nothing.

The officials will ask Federal Environment Minister Tom McMillan to establish a review panel to study the report and find other options. The panel will be expected to hold public hearings and seek more technical advice before any recommendations are made to decide the herd's fate.

If the minister declines, a panel will be selected by an inter-agency group.

Although the report has not been made public yet, Redhead says it will be distributed to resource facilities no later than May. The report is being edited and condensed to 100 pages.

The Wood Buffalo Park reportedly became infected in 1925 when a herd of about 6,000 diseased plains bison was introduced to the park from Wainwright, Alberta.

### Bill C-31

■ From Page 1

Grove says the NCC, which represents non-status and Metis in Canada, warned the government back in 1985 to expect between 100,000 to 120,000 people to apply for reinstatement. He is also worried that the push to move applications more

quickly would have serious consequences for some Native people applying for reinstatement.

"The rejection level could suddenly fly up and as far as that unit is concerned they don't care... as long as they get the applications through."

Gregor expects that all outstanding applications will be "assessed" by mid-

August. "Some will go right to the system, others will need a lot of research."

In the meantime Ronnenberg says many cases are taking up to two years (to process).

Bill C-31 was enacted in June of 1985 to end sexual discrimination in the Indian Act which stripped Indian women of their status when they married non-Indians.

# Alcohol's grip on family loosened at Poundmaker's

By Mark McCallum

EDMONTON — The Rabbitskin family is enjoying a happy and sober life together after alcoholism threatened to split and destroy their home forever.

The Cree family of six from the Chisasibi reserve in northern Quebec are growing closer since coming to a drug rehabilitation centre, Poundmaker's Lodge, near Edmonton.

"It's just beautiful to see them still sober," says Poundmaker's senior counsellor Emile Ward, noting the Rabbitskins have been living a life of sobriety for the past eight months.

The family sought treatment from the lodge last July at the request of the parents' employer, the Quebec Cree School Board.

Teaching on reserves in their native province for the past nine years, Kenny and Lillian Rabbitskin, are both certified elementary teachers with degrees they earned through summer school at the University of Quebec. But, their career goals were almost shattered because they could not stop drinking alcohol.

To hide their drinking problem and avoid losing their jobs, the Rabbitskins would move from reserve to reserve when someone became critical of the example they were setting for students. In 1984, only a court technicality stopped the school board from firing them. A provincial court ruled that the board did not give the pair enough notice before firing them.

The Rabbitskins received a warning from the school

board but continued to keep drinking. The couple had been moderate drinkers for the better part of their lives, drinking only on weekends and special occasions. But, after they both received a bachelors degree in education, a feeling of self-satisfaction overcame them. They had arrived at a plateau and began spending more time filling gaps in their lives with leisurely activities. Drinking would prove to be the most self-destructive of these activities.

The couple started missing work and coming to class with the smell of liquor on them, much to the dismay of the school board. The board gave them an ultimatum — either get help from a rehabilitation centre or find new jobs.

With the assistance of the school board, the Rabbitskins moved across the country and entered a 43-day addictions treatment program at the Poundmaker's Lodge. Kenny explains: "The board said they would help us find the best help possible...this place (Poundmaker's) is second to none. The people that work here are doing a fantastic job."

The family completed the rehabilitation program and is now living in Edmonton, travelling to the lodge for support on a regular basis. To prevent relapse, family members are being encouraged to get support in 10-day follow-up programs at the lodge. Lillian completed a follow-up program Feb. 19. Her husband and children were all at her side supporting her on the last day when



MARK MCCALLUM, Windspeaker

## THE RABBITSKIN FAMILY

...Ernie, Wayne, Lillian, Caroline, Jeremy and Kenny

she received a certificate for her efforts. Kenny and eldest son, Wayne, plan to take the follow-up program.

It wasn't until the Rabbitskins came to the lodge that they realized the effect alcohol and drugs were having on their family.

The parents say they didn't care if their children, who range in ages eight to 19-years-old, consumed alcohol and did drugs. In some cases, Kenny adds "we even encouraged our oldest son (Wayne) to drink and do drugs."

Wayne is an admitted alcoholic. The 18-year-old was kicked out of school several times for missing classes and violent behavior. He says he would also threaten other students and teachers with violence.

"I used to come to school drunk and sometimes I would pass out on my

desk," recalls Wayne, who is currently attending a school in Edmonton, as are the rest of the children: Ernie, 15; Jeremy, 12 and Caroline, 8. Mabel, the eldest at 19, is married and no longer lives with the family. All of the children, with the exception of Caroline, have consumed alcohol at one time or another.

"The kids never really had a place they could call home because we were always drinking," says Lillian.

Wayne agrees with his mother: "I couldn't wait to grow up and get out on my own...because I had a pretty hard time with my parents. Now, it's like starting over." He plans to stay at home and finish high school with the support of his family.

Today, the Rabbitskins

are a much closer and happier family. Lillian explains: "I've seen some changes in my family. We seem closer and we're starting to open up to each other more, and my husband and I are listening more."

Kenny says: "I feel great right now. I see some beautiful things happening with my family. We're sitting down and talking about all of the bad things and problems we experienced."

The parents are on a special leave of absence from their teaching jobs with the Quebec Cree School Board, which has guaranteed the couple their old jobs back if they stay sober. The Rabbitskins plan to return home in August if they feel ready. But, whatever happens, it will be a family decision.

## Provincial Briefs

### Youth charged with break-in; theft being investigated

CASLAN — A Caslan youth has been charged in connection with a break and enter in which financial records, receipt books, and some money were taken from the Metis settlement office in mid-November.

The 17-year-old male was charged Jan. 2 and will appear in court March 14 to face theft, and break and enter charges.

However, there is "no proof" that the youth took files or books for the Waskahigun (Housing) Corporation, says Garry Henson, Special Constable with the Boyle RCMP detachment.

The missing records precluded a proposed five year audit of the housing corporation by the Metis Settlement Members coalition, which wanted to determine how corporation money was spent.

Henson says they are still investigating the missing files but at this time have "nothing to go on."

### Collision kills Hobbema man; passenger escapes with bruises

HOBBEMA — The name of a 27-year-old Hobbema man killed in a highway accident has been released.

Delford Louis Saddleback of Hobbema died when his pickup truck hit a trailer being towed by another pickup, say RCMP.

He was driving east on Highway 61 about 6 km from Hobbema on Saturday, Feb. 20 when his truck collided with a large steel horse carrier being pulled by another truck.

Saddleback's passenger, Gerald Rain, 25, was injured and is being treated at the University Hospital. Rain suffered bruises and cuts but his injuries are not believed to be life threatening say RCMP.

The accident is still under investigation.

### Evicted family awaits verdict of housing assessment

GROUARD — A family evicted from their home last month after refusing to pay mortgage dues because of structural flaws, which they say caused the basement to flood and the sewer to back up, are closer to having the house repaired.

Louise Gardiner says a group of six people, including housing officials and engineers, have assessed the house "from top to bottom" and will make a report by the end of the month outlining necessary repairs.

Following the eviction the family lived in a tent for six days before moving into a government emergency trailer.

Gardiner says she stopped making mortgage payments on the house 20 months ago to get the attention of Alberta Mortgage and Housing.

The Metis woman says she will resume mortgage payments once the house is repaired to her satisfaction.

## Skirmish raises racism issue on competitive sports circuit

By Terry Lusty

Is the highly competitive and emotional game of hockey a breeding ground for racism?

An incident last month indicates the answer may be "yes," according to sources at a Jan. 10 bantam hockey game in Edson. Coaches of both the Edson and Stony Plain teams confirm a fight broke out after the game and off the ice, most likely precipitated by name-calling aimed at Edson player, 15-year-old Jason Belcourt of Ron's Outdoor Nordiques. Belcourt's father, Allan, and Edson coach Jerry Neilson, claim racist slurs from several players of the opposing Stony Plain Maulers led to the fight.

Mauler coach, Ben Kronewitt, admits discriminatory remarks were voiced by his player, Corey Jodoin, who, he says "suffered a broken cheek bone" after being assaulted

by Belcourt. Kronewitt says the phrase "dumb Indian" was used against Belcourt but denies racist comments had been used prior to the game.

Belcourt's father disagrees. "They've been harassing him for the last four years, calling him a dirty Indian. He just couldn't take it anymore. A lot of people in Edson have heard the name-calling, including the linesmen... they've said they would back charges against Stony Plain."

Jason Belcourt claims the name-calling has been going on for a few years now. "It's been mostly from the Stony Plain team," he complains, adding "the referees don't do anything" about it.

Stony Plain coach Kronewitt feels "compassion" for the Belcourt boy, referring to him as "an outstanding hockey player" he'd like to have on his own team. He argues the entire

affair stems from an injury sustained by one of his players during the game. As for the fight after the game, he argues, "You can never justify an assault after the game; I feel he was encouraged by his dad..."

Belcourt says that Jodoin told him "to meet him outside after the game" which was when he purportedly got struck by Belcourt.

According to coach Neilson, Belcourt is subjected to racist comments because he's a good player and the name-calling is a strategy used to upset him and his team members and weaken their play. Team captain Belcourt is "probably one of the toughest kids in the league, but he isn't like that (a fighter)," states Neilson, pointing out his player has only been penalized a total of 16 minutes up until the Jan. 10 game and was provoked once too often.

Administrator for the

Edmonton Minor Hockey League, Jeff Harmon, says "the best way to cure it (name-calling) is for him not to respond...and it'll probably stop after six months or so." Coach Neilson's advice to his player has also been "to look the other way."

Game suspensions to both players for their vocal remarks have already been served as directed by the hockey league, but another hearing is yet to come.

Apparently, the incident has not yet been presented to the Alberta Amateur Hockey Association. President Murray Copot, of Calgary, returned to Canada on Feb. 8 after being away since Jan. 19 and say he is not aware of any hearing but confirmed he would look into the matter.

The hockey association is expected to preside over the issue in early March. Meanwhile, both Belcourt and Jodoin continue to play for their respective teams.

# Editorial

## Racism issue rises on ice

Is racism alive and well on Alberta's sports circuit?

It seems it is, especially in hockey where the action is fast and tempers boil. Several people involved with the sport have attested to playing in "redneck" areas of Alberta where name calling and pushing and shoving are strategies to intimidate Native players and throw off their playing performance.

This kind of racist attitude is nothing new, but it hurts to see it occurring in sports. A particular fight which erupted at a hockey game last month between a Native and a non-Native could have had a number of reasons for starting, but there are indications the root of the cause lies in harassment and bigotry between two races. The fact that the fight took place off the ice and after the game is significant. Players and parents must remember that it's a game that should be played out only on the ice.


Granted, it isn't so easy to ignore taunts and put downs. The only solution is to take a noble stance and work hard to rise above it, whether it be in your improved playing performance or your ability to ignore the name calling and turn the other cheek because you know the person doing the taunting is much worse off than you.

