

S

April 2018



## In This Issue

### In This Issue

[Chief Mary Lou Parker has spent a lifetime working for the Métis](#)

[A Member Writes](#)

[Coming-of-age story Métis Mutt gets a boost with new theatrical presentation](#)

[40 DIY Fire Pit Ideas](#)

[LEARN HOW TO CAN YOUR OWN VENISON](#)

[There's a massive free catalogue of Indigenous films online - and we have 6 picks to get you started](#)

[Lakota Traditional People Celebrated In Beautiful Photo Series By Nancy G](#)

[On The Blog: Anne Mouflet and Jacques Rene Tsiheme - A Brave Couple in a Harsh Time](#)

[ROM's newly reopened Indigenous galleries 'a great beginning'](#)

[An Ethnographic Report on the Acadian-Métis \(Sang-Mêlés\) People of Southwest Nova Scotia](#)

[Indian Horse and the challenge of telling the same truth from book to screen](#)

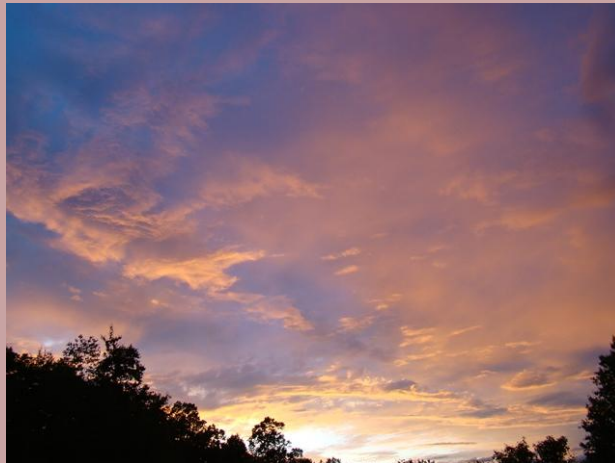
[Willingness to help led to Order of Canada](#)

[Science Corner: Ancient DNA Reveals a Completely Unknown Population of Native Americans](#)

[Blackfoot First Nations give traditional blessing at Waterton Lakes National Park and honour two Parks Canada's team members with traditional names](#)

[Reaching our ancestors](#)

[Meet Snowguard: Marvel Comics' new Inuk teen superhero](#)



*Behold this day. It is yours to make.*

*~ Black Elk 1863 - 1950  
Oglala Lakota*



### On The Blog: Anne Mouflet and Jacques Rene Tsiheme A Brave Couple in a Harsh Time

Life during the Iroquois wars was tense, frightening, and chaotic. The French colonists and missions at the time were always on high alert for attack from the Iroquois confederacy. While it would appear from our point of view that these attacks were sheer brutality, but the Iroquois had suffered much at the hands of the newcomers, and felt very justified in their war. The Europeans not only brought troops, they brought the plague of smallpox, and many groups of the Iroquois confederacy had been near decimated by the disease. Skirmishes turned into more sustained attacks, and the French government was worried.

To expand on our last post: The Life and Times of Catherine Annennontak, when the Hurons were nearly destroyed by the



**Chief Mary Lou Parker of the Eastern Woodland Metis Nova Scotia receives recognition from the Governor General of Canada**

*Editor's Note: Chief Mary Lou Parker has been an loyal friend to our community for many years. We are pleased to celebrate her well-deserved recognition along with her community.*

At 82, Yarmouth's Mary Lou Parker is as dedicated to her community as she's ever been - a dedication that's received recognition from the Governor General of Canada.

"I'll never step back," says Parker. "As long as I have a breath in my lungs I'm going to work for my Métis."

Parker co-founded the Eastern Woodland Métis Nation Nova Scotia with her late husband, Tim, in 1972. They did so because there weren't many resources or support systems available to Métis in the province at the time.

"We knew we had native heritage and we wanted to make people aware and not to be ashamed of being who they are," says Parker, who has been Grand Chief since her husband's death in 2011.

Since the '70s, the group has grown to more than 29,000 members from across the country, all of whom must have family connections to Nova Scotia. These members include Elder John Gervais, who praises Parker's commitment. "Even at her advanced age she continued to work tirelessly on our behalf, meeting with and lobbying ministers and senior officials at all levels of government," says Gervais in an email statement. "We are truly blessed to have her at the helm."

