

Southeast MMF News



Spring Edition - March 2013

Greetings from your Vice President



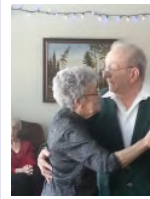
Spring is here but it sure doesn't look like it with all this snow we're getting. But here in our Metis Homeland we continue to work diligently to ensure that Metis Rights are always protected no matter the season.

What is crucial to the work that is done here in our office is the Membership process. Our staff will continue to be available to attend Membership Drives throughout the Region. It is also of upmost importance to get your Harvester Card.

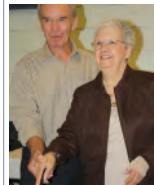
With the Land Claims victory the Membership office is busier than ever and the MMF will be prioritizing assistance to the Membership Clerks. Meanwhile, I sincerely thank those Locals who continue to host Membership Drives and I especially Thank You for the assistance that is given to Debbie our Membership Clerk at these times.

I want to thank the SE Board and the staff of our Regional office for their hard work. I also want to thank the Local leadership for their diligence in making certain that the grassroots 'Metis Voice' is heard. The "Duty to Consult" is crucial to the work you do in your community.

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers as well as your patience during a difficult time for our family in mid-December. It meant a great deal to all of us.



I attended a tea in Pine Falls- Powerview in honor of Emile and Pat Lavoie who celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary. They can still dance and that is amazing. What a milestone!



In addition, I attended a 50th Wedding Anniversary in honor of Gert and Douglas Klatt from Stoney Point. Gert Klatt is the vice-chair of that Local. Kudos to Gert who has beat breast cancer ~ We are proud of you!

Merci ~

Meeqwetch ~

Thank You -

...Denise Thomas

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Land Claim Win for Manitoba Metis



We WON! We WON! We WON!

Since Denise Thomas began with the MMF as a board member and as member of the land claims committee she has been a passionate advocate, advisor and witness of the process that has taken over 30 years to be achieved.

Below is the reaction of President David Chartrand to the historic **Land Claim victory** for the MMF.

"This is a huge victory for all Canadians. The Constitution is the heart and soul of our country and the Supreme Court has ruled that justice be served. The Constitution represents what we are as Canadians, our soul and essence and we should take every opportunity to protect it. This Supreme court ruling allows us to do that."

...Go to page 6 to follow the Milestones reached before achieving the 2013 landmark decision from the Supreme Court of Canada

*The SE Newsletter is published four times a year
Spring ~ Summer ~ Fall ~ Winter*

If your Local is having a special event be sure to let us know and we will be happy to include the information in the Southeast Region Newsletter

Lorette Local hosts their 4th Annual Cultural Event



On Saturday, April 13 the Lorette Local invites YOU to join them for an evening of **Dancing, Fiddling, Food and Prizes.**

The event starts at 7:30 in the Lorette Parish Hall on Dawson Road. If you buy your ticket (\$12.50) by March 30th you will be entered for a free draw.

Tickets are available from Lorraine at (204) 878-3704 or Emile at (204) 422-6040.

A highlight of the evening will be a presentation by Patti Lamoureux the 3 time Canadian Grand Master Fiddling Champion (among other honors).

In addition to Lamoureux, Lorette will host some special guests and look forward to your company for a Modern Metis Rendezvous which celebrates our rich and colorful Metis Culture.

2013 Western Canadian Jr. B Keystone Cup Championships in St. Malo

In the past the honor of hosting the Keystone Cup has gone to large venues but the St. Malo Warriors made their pitch and have been awarded the opportunity to host the prestigious five day event that begins on April 17th in the St. Malo arena.



The Keystone Cup is a six team competition that brings together the provincial champions from across Northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C. along with the host team. It is a four day round robin tournament with the top four teams advancing to the Gold and Bronze medal games on Sunday April 21st.

This year the Southeast Region MMF is both the 'Volunteer Sponsor' and the 'Host Sponsor' for the event. Ralph Collette, Head Coach & GM of the St. Malo Warriors can't wait. "We are very excited! We think its past due. We have been part of the five Western Canadian Junior B Championships and we think our community along with the Eastman region has a lot to offer."

Among other activities St. Malo is very much a 'hockey town' and they invite you to join them for this exciting sports event. Details are available on-line at www.hockeymanitoba.ca.

A Metis Prayer ...

O' Great Spirit

Let me walk in beauty,
and make my eyes ever behold the red
and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice

Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy - myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.



**MMF
SOUTHEAST REGION**

Contact us at:

**Box 13
Grand Marais, Mb.
R0E 0T0**

Phone: 204-754-2721

See MMF on the web

www.mmf.mb.ca

New Faces in Southeast Regional Office



Look to the next SE Region Newsletter for the Who/What/When & Where of how to apply for MMF funding.

Though spring still seems far away there are new seeds in the Southeast Office in Grand Marais. On the left is talented musician Michael Miechkota-Lauze, well known in Eastern Manitoba for his amazing voice and prowess on fiddle and guitar. If you heard Mike sing you would think Johnny Cash had come back to life - renewed!