In extreme cases, some coaches just make it a rule that their teams avoid talking to opposition players or referees during a game. Period.

**Your opinion, please...**

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

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



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# WINDSPEAKER GALLERY



DIANNE MEILI, Windspeaker

## OH, THOSE ACHING FEET!

John McHugh, of the Edmonton Canadian Native Friendship Centre Junior Dancers, checks his partner Dee-Ann Gordon's feet for blisters after the group delighted the crowd at Calgary's friendship centre last Feb. 18. The troupe performed such favorites as Drops of Brandy and the Duck dance.

# Opinion

## Calgary police behavior brings scorn

**Dear Editor:**

Re: the behavior of Calgary police during the Feb. 13 protest in support of the Lubicon boycott.

Some people are under the delusion that we live in a democratic society where citizens are allowed to speak out, despite racist cops who stand around like useless goofs while peaceful

protesters are harassed and attacked with lumps of ice.

Some people labour under the misapprehension that people are free to speak up, to disagree, to hold unpopular opinions, to act according to their conscience. This certainly appears to be the case with the plainclothes officer who told a reporter to be sure to

report "the public's reaction to those f---ing Indians." I believe this cop should be more concerned with the public's reaction to those police.

This same clown (who cowardly refused to give his badge number when asked, as is supposedly required by law) told another reporter he wished he had a flamethrower to use on the

protesters. Who are the real terrorists, supporters of the Lubicon or the police?

No, the Calgary police haven't changed much since they kicked me out of town. If anything, they've gotten worse.

**Gordon R. Dumont  
Prince Albert, Sask.**

## Sacred ceremony photo questioned

**Dear Editor:**

RE: Photo "Ceremony to Save a River," Feb. 12, 1988, Vol. 5 No. 49

My understanding of the teachings of our Elders, spiritual and traditional people is that photographs of our sacred ceremonies and our sacred pipe are not to be taken. The respect for this teaching has been neglected by many over the years. It may be that people are unaware, however, it is our duty as Aboriginal people of the pipe to ensure that this teaching is shared and continued in future generations.

It is not my place to reprimand anyone and it is not my intent to offend

anyone; I only feel it is my duty to bring this to the attention of the editor and anyone reading your paper.

During this time of much controversy and our fellow Aboriginal nation's plight for respect of sacred objects, this surely does not support our stand in requesting they be returned and the discontinuance of our sacred objects being publicly displayed. It is at a time when we Aboriginal people must be supportive of one another in all of the issues affecting our values, traditions, inherent rights and Mother Earth.

In future I would ask that this teaching be very strongly considered to reflect the integrity and

respect for the ways of the Red Nations and our sacred ways.

**In unity  
and with respect,  
Karen Collins**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It is important to note here that Windspeaker first received permission to photograph the ceremony and followed this up by also asking permission of the Peigans to publish the picture. As was stated in last week's editorial — our culture is gradually changing and adapting to modern times and Windspeaker mirrors this, while exercising the utmost respect for our cultural practices.

## Should we warn otters?

**Dear Editor:**

There seems to be something wrong with the Alberta law for trappers.

My neighbor, Edward Decoine, was fined this week because more than one otter got into his traps set for other animals. The law says only one otter each year can be caught on his trapline.

Which of our two legal languages must he use on the signs to warn the otter in a Cree speaking community?

**Floyd Griesbach  
Wabasca**



# Community

## Laughing contest and moose calling draws crowds

By Diane Parenteau

COLD LAKE: From the bingo and dance Friday night to the final awards presentation Sunday evening, the second annual

Cold Lake First Nations Winter Carnival was entertaining and fun.

There were two nights of dancing, hours of talent show, numerous outdoor races and a fancy harness

parade on Sunday.

It provided giggles and chuckles in the laughing contests, a hunting lesson in the moose calling and a believe-it-or-not section with the tall tales category.

Sunday afternoon opened with the much anticipated fancy harness parade. Before the event crowds lined the parade route and gathered outside the community complex where the teams were to be judged.

In the distance the first team could be seen and the far-off sound of bells grew gradually louder. The pulling horses praced and nodded.

Parade organizer Sam Minoose was happy with the entry and spectator turnout. "The event is a way to keep the tradition alive."

How the driver handled the horses, the appearance of the rigging and overall team management were all criteria in the contest. Cash prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 went to the top three winners in each category.

First place heavy horse winner was a local team owned by George Noel,

who participates to support the event and not for the cash prize.

"It's not the idea of making a whole bunch of money," said Noel. "We all enjoy doing something for a hobby and this is mine."

As a member of the Cold Lake band council, Noel says they want to make fancy harness an annual event. "We'd like to promote this sort of thing, this is my way of participating."

The talent show which started Saturday before Sunday's parade, attracted the biggest crowds. Saturday's turnout was good and Sunday proved to be even better, with standing room only in the large hall on the Cold Lake reserve. Spectators and participants lined the walls and small children huddled near and around the stage.

The competitions were divided up into events and categories like male and female vocals, mixed duets, a number of group dancing competitions and individual jigging. All events had a senior and junior division.



DIANE PARENTEAU, Windspeaker

**CECIL DESJARLAIS**  
...shows his stuff in the laughing contest

- COLD LAKE 2ND ANNUAL WINTER CARNIVAL WINNERS**
- Male vocals (sr.):** 1st - Rory Houle; 2nd - Joe Cardinal  
**Male vocals (jr.):** 1st - John Quinney  
**Female vocals (sr.):** 1st - Audrey Cardinal; 2nd - Mary Wells; 3rd - Anita Middagh  
**Female vocals (jr.):** 1st - Kim Scanie; 2nd - Debbie Janvier  
**Duet (sr.):** 1st - Carla Houle, Audrey Cardinal; 2nd - Irene McFeeters, Mary Wells  
**Moose Calling:** 1st - Willard Cardinal; 2nd - Lawrence Desjarlais; 3rd - Clarence Scanie  
**Old-time Fiddling:** 1st - George Berland; 2nd - John Desjarlais; 3rd - Eve Brunet  
**Laughing Contest:** 1st - Cecil Desjarlais; 2nd - Francis Quinney; 3rd - Lorraine Loth  
**Square Dancing, Drops of Brandy, Duck Dance, Sr., Reel of Eight:** 1st - Elizabeth Junior Travellers  
**Talltales:** 1st - Carolyn Janvier; 2nd - Rory Houle; 3rd - Lawrence Desjarlais  
**Red River Jig (Male Sr.):** 1st - Travis Youngchief; 2nd - Garth Youngchief  
**Red River Jigging (Female Jr.):** 1st - Christine Soloway; 2nd - Jacklyn Youngchief; 3rd - Sheila Scanie  
**Teamaking:** 1st - Charlie Blackman; 2nd - Clarence Scanie  
**Log Sawing:** 1st - Willard Cardinal, Emile Blyan; 2nd - Clarence Scanie, Celestine Grandbois  
**Fancy Harness Parade (Heavy Horse):** 1st - George Noel; 2nd - Allan Jacob; 3rd - Irvin Quinney  
**(Pony):** 1st - John Stanley; 2nd - Pat Desjarlais; 3rd - Alfred Desjarlais

## ANNOUNCING: 5th Annual Juried Alberta Native Art Festival

# ASUM MENA

### AWARDS

- \$5,000 scholarship for 1st place
- \$1,000 for 2nd place
- \$500 for 3rd place
- \$500 for best 3-dimensional piece

### EARLY SUBMISSIONS DRAWS

ENTER EARLY to be eligible for early bird prizes. Three draws for \$200 art supplies gift certificates will be made on the first day of each month, March through May.

**DEADLINE FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS IS JUNE 1, 1988**

### 100% PROCEEDS

You as an Artist will earn 100% of the proceeds of works sold. The Society covers framing costs for those works chosen for the show.

**ENTER TODAY!!!**

### CONTACT

Alberta Indian Arts & Crafts Society  
501, 10105 - 109 St.  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1M5  
(403) 426-2048



## Employment Counsellor

**Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council** (Outreach Program) seeks an employment counsellor.

Incumbent responsible for counselling clients to determine their interests, assist clients in obtaining work and following up on placements to check progress. Incumbent reports to the executive director.

### DUTIES:

1. Interview clients and obtain information to determine employability.
2. Counsel clients and assist in searching for jobs by knowing the employment market and opportunities. Make appointments for interview with employers and on occasion accompany clients to interview. Help clients to become as self-dependent as possible in seeking employment.
3. Contact employers for opportunities and explain the outreach program to them. Keep record of prospective employers and types of opportunities available.
4. Work in close cooperation with Canada Employment Centres, social agencies and other community resources in planning the need of clients.
5. Compile monthly reports, statistics and information on travels.
6. Perform other related work as required. Must be able to assist clients in career development planning.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum Grade 10
- Ability to understand the need of others and to work well with people
- Must have good communication skills
- Must have good written and interpersonal skills
- Must have knowledge and appreciation of the Native community within the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council area
- Ability to speak the Cree language is an asset

Deadline for application Feb. 29, 1988.

Send resume to:

Lesser Slave Lake Regional Outreach  
Program  
P.O. Box 1740  
High Prairie, AB T0G 1E0  
ATTN: Bruce Willier





## DROPPIN IN

By Mark  
McCallum

**F**rog Lake residents are leaping to action and preparing their lily pad again this year for the Kermit Karnival, which is named in playful honor of a famous movie star — Kermit the Frog.

The Wechihtow Ladies Club, which has a load of activities in store for the day-long event, says the celebration is expected to have a lot of "rrribiting" excitement this year.

Last year, the event was a day longer. "It was really good," says club member Brenda Quinney, explaining they had to shorten it this year because they couldn't find enough volunteers. As a result, they're not going to host a talent show that is normally a part of the annual event.

But, Quinney is quick to point out that they have more than enough help to put on a harness horse and pony chuckwagon parade, six outdoor activities and 10 more indoor events. She adds there will be plenty of cash prizes and trophies to be given away as well.

The reserve will also hold its first-ever male beauty contest. To qualify for the contest, you have to dress like a woman, explains Quinney. She notes prizes will be awarded to the most outrageous, most talented and, of course, most beautiful contestants. "It's all in fun," she says.

Country Fyre has gladly agreed to supply music for a dance that will wrap up the celebration.

Quinney invites everyone to drop by and feel free to participate in the Kermit Karnival, which will be held at the Frog Lake school on March 12.

**LETHBRIDGE:** Mayor Dave Carpenter has declared March 14-19 Native Awareness Week in Lethbridge. Although it's not an official holiday, Sik-Ooh-Kotok Friendship Society youth worker Mark Brave Rock says the whole town is behind the event and participating in it.

## Frog Lake boasts Kermit Karnival

Brave Rock explains the University of Lethbridge was responsible for most of the activities held during the week in the past. But now the university is being joined by all of the other schools, local businesses and the society.

