



### In This Issue

[Thank You!](#)

[Limited Edition Collection Coin](#)

["Goose Break" Cree Tradition](#)

[A Member Writes](#)

[What is Life?](#)

[Awakening of the Drum](#)

[The Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre](#)

[Educational Funding 2015](#)

What is life? It is the flash of a firefly in the night. It is the breath of a buffalo in the wintertime. It is the little shadow which runs across the grass and loses itself in the sunset.

~ Crowfoot. His last beautiful words, 1890

: Source: <http://quotes.yourdictionary.com/buffalo>

### Thank You!



**The OMFRC "Facebook Community" is now over 1,000 strong. While this is only a small fraction of the organizations membership we are overjoyed with the growth of this page. As many of you already know Facebook is a great way to stay connected. It has never been more**



Dusk in Winter - Bancroft, ON

### Awakening of the Drum

important for our people to stand up and be counted. For far too long the Metis people have been disregarded. The secret has been kept too long - it starts with you - pass it on!



Yesterday six dignitaries came to our classroom to Birth or Awaken the drum that was presented to the Native Studies Program. Corrections Canada (Rob Rittwage) who is also an ENSS graduate student, coordinated the event. An inmate from Warkworth Institution bought the resources and designed the drum made of burnt cedar and moose hide. The drumsticks (six) were fashioned from deer skin.

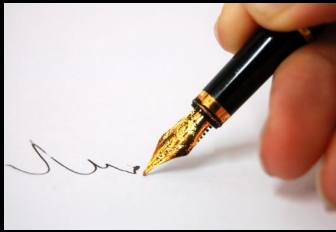
Cedar, steeped in water, was used to purify the drum by the individual students. It was then followed with sweet tobacco and blessed by the Elder Broderick (Turning Bear) who is originally from Dakota. This Elder was also on the planning committee for the Canadian Olympics in Vancouver.

Both Rob and Broderick led the students in drumming and singing, and were then encouraged to take part in the Round Dance.

The drum itself was dedicated in memory of the carver's Mother is Aboriginal. Students were so moved by the ceremony that many wrote letters of appreciation for this wonderful gift. It is hoped that in the future we can begin a Drumming Circle.

*"The history behind this drum is unique, in that it has been gifted to my Native Studies Program at ENSS. This ceremonial drum was donated by an inmate of Warkworth Institution in memory of his mother. He provided all the materials including the cedar for the drum and stand, moose hides to cover and deer skin for the six drum sticks. An elder from Dakota led us through the ceremony and taught the students to drum and sing. He brought cedars and sweet tobacco to purify the drum and told stories on the beginning of the First Drum."*

### A Member Writes



**I just have a desire to say Megwetch to everyone at the OMFRC for their steadfast devotion to the Metis People.**

*Adrian, Michigan*

### Limited Edition Collector Coin Depicts Traditional Cree Goose Hunt



**Royal Canadian Mint's \$5 coin features work of Cree artist Tim Whiskeychan**

*Source of Article and Photo:  
- CBC News/Aboriginal  
~ Facebook Share*



*Pamela Vanderburg*

[Read More.....](#)

Native Studies Teacher

## 'Goose break': Cree tradition goes back centuries



Every spring, in the Cree communities of northern Quebec, regular life grinds to a halt. Kids take a break from school, businesses shut their doors and people head out on the land to hunt. It's the period known as goose break, a tradition that goes back centuries.

Source Article: *CBC/Aboriginal*  
Source Photo: *Wikipedia.org*

[Read More.....](#)

## Sacred Aboriginal tradition



The Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre offers emotional and cultural support for Indigenous students through hand drumming circles.

Source: <http://queensjournal.ca/story/2014-11-14/arts/sacred-aboriginal-tradition/>  
- Facebook Share

[Read More.....](#)



I want to thank the staff and volunteers of the OMFRC for their down to earth nature and their willingness to give up their time to assist others in their quest to get in touch with their heritage. I know you all work tirelessly and your commitment is so appreciated.

I hope this makes it into the Newsletter because sometimes you all just need a pat on the back!!!

*T. Gauthier*

## Canadian Rangers

### The Thin Red Line Patrolling Our Harshest Terrain



## Ontario Metis Family Records Center



**We're on the web!  
See us at:**

[www.aboriginalstatus.org](http://www.aboriginalstatus.org)  
[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 either through the Newsletter or Facebook?**

**If you have something you would like to add to future issues we would be happy to consider it; please call or email putting Facebook or Newsletter material in the subject line!**

**613-332-4789**

**omfrcinfo@gmail.com**



Ontario Metis Family  
Records Center  
RR 5  
Bancroft, ON

Imagine maintaining a military presence over roughly four million square kilometres of exceedingly harsh terrain using the residents of just one small town - a place like Smithers, B.C., for instance, which boasts a little more than 5,000 people.

In 1947, Minister of National Defence Brooke Claxton quietly announced the creation of an unorthodox military force: the Canadian Rangers. Outfitted with armbands and bolt-action rifles, volunteers in remote areas of Canada were to provide a military presence on a shoestring budget. Sixty-six years later, the Rangers wear red sweatshirts and have access to more equipment, but they continue to thrive using the same no-frills approach, playing a prominent role in defence, nation-building, and stewardship.

*Source: CBC News/Canada and Canada's History Magazine*

*Photo Source: Wikipedia.org*

[Read More.....](#)

[Read More.....](#)

## Educational Funding 2015



**There are many members of the OMFRC community who have been successful in obtaining support through several of these programs.**

**Please Note: Each organization has their own guidelines for qualification.**

<https://inspire.ca/donate-now/building-brighter-futures-campaign/>

[http://www.metisnation.org/media/164044/bursary\\_guide-](http://www.metisnation.org/media/164044/bursary_guide-)

KOL 1C0

613-332-4789

Email address:  
omfrcinfo@gmail.com

**Is Your Membership  
Coming Up for  
Renewal?**



**If it is, call 1-613-332-4789 and you  
can do it right over the phone in just  
a couple of minutes.**

*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.*

[web.pdf](#)

<http://carleton.ca/awards/wp-content/uploads/Metis-Nation-of-Ontario-Bursary-2013-2014.pdf>

[http://www.rbc.com/careers/aboriginal\\_student\\_awards.html](http://www.rbc.com/careers/aboriginal_student_awards.html)

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/financial-assistance/awards-scholarships-bursaries/external-awards.html?PageMode=Print>

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1351185180120/1351685455328>

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1351687337141/1351687403171>


<http://www.ccrw.org/>



**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.**

 Like us on Facebook