Guitar in hand, Eva Brown is a gifted organ player with a lovely voice and the gift of music at her bidding. Both have joined the Regional Team in Southeast Region not for their musical ability but for their commitment to Metis programs.

Former resident and former MMF employee Eva Brown joins us after an 11 year stint with Health Canada. Eva brings with her a wealth of experience and a colorful Metis upbringing plus a love of Culture. As the new Local Advisory Committee Coordinator she is committed to promoting Education and Training for Metis youth and for Metis currently under-employed in addition to overseeing projects for the Southeast Region.

Michael (better known as Mike) has been brought on board as a Data Entry Clerk. Not tied to a single task, he has been helpful in the recent revival of music programs in Southeast Region.

YOU WON'T
KNOW WHERE
YOU ARE
GOING UNTIL
YOU KNOW
WHERE YOU
HAVE BEEN...

Youth Programs in Southeast Region

Youth Fiddling and Guitar Lessons are back in Southeast Region. The classes were opened to youth ages 11-24 and offered in Richer, Mb. and at the Walter Whyte School on Hwy 59 in the East Beaches.

Our first class was held February 6th at the L.U.D. in Richer Manitoba. In Richer we currently have nine students in the guitar program and seven students in the fiddle program. The fiddle instructor is Mr. Alex Lamoureux, and the guitar instructor is Mr. Ray Hupe. Originally the Richer lessons were planned to be held in Ste. Anne's but after careful consideration we decided to move the lesson's to Richer since it was a more central location for all of the students who wanted to sign-up.

Beginning April 4th we will be holding guitar and fiddle lessons at Walter Whyte School. To date we have eight students signed up for guitar and another eight signed up for fiddle. The good news is that with each day we have more and more students signing up!

These lessons had originally been planned for Pinefalls-Powerview district, however due to poor registration they were moved to Walter Whyte School. Overall, we are looking forward to working with the staff and students while teaching the kids a valuable skill that will be with them for the rest of their lives!

In addition to Guitar and Fiddling we had hoped to have Jigging lessons but in both locations we were unable to find enough students to start the classes. With help from the Locals plus encouragement from the elders, we are hoping that next year the youth of SE Region will consider this unique cultural opportunity so that we can offer Jigging lessons as well.

None of these lessons would have been possible without the funding we received through youth programming of Metis Employment and Training program (M.E.T.) and the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy (A.S.E.T.S). We also received some assistance through "Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth" (C.C.A.Y.).

The lessons in Richer and in East Beaches will run for the remainder of the school year and then we will break for the summer. We expect to resume guitar and fiddle classes come the start of the new school year in September.

We would like to thank all the parents and the students for their support and we hope next year will see even more youth involved in this great Metis cultural program.

From Your Community Liaison worker in Southeast

The Metis Community Liaison Department works in unison with each Region of the MMF. Direction comes from both the director of Metis Community Liaison Department as well as the Southeast Vice-President who also identifies needs. Therefore it is the responsibility of each Community Liaison to be involved with services necessary within their Region. Our prime focus is on services to Metis families and we are tasked to intervene with referrals and advocacy where appropriate.

Recently I have attended several workshops that featured subjects that affect members from our communities. This includes a workshop on HIV/Aids; also Heart & Stroke and Kidney plus a presentation called Laughter is Healing – something we all know to be true.

During this long winter I have worked (and am still working) with the Elders Firewood program to assist our members that use wood as a source of heat for the cold months.

One of my most pleasant tasks is to work with new mothers or with seniors who just need someone to either show them the way or just be a listener.

I am involved with the Metis Christmas Hamper program. It keeps me busy long before Christmas making arrangements, collecting hamper items and working in partnership with the Senior Scene of East Beaches. As Community Liaison my responsibility is to work with the MMF communities who may have members who require hampers. This job includes ensuring that folks in the southern part of our region (where the East Beaches program doesn't operate) to receive a hamper from social services or the community services where they live. The hamper program helps Metis families in SE region who are in need at Christmas.

Every year I do a fundraiser which is held during our Annual Regional Meeting. I start well in advance by collecting prizes and then selling tickets for the Silent Auction. From

this fundraiser the proceeds go toward the bereavement fund for Metis families.

Another of my tasks is to help Metis members with writing advocacy letters; preparing resumes and cover letters; plus I assist with Federal Government applications and follow-up letters and forms for CPP/OAS; and Employment Insurance. This is in addition to external referrals; internal referrals; Vital Stats applications and involvement in community celebrations.

At Southeast Region we pride ourselves on working as a team so whenever needed I share my skills and experience to help my colleagues who work with Employment and Training.

Most recently I have been working with the Health & Wellness Department to set up Wellness Workshops in the northern area of the Southeast Region. Our biggest challenge is to find members of each Local who are interested in participating in this fine program.
...Alberta Thomas

Health & