

Summer 2016



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There is a legend from the Jatibonicu Taino Tribal Nation of Puerto Rico about a young woman and a young man, who were from rival tribes. Like Romeo and Juliet, they fell in love, precipitating the intense criticism of their family and friends. Nevertheless, the two of them found a way to escape both time and culture. One became a hummingbird and the other a red flower. The Taino Indians also take the hummingbird to be a sacred pollinator, whose mission is to bring an abundance of new life.

Source: hummingbirdworld.com/h/native_american.htm

Photo Source with permission from
[Jen St. Louis Photography](#)

**A Member Writes**

I would like to thank everyone from Ontario Métis Family Records Center for all their help obtaining my Metis Status Card and for helping me with the information I needed to apply for bursaries. Thanks to the funds I am receiving through these bursaries I will be able to finish my Heavy Equipment Mechanic Program at Northern College. Again, thank you for your help and support.

~ Joey L.

Our New Website

We at the OMFRC have always devoted ourselves to the service of our community. An important part of this service has always been to provide information and tools to help our people to not only discover their Aboriginal Ancestry, but to help improve their lives in other ways as well.

Because of our wish to provide the community with the best information and resources possible, and as a tribute to the tireless effort of Art Haines to inform and educate people, we are pleased to announce that we have launched a new website! On it, you will find all of the information that was available on the old website, with many rich and informative additions. Many of these new areas of the website were created so that you, our friends and members, will have a place where you can share things and people who are important to you. We encourage you to take a look around, and we would love to hear about what you think!

Making Regalia Video Series



This fantastic YouTube series about making your own regalia by Juaquin Lonelodge was shared with us by a member and we wanted to share it in our newsletter. It's simply amazing!

[View the First Video in the Series Here](#)

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.

8 Native Olympic Athletes You Should Know About



Lewis Tewanima - Photo- Archive

Natives have always enjoyed games and sports, playing for cultural and spiritual reasons. One hundred years ago, when the modern Olympic era began, the United States population was one third of what it is now and most athletes were chosen from elite eastern schools. But athletes from the working classes found ways to compete, including young Native men who were sent to the Carlisle Industrial School. Natives sent to such schools to "Kill the Indian to Save the Man" were encouraged to Americanize, but in sports they could put aside the demoralizing aspects of "civilizing" and compete on the field.

[Read More About These Athletes Here](#)

Shipwrecks and Naval Battles - the Métis Connection



The S.S. Northcote, shown in 1894, was Saskatchewan's first steamer. (Saskatchewan Archival Information



Below is a list of links to Aboriginal resources, research and genealogy resources, and other helpful information for Métis and all Aboriginal people.

- Aboriginal Culture
- Aboriginal Education and Research
- Aboriginal News Resources
- Aboriginal Youth
- Employment
- Genealogy Resources
- Government Resources
- Health and Wellness
- Housing
- Legal Services
- Museums/Places

- Aboriginal Culture
 - Assembly of First Nations
 - Birth Book Centre
 - Canadian Journal of Native Studies
 - Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
 - Métis Nation of Ontario
 - Métis National Council
 - Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

[Visit Our New Website Here](#)



On Our Blog: Privateers, Politics, and a Métis Legacy

The late 1600s into the early 1700s was a time period fraught with danger and upheaval. For the colonies, this was an especially trying time as settlers from various countries had to not only build their settlements, but had to do so under a fairly constant threat of attacks or raids from the other side. Sometimes these raids were simply for resources. Often during this time period, however, raids had the goal of gaining live captives that would then later be ransomed for gold or utilized in prisoner exchanges or for political leverage.

Many Metis can trace their lineage back to Josiah Rising (Ignace Raizenne) and Abigail Nims (Elizabeth Nims). These two people, both captives from the Raid on Deerfield in 1704 and re-settled in Quebec, Canada (then New France), married and became fountainheads for many Métis families in modern times. However, what's not often spoken about is the story behind the raid itself, and the historical events that led to the circumstances that made this union possible. It truly starts with one man, and that man is not native at all. He never met Josiah or Abigail, nor any of the people of Deerfield

Network)

"When Gen. Middleton and the northwest field force marched north in the spring of 1885 to deal with Métis headquarters at Batoche, he planned a two-pronged attack."

Waiser said Gen. Middleton planned to go over land to Batoche, but also got the Northcote fortified, and planned to sail it down the South Saskatchewan River and divert the Métis away from the advancing land troops.