**[Read The Full Article](#)**

*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.*

**A Member Writes**

Iroquois, this destabilized the fur trade between the French and the Aborigines as the Huron had acted as the go-between for the Ojibwe and Cree further North who wanted no contact with the French. The Compagnie des Cent-Associés now became bankrupt, their forces depleted and their trade all but eliminated. In 1665, the French King sent the Carignan-Salières regiment to Canada - this regiment comprised a great task force of experienced soldiers that were meant to assist the Compagnie des Cent-Associés in the battle against the Iroquois. Unfortunately, these forces went out and completely destroyed several Mohawk villages that had already been deeply affected by smallpox. The slaughter of these villages further enraged the Iroquois, and their attacks escalated in frequency and violence.

**[Read The Full Post Here](#)**



**ROM's newly reopened Indigenous galleries 'a great beginning'**

A pea-sized pebble, earthy brown and polished smooth, sits next to my keyboard as I write this, alongside a pinch of tobacco, bound in bright yellow fabric and tied up with ribbon.

They're gifts from a group of Indigenous children, who passed them out to everyone who came to the Royal Ontario Museum's grand reopening of its Daphne Cockwell Gallery dedicated to First Peoples Art & Culture Wednesday morning and, for me, the generosity astounds: a people from whom so much was taken, still willing to give.

To not take it personally seems to miss the point. Just before the crowd settled into its seat, Louise Profeit-LeBlanc, who is Tlingit, and Clayton Shirt, who is Anishinaabe, led the group in a smudging ceremony in the museum's new space. We formed a circle, at Profeit-LeBlanc's request, and Shirt walked slowly around, a thatch of smouldering sweetgrass in his hand, offered to each one of us as a purifying rite.

**[Read The Full Article Here](#)**

**An Ethnographic Report on the Acadian-Métis (Sang-Mêlés) People of Southwest Nova Scotia**



We wanted to share this excellent report Christian Boudreau speaks to the "forgotten" Metis of Nova Scotia.

As he states in the summary:

"European colonizers from France, England, and Scotland settled in what is now known as Southwest Nova Scotia in the early part of the 17th century. They intermarried with the original inhabitants of the area, the Mi'kmaq and Maliseet, creating a distinct mixed-heritage people (sometimes described as a "caste" of people) who subsequently endured prejudice and denigration from Acadians and others who considered themselves to be of "pure blood"-a prejudice which continues to the present day."



I would like to express my sincere thank you to the OMFRC Inc. and Director Lynn Haines, for your assistance in my search for my Aboriginal ancestry. I had been aware that there was Aboriginal heritage in my father's lineage, although I was unable to locate documentation on my own, Director Haines explained that this would not be a problem as their Research Team would be able to access the documentation that was archived in the OMFRC data base of Metis and First Nations History on my behalf. Not long after our initial conversation I was pleasantly surprised to learn that Aboriginal ancestry was present in both of my parent's lineages. Not only is this exciting news for me personally but I look forward to sharing this new and important information with my other family members as well.

The work and service that is provided by the OMFRC Inc. is truly amazing.

Through our discussions, I have not only established my Aboriginal ancestry connections but was able to obtain my Certificate of Aboriginal Status membership.

I look forward to staying in touch with my new found community through this valuable Newsletter, which I find to be informative, timely, well written and thought provoking.

I also appreciate the information provided on the [www.omfrc.org](http://www.omfrc.org) website, which I visit regularly.

Please keep up this vital service.

Kindest regards,

**Ed - Member OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis**



### **Coming-of-age story Métis Mutt gets a boost with new theatrical presentation**

With its focus on storytelling, Sheldon Elter's Métis Mutt doesn't require a lot of theatrical flourishes. This can be a good thing, especially when the actor shares a gym with a

We hope our community appreciates this information as much as we do!

**[Read The Full Report Here](#)**

### **Indian Horse and the challenge of telling the same truth from book to screen**



There is a scene at the end of Richard Wagamese's book *Indian Horse* where the main character, Saul, travels back to Northern Ontario, to where his family calls home, a place called God's Lake.

There, he is able to heave out in sobs the sorrow and anger caused by the life he's been forced to live. It's long deserted; nevertheless, he hears his name called and understands that his family is spiritually always there.