The week-long event will include two powwows on March 18 and 19, a 14-team basketball tourney on the 18, 19 and 20 and art shows daily at local malls and the society's own centre. Brave Rock notes the basketball tourney will feature top teams from the United States, Saskatchewan, Calgary and Lethbridge, of course.

If there are teams or artists interested in the Native Awareness Week, Brave Rock says they would like to hear from you (328-2414).

**WABASCA:** The "Mad Trappers" Winter Carnival Days will be kicking off on March 11-13. The second annual winter time celebration has something for everyone, according to one organizer, Ernest Auger.

The weekend carnival will feature the crowning of a new king and queen "mad trapper" of the year. But first, competitors from across the province will have to earn the crown by competing in 11 events that in some way, shape or form have "something to do with the trappers' everyday life," explains Auger.

Although the event is only open to adults (18 and up), Auger says the younger folk will have a chance to compete in an ice fishing derby and snowshoe races that are being held along with the carnival.

**FORT CHIP:** Bicentennial activities are in full swing at Fort Chipewyan. The 200-year-old community will be hosting the Roderick MacKenzie Rendez-vous, March 11-13. The celebration will include winter carnival events, hockey and curling tournaments as well as skidoo and ice car races. In 1788, MacKenzie founded the community and established the first trading post on the banks of the Athabasca River.

Bicentennial staff secretary Lee Derksen says most of the events will either take place in the townsite or on the frozen top layer of the Athabasca Lake. She adds visitors can enjoy the crowning of a carnival queen, an oldtime costumes banquet as well as the entertainment of the Metis Local Oldtime Dancers, and a pancake breakfast.

Have a great week.

## The Windspeaker Calendar of Events

✓ Check it out!

- ☐ **All-Indian Basketball Tournament**, March 4, 5 & 6, Blackfoot band. For more info call the Blackfoot Recreation at 734-7030 or 734-3833.
- ☐ **Treaty 7 Mixed Curling Bonspiel**, March 11, 12 & 13, Blackfoot band. Call Blackfoot Recreation at the above number.
- ☐ **Volleyball Tournament**, March 12 & 13, Frog Lake. Contact Wilson at 943-3737. Sponsored by Bounty Hunters.
- ☐ **Mad Trappers Winter Carnival**, March 11-13, Wabasca.
- ☐ **Roderick MacKenzie Rendez-vous**, March 11-13, Fort Chip. Celebration includes winter carnival events, hockey and curling tourneys and skidoo and ice car races.
- ☐ **Kermit Carnival**, March 12, Frog Lake school grounds. Contact Blanche Nooskey at 943-3780 for more information.
- ☐ **Native Awareness Week**, March 14-19, Sik-Ooh-Kotok Friendship Society, Lethbridge. Call Mark Brave Rock at 328-2414 for more information.
- ☐ **Partners in Education Conference**, March 17, 18 & 19, Convention Inn, Edmonton. Special guest speaker: Dr. David Suzuki. Call Yellowhead Tribal Council at 962-0303 for more info.
- ☐ **Hockey Tournament (Siksika All-Indian Senior)**, March 18, 19 & 20, Blackfoot band. Call Blackfoot Recreation for more information.
- ☐ **Youth Conference**, March 18 & 19, Onchaminahos High School, Saddle Lake. For more information contact 726-3730.
- ☐ **Native Students Awareness Week**, March 21-25, Concordia College, Edmonton. Contact Peter Cardinal, Don Pimm or Frantz House on campus for further information.
- ☐ **All-Native Hockey Tournament**, April 1-3, North Battleford. Call Friendship Centre at (306) 445-8216 for more info.
- ☐ **Basketball Championship (Western Canada Men's & Ladies')**, April 8, 9 & 10, Blackfoot band. Call 734-7030 or 734-3833 for more info.
- ☐ **2nd Annual Good Times Jamboree**, May 20-22, Lac La Biche. Call the Native Perspective at (403) 623-3333 for further information.

## A Tradition Of Excellence



### Prepare For It Now!

**How:** In a university and college entrance program designed For Native adults.

**What:** Study English & Math and career-planning. The English & Math are recognized as equivalent to Eng. 30 and Math 30 for university college entrance.

**When:** Sept. 1988 - April 1989

**Where:** Concordia College, Edmonton, Alberta

Support Sources: A full-time counsellor provides help with personal, family and academic problems. Tutoring is available in the afternoons. Students have access to library and sports facilities.

### Application Procedure

1. Call the UCEP counsellor, Bonnie Young at 479-8481 for an interview.
2. Deadline for applications is June 30, 1988
3. Apply early. Interviews have already begun.



**CONCORDIA  
COLLEGE**

7128 Ada Boulevard  
Edmonton, Alberta T5B 4E4  
(403) 479-8481

## THE CANADIAN NORTHERN STUDIES TRUST SPRING COMPETITION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR NATIVE STUDENTS

The Canadian Northern Studies Trust will award scholarships — valued at \$10,000 each — to support Native students enrolled in post-baccalaureate degree or diploma programs at a Canadian university and who will be commencing graduate studies on or after September 1, 1988.

The educational program of the successful candidates will have special relevance to economic development for Native peoples in Canada. Preference will be given on the basis of academic excellence, but work-related experience with potential for initiative and leadership qualities will be taken into account. The subject areas that have direct bearing on economic development will be considered, and the applicability of the course of study to Native economic development must be demonstrated.

The awards are open to Native students who are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. These awards are made possible by a contribution from the Native Economic Development Program, Government of Canada.

For information and application material, write to:  
**Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies**  
130 Albert Street, Suite 1915  
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5G4  
Tel. 613-238-3525

Applications are to be received by April 1, 1988

# Community

*Calliou reports the latest at Grande Prairie Indian Country*

## Youth learn skills for at-home-alone time

By **Mark Calliou**  
Community  
Correspondent  
Grande Prairie

Two Grande Prairie Regional College students recently shared in scholarship money dedicated to furthering the education of Natives. **Henry Nooskey** will use the funds to help him gain a business administration diploma. Student **Tracey Cardinal**, a university transfer student, is aiming for an education degree. The students each received \$250 from a fund established by an anonymous donor.

**Crystal Badger** is two on Feb. 29. Actually she is eight but there's the breaks for a leap year child. Crystal tells me she celebrates her birthday on Feb. 29. Happy birthday, Crystal!

**Chantel Campbell**, a native of Komax, B.C., was chosen "Queen of the North." Chantel who completed high school in Beaverlodge, now resides in Grande Prairie.

The Tundra hockey team won the Grande Prairie tournament held as

part of the Winterlude '88 celebration. This is an annual winter carnival comprised of many activities.

The Metis Association Local 20 is holding their Annual Meeting at the friendship centre, on March 6 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served. It's very important to have all our members attend if possible as we will be electing new officers. If you need a ride please phone 539-5735 or 539-7514.

Happy birthday to the following people: Feb. 6 - **Herb Badger**; Feb. 19 - **Val Clarek**; Feb. 23 - **Ronanda Horseman**; Feb. 26 - **Elsie Richards**; Feb. 27 - **Joseph Richards**; Feb. 29 - **Crystal Badger**.

We would also like to congratulate Lyle and Denny Morrison on the birth of a daughter Jody Jan. 30.

### Home skills program

Our home skills program for children ages six to 12 is designed to provide children with information and skills to manage at-home-alone time situations more safely



**Henry Nooskey and Tracey Cardinal (center) are flanked by Rita Easton (left) and Irene Loutitt (right).**

and confidently.

The course consists of nine sessions (one hour each) facilitated by **Charlene Eckstrom** of Cool Aid. Presentations are made by other community agencies, such as the South Peace Health Unit, St. John's Ambulance, Grande Prairie Fire Department and the RCMP.

The course content includes: emergency sup-

port systems, health records, family rules, first aid, appliance use, basic hygiene, nutrition - snacks, fire safety, dealing with strangers and personal feelings and self-esteem.

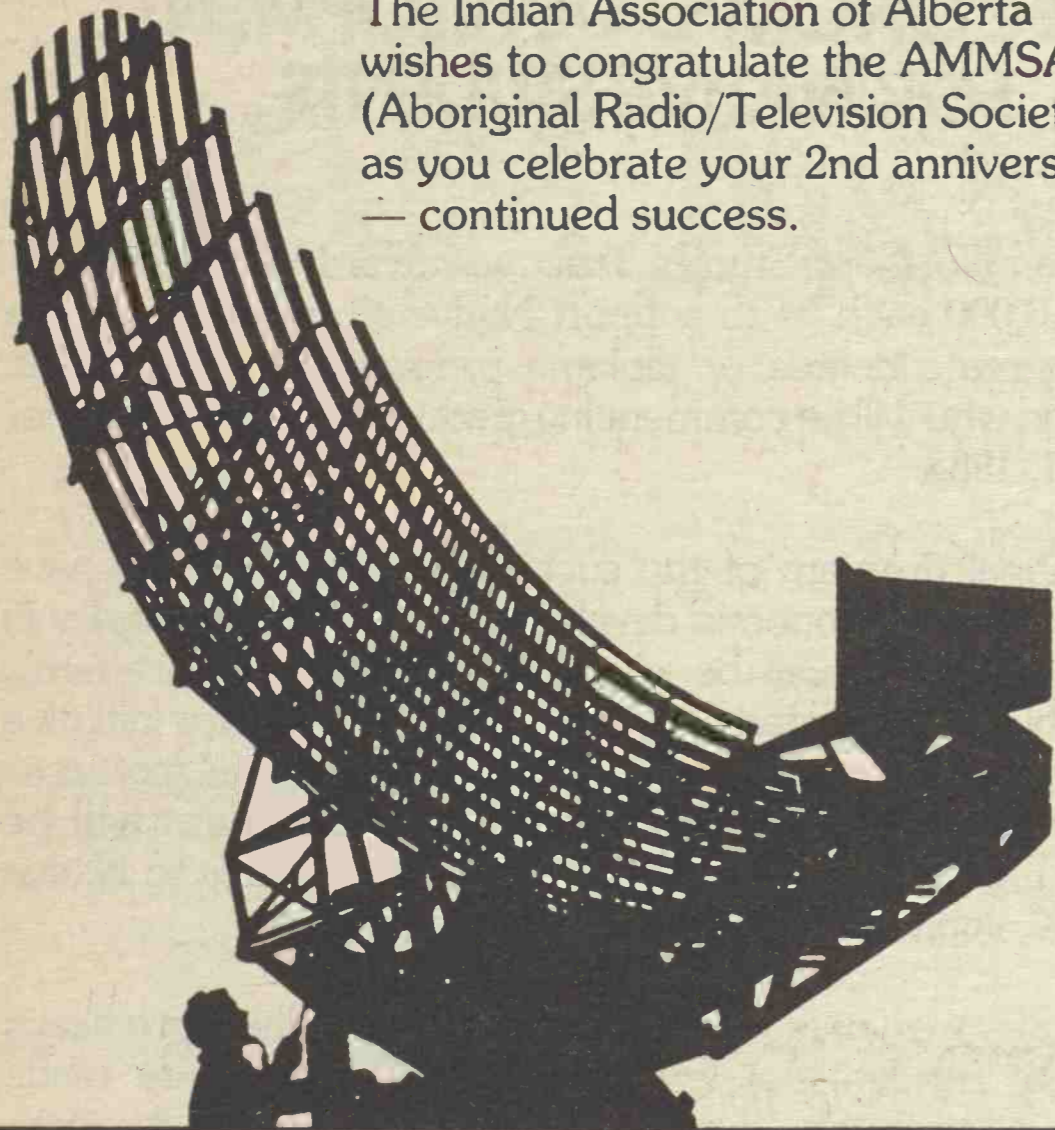
This program has proven very popular with the children. They come to the Friendship Centre after school and are provided with a snack before the sessions start.



**CRYSTAL BADGER**  
...leap year birthday makes her two-years-old

Native Communications — An integral part of the way Native peoples reach each other — a gatherer of information and a viable source of communication between Natives everywhere.

The Indian Association of Alberta wishes to congratulate the AMMSA/ARTS (Aboriginal Radio/Television Society) as you celebrate your 2nd anniversary — continued success.



### INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF ALBERTA

11630 Kingsway Avenue  
EDMONTON, Alberta T5G 0X5  
(403) 452-4330 or 452-4331

## Congratulations & Best Wishes



on your 2nd Anniversary of Native Broadcasting

We Appreciate the Importance of Native Media & Communications

Chief Eugene Steinhauer, Councillors,  
Tribal Administration & Staff



**SADDLE LAKE TRIBAL ADMINISTRATION**  
Saddle Lake, Alberta T0A 3T0  
(403) 725-3829



# Trapping trails to be cleared

By Mark McCallum

The provincial government is funnelling \$39,000 into clearing costs for passageways used by trappers at the Little Red River band near High Level.

Band councillor Henry Grandjambe says the passageways will improve access for band members that have traplines in the Garden River area of the Wood Buffalo National Park.

Transportation and Utilities Minister Al Adair notes the project will create new jobs and generate economic benefits for the trapping industry in the community.

"Trapping provides the main source of income for the Little Red River band during the winter," explains Adair, adding elderly band members stand to gain the most because they "rely on trapping for their livelihoods more so than others."

The clearing project is expected to begin in late February and should be completed by April 15. It will employ 10 band members, who will be clearing brush and willow trees off about 240 km of old skidoo trails. Total cost of the project is \$63,990.

"When it snows or there is a heavy frost, branches droop over the trails, making them virtually impassible," explains Grandjambe. "The workers will also be widening the trails because right now they're barely wide enough for one skidoo."

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Fri. - 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Sat. - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

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Congratulations to Native Perspective  
on your 2nd Anniversary  
Special thanks from the Board & Staff



**SAGITAWA FRIENDSHIP CENTRE**

Box 1283  
Peace River, Alberta T0H 2X0  
**624-2443**

## AIDS INFO

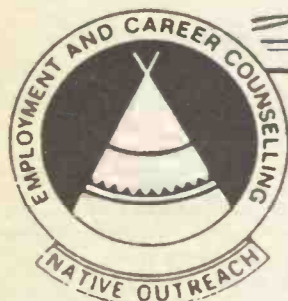
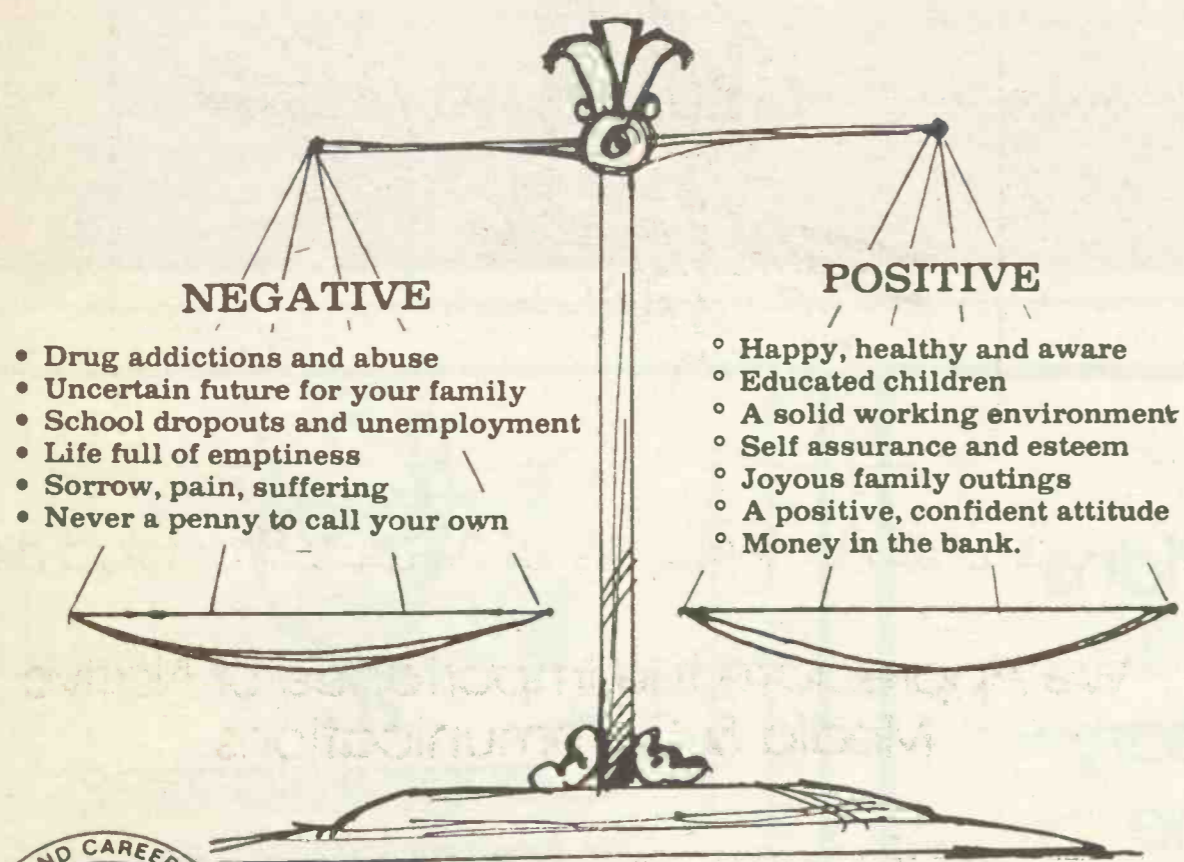
call toll free

**1-800  
772-AIDS**

Confidential,  
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3rd Fl., 10603 - 107 Ave. EDMONTON, Alberta T5H 0W5  
(403) 428-9350

HEAD OFFICE: 3rd Fl., 10603 - 107 Ave., Edmonton, AB T5H 0W5 - (403) 428-9350

BRANCHES IN:

Calgary - Rm. 201, 1211 - 14 ST. S.W., Calgary, AB T3C 1C4 - (403) 245-4374

Grand Centre - Box 1168, Grand Centre, AB T0A 1T0 - (403) 594-7360

High Level - Box 480, High Level, AB T0H 1Z0 - (403) 926-3635

Hinton - #201, Summit Building, Box 1409, Hinton, AB T0E 1B0 - (403) 865-7811

Lethbridge - 1616 - 2nd Ave. S., Lethbridge, AB T1J 0G2 - (403) 320-9010

*Congratulations*  
to Native  
Perspective  
on your  
2nd Anniversary

From Chief Johnsen Sewepagaham,  
Council & Band Members

**LITTLE RED RIVER  
INDIAN TRIBE**

Box 1165, HIGH LEVEL, Alberta T0H 1Z0  
Band Office: 759-3912 or 759-3950

FOX LAKE BAND OFFICE  
659-3855 or 659-3963

JOHN D'OR BAND  
759-3912

GARDEN RIVER BAND OFFICE  
659-3677

*Congratulations*  
to the Native  
Perspective on your  
2nd Anniversary  
May you have  
many more.

From Chief, Council  
& Members



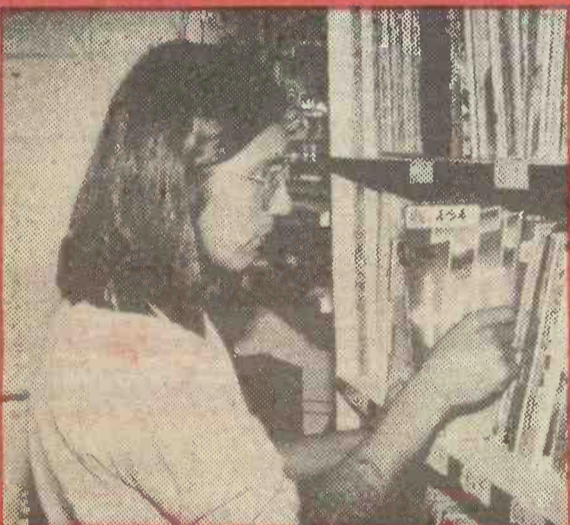
**ERMINESKIN TRIBAL  
ENTERPRISES**

Box 219, Hobbema, AB T0C 1N0  
**585-3741**



**Ray Fox**

**Nickname:** Honcho  
**Age:** For the purpose of this article, "29 and holding"  
**Job Title:** Director of Radio  
**Hobbies:** Promoting, visions of grandeur and music, music, music  
**Favorite Book:** Cheque...I Have Spoken  
**Favorite Movie:** The Gods Must be Crazy, Where the Green Ants Dream  
**Favorite Food:** Pork Neck Bones, Chicken Cacciatori, Curry Paratha, Korean Food  
**Most Memorable Movie:** Soldier Blue, Ulzanas Raid  
**One rule you live by:** Go For It  
**Person you admire:** Jim Sinclair, Cher  
**One thing you would like to change:** The Canadian bureaucracy and my socks



**Richard Wagamese**

**Nickname:** The Old Hippy  
**Age:** 32  
**Job Title:** "Hey you..."  
**Hobbies:** Hockey, reading, music, looking for love in all the wrong places  
**Favorite Book:** The Road Less Travelled, M. Scott Peck  
**Favorite Movie:** Mask  
**Favorite Food:** Chinese  
**Most Memorable Movie:** The one that I never even saw that summer evening at the drive-in with Betty Ann  
**One rule you live by:** If you booze, you lose  
**Person you most admire:** Nelson Mandela, Zorro  
**One thing you would like to change:** Indifference on any front



# HAPPY 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY



**Joan Hinz**

**Nickname:** Clyde  
**Age:** 24  
**Job Title:** Community Animator and Advertising Consultant  
**Hobbies:** White water canoeing, skiing, juggling, camping, outdoor stuff  
**Favorite Book:** I am David: The Greatest Miracle in the World, Og Mandingo  
**Favorite Food:** Stuffed grape leaves, chocolate, almost anything sweet  
**Most Memorable Movie:** Loyalties  
**One rule you live by:** Finish what you start; never give up  
**One thing you would like to change:** The world



**Bridget A. Cardinal**

**Nickname:** The Bridge  
**Age:** 28  
**Job Title:** Trainee  
**Hobbies:** Reading, writing, visualizing my dream  
**Favorite Book:** The Road Less Travelled, M. Scott Peck  
**Favorite Movie:** Good Morning Vietnam  
**Favorite Food:** Anything, I like to eat.  
**One rule you live by:** The Alwyn Morris Motto: "If you have it in you to dream, you have it in you to succeed."  
**Person you admire:** Tina Turner, Richard Waga-Waga Wagamese, Adrian Cronauer and Robin Williams  
**One thing you would like to change:** My Blubber, meaning my extra fat.



**Wade T. LaFrance**

**Nickname:** Gleichen Revenge  
**Age:** 22  
**Job Title:** Vinyl Audio Electronic Technician  
**Hobbies:** Girl oggling, driving, girl oggling  
**Favorite Book:** National Lampoon, or is that a magazine?  
**Favorite Movie:** Good Morning Vietnam  
**Favorite Food:** Anything  
**One rule you live by:** Winning isn't the only thing, it's everything.  
**Person you most admire:** Anyone who has the guts to get exactly what they want out of life without hesitation.  
**One thing you would like to change:** If I had one thing I could change, I would rid the earth of racial intolerance - either that or blow up South Africa.



**Robin Kuhle**

**Nickname:** Cool, as in Kuhle  
**Age:** Uncertain, records destroyed  
**Job Title:** News Director (Sometimes)  
**Hobbies:** Skating, reading, cross country skiing, spending money  
**Favorite Book:** The Bourne Identity, Robert Ludlum  
**Favorite Movie:** Suppose They Gave a War and Nobody Came - No one did!  
**Most Memorable Movie:** Rabbit Test. -- The rabbit died along with the crowd

PHOTOS BY DORIS BILL

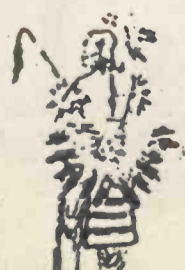
*Congratulations*  
 to Native Perspective  
 on your 2nd Anniversary

From The Chairman,  
 Council, Staff and Members

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 METIS SETTLEMENT**

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 T0G 1E0  
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Congratulations  
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 2nd Anniversary  
 Keep up the  
 good work!  
 Compliments of  
 the Board & Staff



OLDMAN RIVER CULTURAL CENTRE  
 P.O. Box 70 Brocket, Alberta  
 (403) 965-3939



Congratulations  
 to the Native  
 Perspective on  
 your 2nd Anniversary  
 and may you have  
 many more.

**Kentucky Fried Chicken**

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 (403) 523-3233

# SECOND ANNIVERSARY!

Meet the people who bring you the daily radio program: *The Native Perspective!*



**Michelle A. Nyquist**

**Nickname:** The Man  
**Age:** 25  
**Job Title:** Reporter/Announcer  
**Hobbies:** Collecting paper bags  
**Favorite Book:** Bloom Country: Tunes of our Times, Burke Breathed  
**Favorite Movie:** African Queen, I Love Leeches  
**Favorite Food:** Chocolate  
**One rule you live by:** Now's the time to do it.  
**One thing you would like to change:** The calorie content in chocolate.



**Norman Quinney**

**Nickname:** The Old Man from the Mountain  
**Age:** 59  
**Job Title:** Trainee  
**Hobbies:** Sleeping  
**Favorite Book:** Playboy  
**Favorite Movie:** One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest  
**Favorite Food:** Rabbit Stew  
**Most Memorable Movie:** The Other Side of the Mountain  
**One rule you live by:** Be honest  
**Person you most admire:** Winston Churchill  
**One thing you would like to change:** Send all undesirables home.



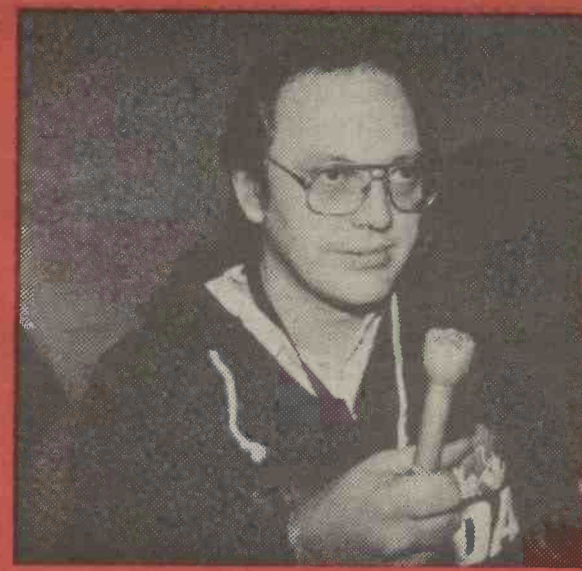
**Russell Whitford**

**Nickname:** Russell B. (B as in Bingo)  
**Age:** 31  
**Job Title:** Translator  
**Hobbies:** Golf, bingo  
**Favorite Book:** Plains Cree Dictionary, Dr. Anne Anderson  
**Favorite Movie:** Outlaw Josie Wales, with Chief Dan George  
**Favorite Food:** Muskrat Kiev  
**One rule you live by:** Live every day as your last  
**Person you most admire:** Bernard Ominayak  
**One thing you would like to change:** The Lynx Quota



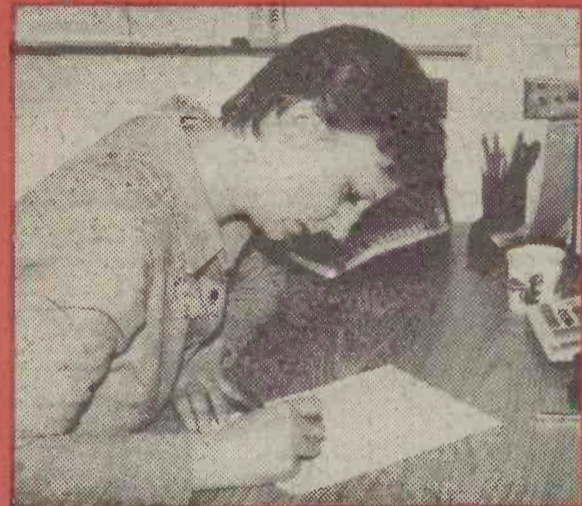
**Doris Bill**

**Nickname:** "As in dollar..."  
**Age:** 26  
**Job Title:** Announcer/Operator  
**Hobbies:** Photography, skating, travelling and music  
**Favorite Movie:** The Gods Must be Crazy  
**Favorite Food:** Moose meat and Korean food  
**One rule you live by:** Go for the Gusto!  
**Person you admire:** Bernard Ominayak, because of his devotion to his people, his sincerity and because he never gives up.  
**One thing you would like to change:** Russ Whitford



**Bill Samoyl**

**Nickname:** Mr. Bill  
**Age:** Legal  
**Job Title:** Radio Training Program Manager/-Coordinator  
**Hobbies:** Oenology  
**Favorite Book:** 1982 Sears Catalogue  
**Favorite Movie:** A Christmas Carol  
**Favorite Food:** Hash Browns and Fried Kobassa  
**One rule you live by:** Stand pat on 17  
**Person you most admire:** Bob Claremont  
**One thing you would like to change:** Income Brackets



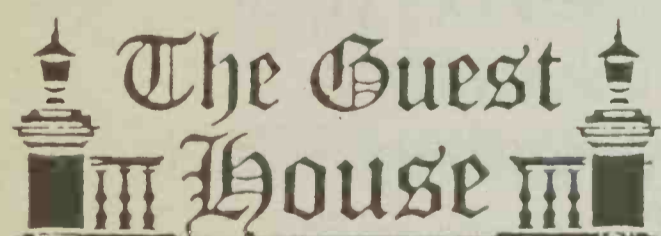
**Nancy Thompson**

**Nickname:** Sarge  
**Age:** 31  
**Job Title:** Office Manager  
**Favorite Book:** The Hobbit, J.R.R., Tolkien  
**Favorite Food:** Seafood  
**One rule you live by:** Strive for perfection, in everything  
**One thing you would like to change:** The number of seconds in a minute



**Sherry Bellerose**

**Nickname:** Smiley  
**Age:** 26  
**Job Title:** Receptionist  
**Hobbies:** Reading and spas  
**Favorite Book:** Prison of Grass, Howard Adams  
**Favorite Movie:** When a Stranger Calls  
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# Arts and Crafts

## 'People of the Land' shown at Calgary Auger tributes Northerners through his paintings

By Terry Lusty

Originally from the bush country around Lesser Slave Lake, Cree artist Dale Auger is a person "of the land."

His art, displayed at the Calgary Indian Friendship Centre during the first week of the Olympics, is a tribute to Indians of northern Alberta. Entitled "People of the Land," his showing opened Feb. 12 and was attended by special guests Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak, former Indian Association president Harold Cardinal and singer Winston Wuttunee.

"I have a great amount of respect for them," said Auger who thanked them traditionally by presenting gifts. All are Auger's long-time friends.

The exhibit illustrates the affinity Native people have for Mother Earth. Respect for the sustenance provided by the land cannot be taken lightly, Auger claims, and is really the basis for the Lubicon protest against a government which has failed to provide them with land promised in 1940 as partial fulfillment of Treaty No. 8 in 1899.

However, Auger explains, the land question of the Lubicons at Little Buffalo is only part of a larger issue. On a broader scale, the very lifestyle of the people is at stake. He says the lands are threatened by developers, particularly oil companies, which have already caused Native incomes to diminish drastically because the



DALE AUGER  
...highlights Elders

animal life has been scared off or hunted out by non-Natives.

Auger recognizes that welfare dependency has skyrocketed and that deprivation in Native communities is rampant and thrives in stark contrast to corporate giants like Shell and Petro-Canada, firms which live alongside tiny settlements like Little Buffalo and are extracting millions of dollars from the bosom of Mother Earth.

The rape of the land is appropriately depicted in one of Auger's paintings, People of the Land, which shows an oil rig through the trees where a trapper is walking his line on snowshoes. What the painting portrays, says Auger, doesn't apply solely to the Lubicons. It is symptomatic of what is happening in many pockets of this province. The people at Wabasca, and further north in the back-lakes communities, also live off the land. Many are not employed by mainstream society and look to Mother Earth for their livelihood.

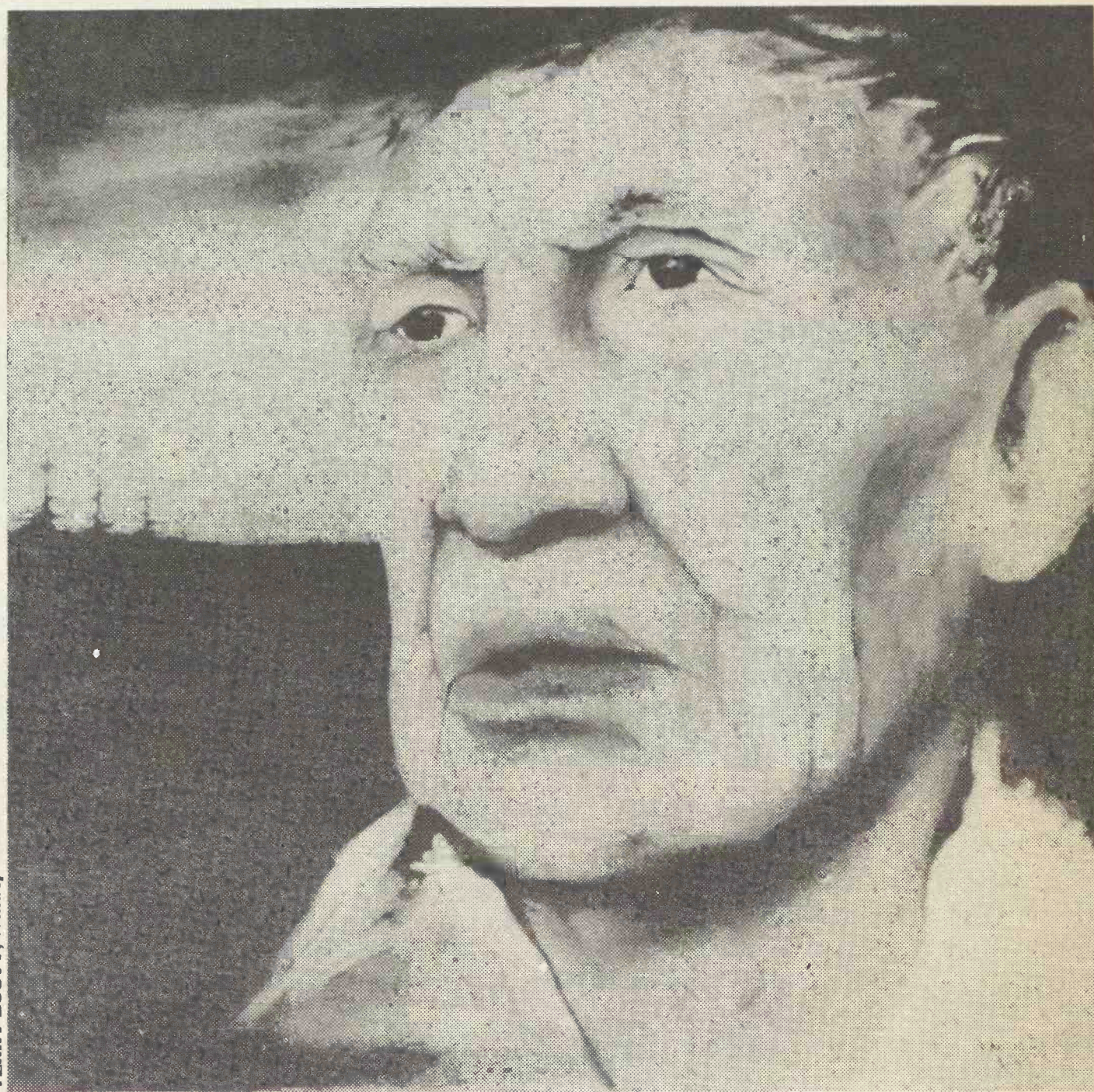
There still remains a significant number of Indians in isolated and semi-isolated areas who follow the cyclic patterns of nature -- the seasons. In the spring when the fish are running, Indians fish. In summer, they harvest berries, herbs and other fruits of the land. In fall, they prepare equipment needed for winter hunting and trapping. And, in winter, they trap and hunt.

According to Auger, Natives can and do continue to live off the land. It is a lifestyle they know, appreciate and wish to continue. But, as society extends into the far reaches of Alberta's wilderness areas, Native lifestyles and culture are affected. Where once the people could provide sustenance for their families, many have been reduced to accepting welfare.

Auger's art presents a passionate plea to humanity to respect the land and the people who populate it. His cry for justice has also been taken up by Cree recording artist, Winston Wuttunee.

Wuttunee, however, is more than an entertainer. He is also a bit of a philosopher who captivated the overflow crowd at the opening of the show. In an honor song dedicated to Ominayak, Wuttunee sang to the Four Directions, beseeching the Creator to intervene and preserve what remains of life on our lands, in our waters and in our skies.

"His (Ominayak's) people are changing...dying...I



"KEEPER OF THE DRUM"  
...4'x4' painting features Philip Isadore

believe it is Mother Earth crying out through him," said Wuttunee. "If the Lubicons don't get what they are asking for," he continued, "it may be the last time the land cries out."

The audience was visibly moved by the impassioned words and like the speaker, some found it difficult to hold back their tears -- tears for the people, the world. North German visitor Bobby Robinson, remarked how "impressed and moved" he was by what he saw and heard. He fully supports the Lubicon claim and says, "we should tell all the people we can and rescue what we can (of Indian life)."

Another supporter, Fritz Julius from Austria said, "I believe it's the last chance

to give them what they deserve...and to save their culture "cause if they go, we go too."

A large mural which attracted much attention was a scene at Lubicon Lake featuring a portrait of Ominayak, a stretched beaver pelt, sun-dried fish, and a cluster of perennial northern fireweed.

Much of the exhibit highlights Indian Elders. A particularly attractive piece is an acrylic of Fort Chip Elders John James and Mary Rose Waquan, entitled People of the Geese. "I learned a lot of good things from the Elders," says Auger. They are often subjects of his work.

To him, Elders are the closest one can get to nature. They both have

similar trails in life, he states. "Take their eyes and faces...there are so many trails and details -- it's like a reflection of the land itself."

Painting is not the only medium Auger works in. He also exhibited carvings of Brazilian soapstone. As well, the artist did not fail to incorporate some natural objects such as eagle feathers, antlers, and a rawhide drum suspended from dead trees used in the display.

Before closing the day's events, members of Auger's family and the special guests participated in an honor dance sung by Wuttunee.

Auger's exhibit runs until Feb. 21 at 140-2 Ave. S.W., Calgary from 9-9 each day.

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# CBC to air mini-series featuring Metis women

By Terry Lusty

The long-awaited tele-casting of Daughters of the Country is finally here, with the award winning four-part serial airing March 3, 10, 17 and 31 on CBC television.

The films, *Ikwe*, *Mistress Madeleine*, *Places Not Our Own* and *The Wake*, span just better than 200 years of Metis history documenting the role women played in adopting and adapting to a man-made world and life in a country severely changed with the coming of white settlement, foreign traditions, different values and new ways.

Many of the Native actors and actresses in the series are from Manitoba but a few are quite familiar to Albertans. Both Tantoo Cardinal and Dale Willier (Hobbema) star in part three and are known for their roles in last year's award winning film, *Loyalties*. Harry "The Dog" Daniels plays a major role in part two as a fur trader and Dianne Debassige plays the lead in parts three and four. Other key Native roles are performed by Michelle Thrush, Mireille Deyglun, Hazel King, Patrick Bruyere, Damon Fontaine and



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL FILM BOARD OF CANADA

**IKWE and SON**  
...portrayed by Native actress Hazel King

Darrell Ducharme. While the role of the Metis in Canada is so central to the history that has evolved, particularly in the west, this is the first time that the women have had the opportunity to make their own statement to the world.

In parts and as a total package the series has won over 15 awards -- six in the U.S. and nine in Canada. The series has also been

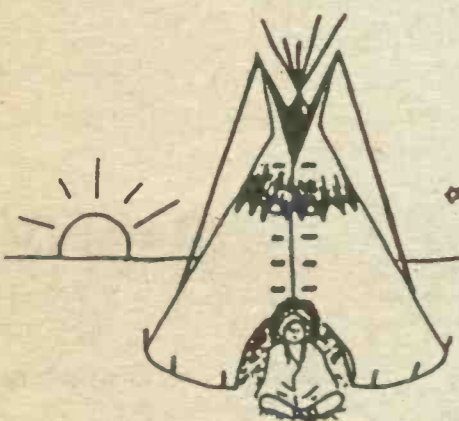
picked up by First Choice Super Channel TV last June when it ran for four consecutive nights, but also by television networks in South America, China, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and Singapore.

The series is available in VHS format from the National Film Board at a rental fee of \$2 a day per cassette. Part one and two are on one cassette; three and four on the other.

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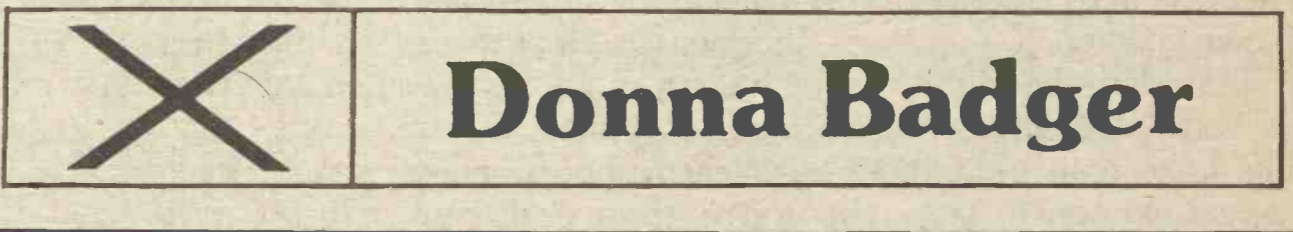
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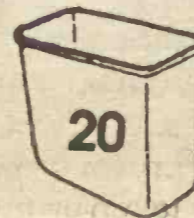
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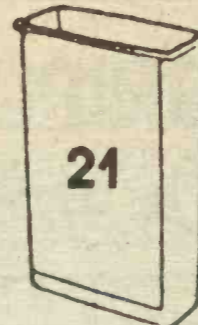
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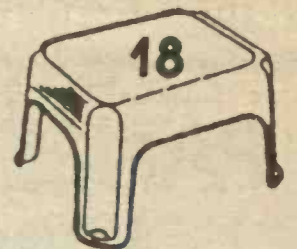
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# Sports

## Saddle Lake moms enter team

# Tyke mania sweeps reserve

By Kim McLain

SADDLE LAKE -- There's a mania sweeping the area here -- a mania that makes young hockey players win and moms put on skates and helmets to play against their own children.

It all started about this time last year when a Saddle Lake man wanted his 5-year-old son to play hockey. At the time, there was no team for this son's age group, known as tykes (seven and under), on the reserve. So he started one.

"In the first week we only had six kids," says Victor Houle, coach of the tykes. "But by a month later there were 25 kids signed up for the team."

"It took us five or six games just to score one goal," adds Houle, who was born and raised in Saddle Lake. "We even played at last year's provincials in

Sarcee -- we lost 10 to nothing two times."

But all that has changed this year. Now there's 37 children, girls and boys, on the tykes roster. So far in this season, the tykes have played in four tournaments -- they've won all of them and have yet to lose a tournament game. Often they defeat their opponents by more than a dozen goals.

With all that winning, Houle sometimes has his hands full just trying to keep his players down to earth.

"I remember one time a little guy was angry after a game. When he got to the dressing room he threw his trophy," says Houle. At the next meeting, Houle read off the list for a tournament team, leaving the angry youth's name off. Then he informed the players there was one more spot for

anyone who wanted to apologize to his coach, team and mother. "I thought he would be too scared, but sure enough, he got up in front of everyone in the room and apologized. He and his mother hugged at the end and they both ended up crying."

Some people might credit Houle, 31, for all the success the tykes are having. With only a two-day coaching workshop, he's a natural coach. And, with a full-time job with Indian Affairs in St. Paul, most of Houle's free time is spent with the team. But he says it's the parents who make it happen -- 100 per cent.

"The number 1 thing is keeping the parents informed," he says. By letting the parents know

■ See Page 15



WINDSPEAKER PHOTO FILE

EDMONTON COACH ROBERT GEORGE  
... 'we got killed' at the Regina tourney

## Saskatchewan teams prove to be too tough for visiting Albertans

By Kim McLain

A Regina high school gym was the battlefield for 24 Native volleyball clubs last Feb. 13-14 weekend -- 14 men's teams and 10 ladies'.

At the end, it was the Moose Jaw Beavers who felled the forest of competitors, emerging as the top team on the men's side of the tourney. The Beavers bagged \$1,500 and jackets for their hard work.

Regina's Momma's Boys lost to the Beavers in the final showdown, taking home \$1,000 and a trophy

for their second place finish.

Snaring \$500 and a trophy for a third place finish was the Moose Jaw STI club. The STI's defeated Edmonton's Strikers in semi-final action. The Strikers came home empty-handed.

On the ladies' side, two Regina teams met in the final matchup. The Riley's came out on top winning \$1,300 and jackets. The Riley's defeated the Shooters, who earned \$800 and a trophy for their second place finish.

Just out of the money

with third was the Saskatoon Classics. The Classics defeated the Edmonton Spirits to advance to third.

The teams came from Moose Jaw, Red Earth, Edmonton, Broadview, Regina and Saskatoon, said Garth Geddes, who works at Regina's friendship centre. The centre hosted the tournament.

Of the Alberta teams, Geddes said they played well but ran out of steam toward the end of the tournament.

"We got killed," said Robert George, coach for the Edmonton Strikers.

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**SPORTS ROUNDUP**

By Kim McLain

Boy are those Olympic Games ever windy. I spent some time living in Calgary and even then it was always windy, so I'm not surprised.

Heck, all the game organizers had to do was take one look at those Indians that live around there -- they walk sideways at a 45-degree angle. Them Indians are so used to the wind that when the wind stops blowing they all fall down.

But that's enough hot air from me, there's lots happening in Native sports country so let's get to it.

**GOODFISH LAKE:** Bantams (14- and 15-year-olds) here hosted a tourney last Saturday Feb. 20 and put on a good show to please the hometown crowd by winning the event.

The bantams emerged to the top over three other teams: Saddle Lake placed second, Enoch earned third and Kehewin rounded out the pack. The Goodfish team managed to go through the one-day showdown undefeated in three games.

Things went smooth at the tourney, except for the Saddle Lake versus Enoch game, reported trainer Kevin Quinney. Apparently there was a little bit of pushing and shoving, a third man in -- at the end, the Enoch team walked off the ice with five minutes left in the game. Saddle Lake was in front at the time so they got the two points for a win.

The bantam provincials are coming up in March 19-20 at Saddle Lake.

**SADDLE LAKE:** The sounds of eight- and nine-year-olds echoed here at the "Moccasin Square Gardens" as five novice hockey clubs battled on ice last Feb. 20-21 weekend.

The few spectators there were treated to a sudden death overtime game in the final showdown between Kikino and Kehewin. With 45 seconds left in the five minute overtime period, Kikino's Lee Hardy put the puck in the net, giving his team an 8-7 victory over Kehewin.

Alexander captured third spot after they defeated Vilna 4-0. The hosting team, Saddle Lake, came last.

"But everybody got trophies, there were no losers," says Keith Lapatak, manager for Saddle Lake.

Lapatak listed the all-stars: Saddle Lake's Ralph McGilvery, best goalie; Alexander's Reid Newborn, defence; Vilna's Bud Clark, defence; Kikino's Lee Hardy, center; Kehewin's Tyrone John, right winger and Kikino's Laurie Lafluer, left winger.

Lee Hardy, who scored the deciding goal in overtime, also won the most valuable player award.

**SLAVE LAKE:** Seven CVC volleyball teams met in friendly rivalry here recently.

And after a close battle, Calling Lake edged out Wabasca. Another Wabasca team, called Wabasca II, won third.

The winning team had their names engraved into a large trophy that stands in a corridor at the Slave Lake CVC, plus, all the players got gold medals. The second place finishers, Wabasca I, earned silver medals while Wabasca II took home bronz medals.

"It's a fun tournament, a chance for everyone to get to know one another," says Brian Penner, president of the Slave Lake CVC student council. "There was somebody for everybody."

The Slave Lake CVC runs out of an old office building and has no gym, so the student council rented a gym from a local high school.

But construction has begun on their own building, which will have a gym and swimming pool.

**WANTED:** Volunteers, coaches and players for the Urban Native Fastball in Edmonton are needed at the Ootenow rec society. The league already has half a dozen teams but needs more help. Contact James at the society for more info at 477-3576.

The Horse Lake reserve, population 260, are gearing up for their summer baseball season and they need equipment for the minor teams. "Used balls, bats, bases, anything," says Horse Lake's Fred Gingras. To help him phone 356-2248.

No-hit hockey teams are needed for a hockey tourney hosted by the Frog Lake T-Birds at Elk Point Feb. 27-28. Phone now for Irvin at 943-2491 after 6 p.m. or Larry at 943-2211 during the days.

That's all for this week. Thanks to all of you who phoned in with info about your communities and those who had something for the "Wanted" section. Catchya later.

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**Tyke Mania**

■ From Page 14

the when and where's he's got the parents working with him. "They (parents) bring the kids to the games and practices, put on their equipment...tie their skates."

But just before games, Houle politely ushers the parents out of the dressing room, so he can have a private talk with his players.

"A good listener is a good leader and a good leader is a good listener," he often begins. Every game he picks a new captain. He tells his anxious players to help their parents feel proud. Sometimes he throws in a casual remark about home or school, something like: "Keep working hard at school like you work hard here on the ice, listen to your parents

and teachers - that's just as important as hockey, too."

He's started a tykes' tradition of having the captain shake hands with the other center at the opening faceoff, an unusual practice up to now. "The kids said other teams might think they're strange, but I just told them 'No, it's good sportsmanship.'"

At a recent tykes tournament hosted at Saddle Lake a team cancelled at the last minute, leaving a vacancy in the draw, only to be filled by the mothers of the Saddle Lake youngsters.

"We had promised the teams three games each so 25 moms dressed up to fill the gap, filling in as a team." As it turned out, the moms lost three games straight, defeated by their own sons and daughters. Still, everyone was a winner, taking home medals and trophies. The children hung medals around the necks of their mothers. On the medals were the words: *I Deserve This Medal Because I'm a Hockey Mom*. Then, in turn, the mothers hung medals around their children's necks.

Just before last Christmas, 42 parents and 25 tykes got together for a journey into Edmonton to watch the Oilers play the Hartford Whalers. "The

parents paid for that trip, the tickets, food, gas," says Houle. "I'm really thankful for all the support the parents have given us." Incidentally, they won a draw at the game and received 20 Oiler hockey bags - so now when people see a gang of 5-year-olds carrying Oiler bags they know who they are.

Most recently, the tykes got a chance to show off their new bags at a tykes' tourney hosted by Hobbema. The Saddle Lake children won the tournament without one loss - winning with scores like 12-1, 9-1, 12-0 and 15-0.

The first weekend in March, the tykes will journey back to Hobbema for the provincial finals. Many expect them to win there.

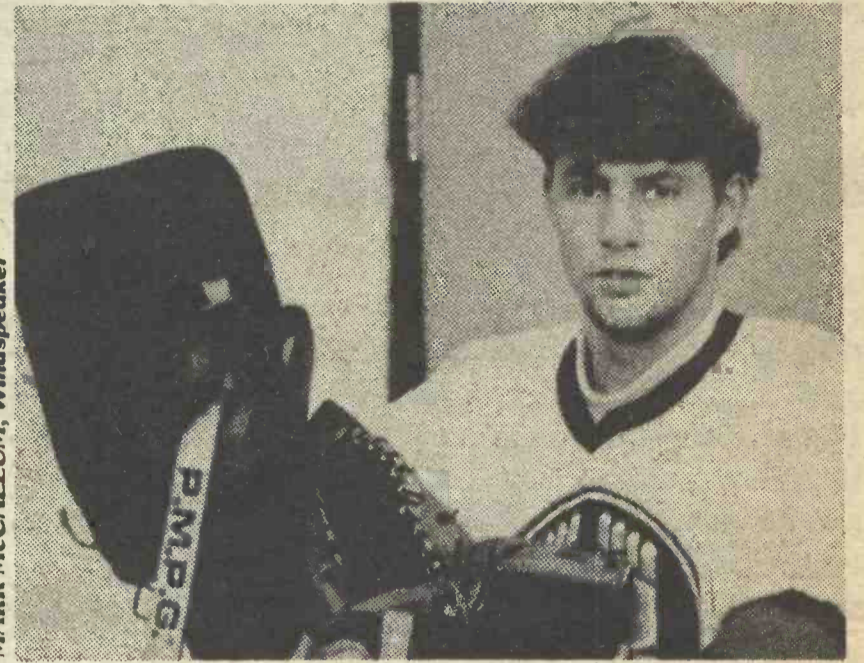
"I tell the parents to enjoy the wins while they can because next year many of our tykes will move up into the novice age group where they won't be so noticeable." He explains that his players will become the youngest players in the new age group. "But they'll start to shine again after a year," he says with assurance.

So next time you see a group of hockey players, barely big enough to carry their Oiler hockey bags, you better step back because there will be a herd of proud parents right behind them.



**MEET THE HAWKS**

**Jeff Little  
Goalie**



MARK McCALLUM, Windspeaker

For Jeff Little "98 per cent of the game is mental." He doesn't roam the rink, doesn't shoot much. In fact, most of his game is played in a two-by-six foot area - he's the goalie for the Hobbema Hawks.