However, Waiser said the Métis had a cable across the river which pulled down the Northcote's smoke stacks.

[Read More Here](#)



Youth of Grassy Narrows Make Music Celebrating their Heritage
[Click to Watch the Video](#)



A Member Writes

Good morning!! I just wanted to let you know that I have received my Metis Status Card. I cannot explain the whirlwind of emotions that I have. I am so proud to have the card not only for myself but for my family with whom I will be sharing, thank you so much. It was a calling that I have had for sometime, I always felt at home volunteering for the Ottawa Aboriginal Festivals and participating in weekly culture nights. Thank you!!

- Belinda Charney



that were victims of the raid. We're going to start out here.

[Read the Full Post Here](#)

Pow Wows - Live and Archived

If you enjoy Pow Wows like we do, you will absolutely love this site. Aside from a full event calendar, many Pow Wows are live-broadcasts so you can watch from anywhere as well as previously-recorded archives. We hope you enjoy this site as much as we do!

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"Métis nationalism is Canadian nationalism – We embody the true spirit of Canada and the source of Métis identity. The birth of the Métis Nation is at the crossroads of the Old and New Worlds where European and Indian peoples came together. Our Country is the home of people from all over the world. Their blood flows in our veins as does that of our Indian cousins. We have taken the best of both worlds to build the Métis Nation. Our home is Canada."

Source: Letter dated 17 February 1994 from Harry W. Daniels, former president, Native Council of Canada, to Kirby Lethbridge, president of the Labrador Métis Association, concerning the application of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 to Métis people who are not part of the Métis Nation.



31 Long-Forgotten Native American Medical Cures

When it comes to herbal remedies, many of us are familiar with the benefits of Echinacea or purple cone flower as an antibiotic, willow bark as a pain killer and aloe as a topical anesthetic and treatment for skin conditions. But that's common knowledge compared to the insights and treatments that Native American medicine men discovered and used.

Native American medicine men developed a wheel

very similar to the yin/yang of Asian medicine. The use of herbal remedies and other alternative forms of treatment was the cutting-edge medicine of their day. This was a holistic approach to medical treatment that relied heavily on plants and their unique benefits.

[See The Full List Here](#)

Red Man Laughing Podcast



Ryan McMahon is an Anishinaabe comedian and writer who travels across the country holding workshops about reconciliation. His fantastic podcast is Red Man Laughing - we highly recommend checking him out!

[Visit the Website to Listen](#)

Ontario Métis Family Records Center



© Natalie Pendergast Obligatory selfie with Dr. Helen Kristmanson, right, post-talk at the Keir Memorial Museum, Malpeque.

Acadian and Mi'kmaq Relations Further Evidenced by Archeological Dig

Acadian and Mi'kmaq history is literally coming out of the woodwork for provincial archeologist Dr. Helen Kristmanson. To be precise, she is finding evidence of early Acadian and Mi'kmaq trade in the form of decorative beads that would have slipped through the floorboards of a Malpeque homestead almost 300 years ago. Buried over time, along with innumerable other personal items, buttons, nails, faunal remains, pottery pieces and more, are these beads that carry significant cultural information. Whether religious, fashionable, glass, wooden, round or cylindrical, beads were common to the material cultures of both Acadians and Mi'kmaqs during the pre-deportation era in which the Malpeque homestead thrived.

[Read The Full Story Here](#)

On our Blog: Learning Tour Timmins Gold and First Nations

This fantastic article was submitted by a member. Thank you, Dalton, for sharing this wonderful experience with us.



Mennonite Central Committee is involved in peace and friendship efforts in Canada and my connection is through the Maritime district of MCC, coordinated by Christina Dunfield in Moncton, New Brunswick. Lyndsay

Mollins-Koene of MCC Ontario organizes many Learning Tours throughout Ontario and we were able to join them in their Learning Tour for resource extraction in Timmins.

Christina knew of my interest and desire to learn more about indigenous issues in Canada and asked if I would like to join the group from the Maritimes.

Our group was comprised of seven students and two professors from St. Stephen's University, New Brunswick, the MCC coordinator from Labrador, Joe Michael from Peace and Friendship at Tatamagouche Centre in Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, Mim from First Nations in Brampton Ontario,



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

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

and others from the Cree, Ojibway, and Ojicree First Nations.

[Read the Full Post Here](#)

Is your Membership up for renewal?



**Call 1-613-332-4789 and you can
renew over the phone in minutes!**



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.