This might also be a way to describe the feeling Dennis Foon, who wrote the screenplay for the movie *Indian Horse*, experienced after Wagamese died at just age 61 in March 2017 while the movie was still being made.

Many of the scenes were shot in Peterborough, as The Mount Community Centre stands in as the residential school, and at other outdoor properties.

**[Read The Full Article](#)**



### **Willingness to help led to Order of Canada**

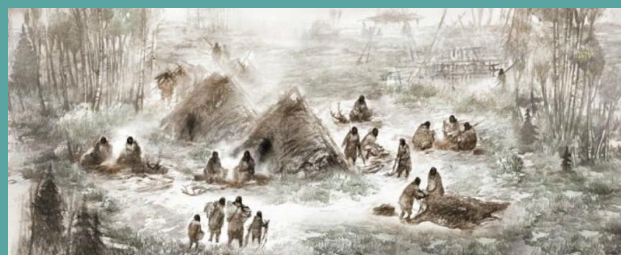
Chester Cunningham, 59, has come a long way since his childhood days in Drumheller. The Métis boy never imagined his path would lead

him from the dusty hills of the Bad Lands to the hushed corridors of power in Ottawa.

But a concern for his people and an unwavering dedication to the principles of justice has taken Cunningham all the way around the world, advocating Native rights in the criminal justice system. Founder of Native Counselling Services, Cunningham's tireless campaign has been recognized with the highest civilian honor bestowed by the federal government, the Order of Canada.

"To get that recognition made me feel good because of what it means - that what I've done has changed Canada for the good of the people. If they feel that I've accomplished that, then that makes me feel happy," said Cunningham.

**[Read The Full Story Here](#)**



### **Science Corner: Ancient DNA Reveals a Completely Unknown Population of Native Americans**

In the local people's tongue, her name means 'sunrise girl-child',

floor hockey game.

"They told me, 'the entire community's coming. That means there are no babysitters'," he said, recalling one particular performance on a reserve.

"I said, 'this is not a story for young children, it's a coming-of-age story with a lot of intense content.' 'We don't care. Everyone's coming. They all want to be here. So we're going to put the kids in the back where they'll play floor hockey.'"

**[Read More Here](#)**

and even though she only lived for six fleeting weeks, she's already told scientists more than we ever knew about the very first Native Americans.

Sunrise girl-child ("Xach'itee'aanenh T'eede Gaay") lived some 11,500 years ago in what is now called Alaska, and her ancient DNA reveals not only the origins of Native American society, but reminds the world of a whole population of people forgotten by history millennia ago.

"We didn't know this population existed," says anthropologist Ben Potter from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"It would be difficult to overstate the importance of this newly revealed people to our understanding of how ancient populations came to inhabit the Americas."

**[Read More Here](#)**



### **40 DIY Fire Pit Ideas**

With the spring season upon us, thoughts turn to marshmallows roasting over open fires. Here's a great article with 40 really wonderful Do-It-Yourself ideas for amazing fire pits!

**[Read More Here](#)**



### **LEARN HOW TO CAN YOUR OWN VENISON**

Once you have successfully harvested a deer and it has been processed and butchered, you are then faced with the decision of what to do with all your surplus meat. Once you have enjoyed some fresh grilled back-strap, dried some jerky, and made a pot of stew, you still likely have a lot of meat leftover. Now the question is, what to do next.

Sure, you could wrap it in plastic and put it in your freezer, but canning venison is a great way to preserve your meat and have it ready for a quick recipe later in the year with no defrosting necessary. Not to mention the fact that it is an exceedingly easy process.

**[See Full Tutorial Here](#)**

**There's a massive free catalogue of Indigenous films online - and we have 6 picks to get you started**

### **Blackfoot First Nations give traditional blessing at Waterton Lakes National Park and honour two Parks Canada's team members with traditional names**



Across the country, Parks Canada and Indigenous peoples are partners in conserving, restoring, and presenting Canada's natural and cultural heritage. Friday, Parks Canada was honoured to host a traditional Blackfoot blessing ceremony by Kainai and Piikani First Nations in Waterton Lakes National Park. The blessing ceremony is a traditional event and a way to give thanks for the past, present, and future.