Little, 18, has already graduated from Grade 12 and has a year at the Red Deer College behind him. So he has lots of time for practice and preparation, and it seems to be working well for him. Right now he sits about sixth in the goaltenders standings in the AJHL with an average of 4.38.

Little spends many hours in Hobbema playing floor hockey and weight training. "Hobbema is definitely a change for me," he says. "It's a real cultural experience - I like it."

He's not sure if he'll play junior hockey next year, but if he does he says he'll "come back to Hobbema it will be a good team next year." If he doesn't return, he'll go back to collect to study psychology or police work.

Although he missed his family at the beginning, he says he's "not as bad off as most guys, I can go home every couple of weeks." His family is in Innisfail, 20 minutes south of Red Deer.

But for now, Little puts most of his effort toward his game. "We're losing by one goal mostly, we just need a few breaks," he says. "I'm playing pretty hot right now and the defence is playing good too." Little adds in a determined voice that he's still trying for his first shutout this season.

**AJHL Stats Compiled Feb. 17, 1988**

SOUTH DIVISION	W	L	T	GF	GA	PTS
Calgary Canucks	43	8	0	349	178	86
Red Deer Rustlers	32	14	1	292	208	65
Olds Grizzlys	25	25	2	257	284	52
Calgary Spurs	18	33	3	241	317	39
NORTH DIVISION						
St. Albert Saints	40	13	0	295	178	80
Fort Saskatchewan	21	28	1	231	247	43
Sherwood Park	17	35	1	181	256	35
Hobbema Hawks	17	35	0	206	284	34
Fort McMurray	13	35	0	195	295	26

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## Hometowners win in Sturgeon

By Mark Calliou

STURGEON LAKE -The Hockey Tournament and Curling Bonspiel put on by the Sturgeon Lake band on Feb. 13 and 14 was quite successful. The Sturgeon Lake Blues won the Hockey Tournament with the G.P.F.C. Falcons taking second place. The Bonspiel winners were as follows: A Event - First, Ken Gray, High Prairie; second, John Collins, Driftpile; third Gabe Isadore, Driftpile; fourth, Clifford Freeman, Driftpile. B Event -- first, the Leslie Okiman rink, Driftpile; second, Duane Plante, Sturgeon Lake; third, Jambe Ward, Driftpile; fourth, Earle Laboucan, Whitefish Lake. C Event -first, the John Plante

rink, Sturgeon Lake; second, Ron Sunshine, Sturgeon Lake; third, Keith Goodswimmer, Sturgeon Lake; fourth, Corrine Mitchell, Sturgeon Lake.

Biggest End was the John Plante rink from Sturgeon Lake. "Skunk" trophy was given to the Pat Gouchey rink from Valleyview.

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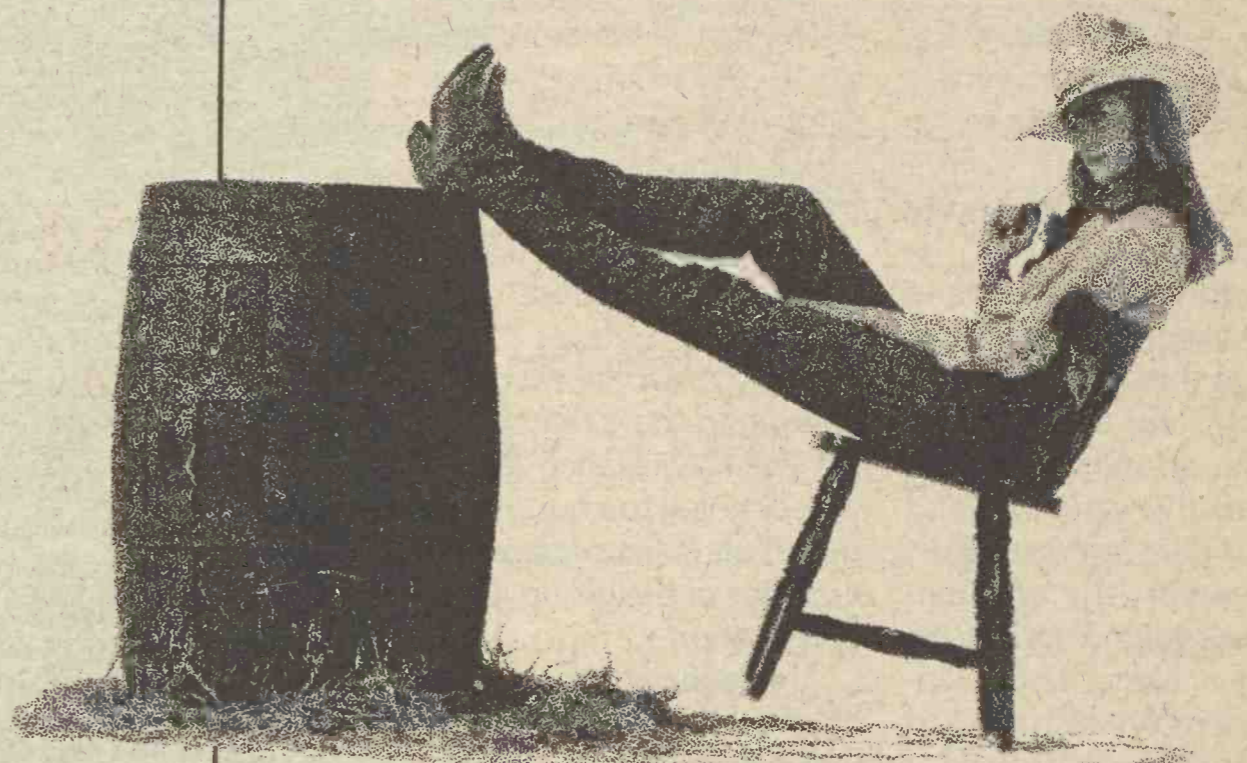
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# Culture

## Drum beat sounds a return to culture at Assumption

By Dorothy Schreiber and Mark McCallum

For young people of the Dene Tha' band, drumming has become "a route to regain culture," says recreation director, Lornie Meetchooyeah.

The forming of the Dene Tha' Drummers has been "a great thing for the community," he said adding that the drum groups date back to the early 70s and 80s but then interest died.

However, the enthusiasm was rekindled in 1986 during a Dene Tha' General Assembly which focused on promoting internal strength and unity in the community.

The group started with 10 to 14 members in July but has grown steadily since the past summer, says Meetchooyeah. The age range of the drummers is from 17 years old to approximately 29.

The drummers are taught by Willy Anagassay who is referred to as the song man or keeper of the songs. They don't learn from music books or records; the group learns the sacred songs of their Elders by memorizing each beat of

the drum and word that is chanted.

The group knows about 20 songs by memory and are trying to preserve this significant part of their culture by recording them with a tape recording machine.

The songs have religious importance because they are performed at "Tea Dances" - a celebration of offering to the Creator.

"The Tea Dance is our way of going to church and praying," explained a member of the group, Gordon Pastion.

The dances are usually held in the summer months when the weather allows for good conditions for celebration. And, the religious ceremony is usually only held to celebrate a special occasion or when the Elders feel it is necessary.

Pastion, 20, says Tea Dances begin with a prayer in front of an open fire, which they feed tobacco and tea leaves to as an offering to the creator.

When the ceremony is performed, Pastion says, "It's like something you don't want to stop once you start. Everybody is dancing and you don't want to stop."



PHOTO COURTESY OF LORNE MEETCHOOYEAH

**DENE DRUMMERS (left to right) — Harvey Providence, Kenny Denechoan, Ron Pastion, Donnie Wasp-Colin, Lawrence Denechoan, Allen Pastion, Howard Tsonchoke, Gary Wasp-Colin, Fabian Chonkolay (missing: Gordon Pastion and Robert Wasp-Colin).**

But, when they do end, a prayer song is used to close the traditional event.

For Pastion singing "just comes natural," he explained, adding that the drums they use are prepared before each performance by warming the hand-crafted instrument over an open fire.

Meetchooyeah says members of the group are

prohibited from using alcohol.

"It puts total disrespect on our culture...Dene traditions," he stated.

Another practice Meetchooyeah would like the Dene Tha' Drum group to stay away from is competitive drumming, "We don't want to bribe our people to our culture," he said.

But, he said the Dene

Tha' drum group is interested in becoming a part of the powwow circuit and have already performed at various gatherings in northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories, including Fort Smith at the Pope's last visit to North America.

Pastion recalled the event, saying "I don't think any of us will ever forget

that day because we sang for the Pope and got to shake his hand."

Assumption resident Alexis Mercredi praised the group and credited them for continuing the Dene Tha' culture. "This is something we're really proud of; our young people are carrying on our traditional ways of praying. And, that's what our Elders want. Now, they can sit back and listen because someone else is keeping our traditions alive," said Mercredi.

Elders are also involved with the drum group Meetchooyeah and explained they offer guidance and assist the group in achieving a traditional sound.

The group is also working on vocals but they "don't sing confidently yet," says Meetchooyeah.

According to Meetchooyeah one of the Dene prophecies says that as long as there's one person drumming and one person dancing, the world will be as usual.

In other words says Meetchooyeah, "If we keep alive our culture, we'll be alright."

## Best Wishes



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# Why the fish disappeared from the fishermen's nets

By Anne Anderson

Many years ago the Indians were continually being robbed of their nets, when they set them in deep water. They became worried as they could not catch any fish for their use. One day the men hid near the lake after the nets were set, for they were determined to find out who was taking their fish.

Early in the morning, while they lay hiding in the nearby woods, they heard the noise of the paddles in water. It came nearer and nearer until they could see two in a canoe coming towards their nets. The

## Fiction

men ran to the lake edge and jumped into their boats and gave chase. The memekwesiwak became very frightened of the men. They looked away for they did not want anyone to see their faces. Now mermaids are known to have beautiful faces and fish-like bodies. Finally one looked at the men and they saw how beautiful she was.

The mermaids started to paddle their canoe swiftly and the men after them. They paddled into a bay trying to get away but saw that

the bay was surrounded by heavy woods, and they could go no further. Their only alternative was to disappear into the deep water. The men watched the mermaids slowly sinking their canoe and from then on they were never seen again. After that the men had no trouble with their nets and were able to get good catches of fish.

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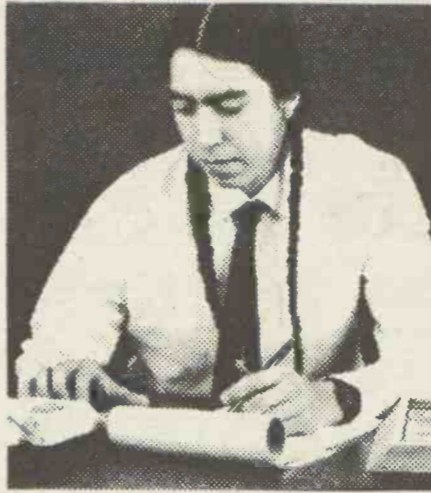
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