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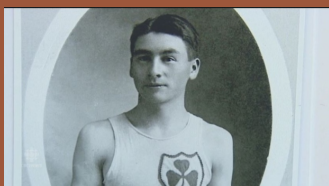
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***The articles in this Newsletter are the opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of the producers of The Feathers In the Wind Newsletter.***



Alex Decoteau- shown in a photo from 1912 when he represented Canada at the Olympic Games in Sweden. (CBC)

### **Canada's first Indigenous police officer remembered in Passchendaele centennial**

While Edmontonian Alex Decoteau was in England waiting to be



When you know who you are; when your mission is clear and you burn with the inner fire of unbreakable will; no cold can touch your heart; no deluge can dampen your purpose. You know that you are alive.

~ Chief Seattle, Duwamish (1780-1866)



### **On The Blog - Métis: A Historical Scientific Prospective**

*This in-depth blog post delves into research done on "mixed-breed" people in 1800's to build a historical picture of the Metis people in Canada.*

Throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century and well into the 19<sup>th</sup>, an intense battle raged in the academic community. It was the time of expansion and enlightenment, along with the development of many areas of science that still exist today. Some areas of science disappeared as they were disproven, others evolved overtime with the progression of science and study. But few areas of science had as much long-term impact on the fate of peoples, and even countries and politics, as did Anthropology.

Anthropology as it was then was simply the "study of man", but without much of the proof-based knowledge acquired in the last two centuries, it was mainly conjecture and theory. Within the umbrella of these human studies, different ideas about races and the origin of the human species developed. For example, polygenesis was a school of thought with implications that many people today would find disturbing. This was a theory about the origins of mankind that postulated that each race was essentially a different species, descended from different ancestors and developed separately.

deployed in the First World War, he signed up for a race.

Decoteau, who ran for Canada in the 1912 Olympics, ended up winning his race earning himself a trophy. But when King George V, who was to make the presentation, ran out of trophies, he gave Decoteau his gold pocket watch.

Decoteau was carrying that watch in his pocket when he was killed by a sniper in the Second Battle of Passchendaele 100 years ago. As Decoteau lay on the field of battle, the watch went missing.

[Read The Full Article](#)



### Old canoe Bows to New Purpose

An old canoe's days on the water are history, but the craft now pays homage to Canada's Métis and their voyageur history as library bookshelves.

On Thursday, staff at John Barsby and Cedar secondary schools held two dedication ceremonies, one for the bow and another for the stern of an old canoe that was cut in half to become bookshelves in the schools' libraries.

Aboriginal education teacher Donna Flett got the project going after the idea for using a canoe to honour Métis heritage came up during one of Barsby's aboriginal education team meetings in 2016. Flett advertised on Craigslist for a canoe that was no longer seaworthy, but would still make a good bookcase.

[Read More Here](#)



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Watch Video**

### Metis Flute Song by Charlie Fife

This lovely song was written and performed by Charlie Fife. Enjoy!

**Oglala Lakota Chef Features**

Many in the 19th century distilled these races down to three "species": Mongoloid (Asians), Aryan (Caucasian), and Ethiopian (negroes). One particular branch of polygenesis believed that these races could not "interbreed" without detrimental consequences such as infertility and weakness in the resulting offspring. Voltaire was a renowned believer in polygenesis, with several essays devoted to the topic, and he influenced many of the beliefs in this particular branch of study. Unfortunately, this made it easier for racial "purists" (often referred to as Eugenicists) to implement racial programs both in Europe, the colonies, and in North America. The fledgling United States embraced polygenist philosophies into their culture, and even used them to justify continuing slavery and genocide.

[Read The Full Post Here](#)

### The Eastern Métis and "Negationism" in the Academy

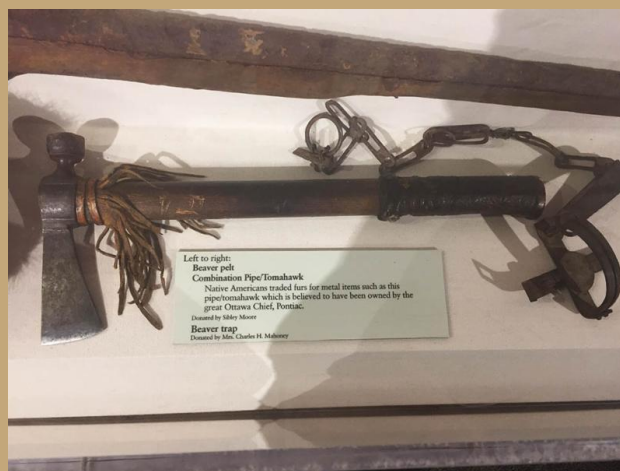
**BY SÉBASTIEN MALETTE, PHD**  
(French Version Also Included on Link)



On September 27, 2017, professor of sociology Darryl Leroux of the University of Saint Mary offered a conference at the University of Montréal, entitled "Historic Revisionism and Indigenization: the creation of "Eastern Métis". The subject of his conference, linked with his other work, questioned the existence of Métis in Eastern Canadian provinces, whom Leroux accused of ethnic fraud and hostile intentions against those Leroux considered "true" Indigenous peoples. In short, Leroux accused the Métis of the Eastern provinces of Canada (Quebec in particular) of fabricating an Indigenous identity in order to wash away their guilt over colonialism, or, in some cases, to simply obstruct the recognition of Indigenous people and their rights.