The blessing ceremony highlights the physical, cultural, and spiritual significance of Waterton Lakes National Park for the Blackfoot Confederacy, as part of their traditional territory, and recognized the impact of the 2017 Kenow Wildfire on the land and the courageous efforts of Parks Canada and their many partners in managing the fire. The event also included a naming ceremony for two Parks Canada team members as a reflection of the expanding working relationship between Waterton Lakes National Park and the Blackfoot. The ceremony included representatives from Kainai, Piikani, Siksika, and Blackfeet Nations, as well as representatives from Parks Canada, Glacier National Park (U.S.A), and local community groups.

**[Read The Full Story Here](#)**



### **Reaching our ancestors**

The smell hits you as you unzip the door to the canvas wall tent - blood and animal musk. The ground is covered with plastic tarps and piles of moose hair. Two moose skins at different stages of preparation are draped over wooden stands made from vertical pieces of 4x4. A third skin sits in a blue bucket with a milky solution.

The sun is beating down on the tent and a fire is burning inside the wood stove. It's cozy.



Last month, the National Film Board of Canada launched Indigenous cinema, an extensive online library of over 200 films by Indigenous directors - part of a three-year Indigenous Action Plan to "redefine" the NFB's relationship with Indigenous peoples.

To celebrate Canadian Film Day, we asked Indigenous filmmakers and film programmers to go through the library and recommend a film. Here's what they chose and why.

[See The Full List](#)



### **Lakota Traditional People Celebrated In Beautiful Photo Series By Nancy G**

We are glad to feature some Nancy's beautiful Native American photos with you. Here are some featured themes.

- A Native American Indian boy wearing a feather sharing a special moment with his horse
- A Native American woman worshipping the sun while standing in the river in South Dakota
- A Lakota woman lovingly caressing the head of her daughter wrapped in a blanket
- Horse whisperer: A Native American woman talking to her horse
- A Lakota mother and daughter sitting on a blanket in the grasses of South Dakota
- Horses running through a Native American village in South Dakota

[See The Full Gallery Here](#)

### **Ontario Métis Family Records Center**



This is where Indigenous youth are learning to prepare and tan moosehide. It's part of a two-week spring break camp for 12- to 17-year-olds put on by the Kwanlin Dün First Nation at its Jackson Lake Healing Camp.

The camp is in the hills about 20 kilometres from Whitehorse and surrounded by snow-capped peaks.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

### **Meet Snowguard: Marvel Comics' new Inuk teen superhero**



The Marvel Comics universe is heading to Canada's north where the Champions - a diverse group of superheroes that includes teen versions of Spider-Man, Ms. Marvel and the Hulk - will meet the newest member of their group: Amka Aliyak, a.k.a. Snowguard.

Amka is an Inuit teenager from Pangnirtung, Nunavut. Described as an "independent, courageous and headstrong" young woman, Amka decides to investigate a mysterious factory that has sprung up overnight near her community.

"What she discovers there is a villain using the spiritual energy of the land to fuel his plans for conquest," said Marvel writer Jim Zub in an email interview with CBC Books.

[Read More Here](#)



### **Métis Bursaries and Scholarships 2018**

It's that time of the year again! Young people everywhere are getting ready to continue their education to move on to wonderful careers! Each year, we compile a list of all the Metis and Indigenous Bursaries and Scholarships that our amazing community members can apply to to further their dreams. Please visit the link below to see the list. This list is also available in a downloadable pdf.

[Click Here To See The Full List](#)

**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?



**Painted Feather  
Woodland Métis  
Community**

**Certificate of Aboriginal Status**  
Rebecca Brant  
Membership Number  
00984747  
D.O.B. Mar. 4, 2004 Expiry June 27, 2025  
The person identified on the card is an Aboriginal person who is a member of the Ontario Metis Family Records Center Community.

**Honour your heritage, your family history is more than names on a pedigree chart, it's your legacy.**



**Renewing your membership couldn't be easier!  
Not a Member yet? We are accepting applications.**

- ✓ **Pride in Community**
- ✓ **Bursaries and Scholarships**
- ✓ **Resources and Services**
- ✓ **Preferential Hiring** (in some workplaces)
- ✓ **Regular Newsletters**

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

**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.**