To do this, Professor Leroux recycled statistics that he and blogger Chelsea Vowel previously published in the journal Topia. Leroux asserted that Quebec has seen a rise in Métis self-identification of 258%. Leroux suggested that this increase is not incidental, explaining that it has to do with some sinister motivations that he had noticed in the Eastern Métis peoples. By isolating and focusing his research on a few problematic examples, Professor Leroux resumed his topic with a shocking declaration: he was going to demonstrate that Québécois Métis peoples simply do not exist.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)



### A Community Member Takes A Walk Through Aboriginal History

Aboriginal history & art is a way for us to commemorate and celebrate Aboriginal history. I have visited 3 places in the Windsor-Detroit area that I suggest to brothers & sisters interested to know more about our history.

*Submitted by OMFRC Member J. R.*





## Recipes With No Colonial Ingredients

What's low-glycemic, locally sourced, gluten-free, dairy-free, processed sugar-free and a symbolic rejection of colonial systems of oppression? The recipes in Sean Sherman and Beth Dooley's new cookbook "The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen," of course.

Sherman is Oglala Lakota and the founder of the Minneapolis-based catering company, the Sioux Chef, which aims to revitalize North American indigenous cuisine. Dooley is a food writer, chef and the author of several cookbooks.

"The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen" is "showcasing that no matter where you are throughout North America, there's this beautiful indigenous backbone of food systems there," Sherman told "The Larry Meiller Show" on Wednesday.

[Read More Here](#)

[Read More and See The Photo Gallery Here](#)



## Science Corner: Groundbreaking genetic study links living First Nation woman to 5,500-year-old ancestor

The remains of an Aboriginal woman found on a B.C. island have a direct DNA link to a Tsimshian woman from the Metlakatla First Nation near Prince Rupert.

A groundbreaking genetic study led by a team of U.S. and Canadian anthropologists has traced a direct DNA link between the 5,500-year-old remains of an aboriginal woman found on a British Columbia island, a second set of ancient female bones from a nearby 2,500-year-old site and - most stunningly - a living Tsimshian woman from the Metlakatla First Nation, located close to both of the prehistoric burials along B.C.'s North Coast near the city of Prince Rupert.

[Read The Full Story Here](#)



## A biologist believes that trees speak a language we can learn

I'm in a redwood forest in Santa Cruz, California, taking dictation for the trees outside my cabin. They speak constantly, even if quietly, communicating above- and underground using sound, scents, signals, and vibes. They're naturally networking, connected with everything that exists, including you.

Biologists, ecologists, foresters, and naturalists increasingly argue that trees speak, and that humans can learn to hear this language.

Many people struggle with this concept because they can't perceive that trees are interconnected, argues biologist George David Haskell in his 2017 book *The Songs of Trees*. Connection in a network, Haskell says, necessitates communication and breeds languages; understanding that nature is a network is the first step in hearing trees talk.

[Read More Here](#)

## How To: Woodland Cree Gauntlet Mitts



This wonderful tutorial will teach you step by step the basics to create your very own Cree Mitts!

[Take Me To The Tutorial](#)



## Pushing the door fully open

This year has been a challenging and inspiring one for Indigenous writers. When I look back on 2017, I see incredible accomplishments, opportunities, and movements to create, recreate, and reclaim. There are signs we've finally punched through to the light - after generations of writers working to hold space and create opportunities for Indigenous literatures; after decades of standing against those who spoke over us, about us, misrepresented us, and stole our stories as their own; after always resisting those who told us that our stories were simplistic, that readers were not interested, that our artistic and literary traditions needed to be abandoned, or edited and rewritten to conform to

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

## Ontario Métis Family Records Center



We're on the web!  
See us at:

[www.omfrc.org](http://www.omfrc.org)

### New Submissions

Our editors are always looking for original submissions that would be of interest to our community. Do you know of any upcoming events that you would like to share through the Newsletter, Facebook, or our new website?

If you have something you would like to add to future issues we would be happy to consider it; please call or email us with the title "Submission" on the email. Thank you!

omfrcinfo @  
gmail.com

613-332 -4789

## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

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Woodland Métis  
Community



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Call **1-613-332-4789** to renew or join today!



The OMFRC would like to thank everyone that is standing with us to support the Ontario Metis Family Records Center Community Facebook Page.....your response is nothing short of incredible!

Stay connected and celebrate your heritage! Share that you're a member of the OMFRC Community with your family members on Facebook. It has never been more important to stand up and be counted!

Have you visited our Facebook page? We welcome you to join our OMFRC Community - we want to hear from you.

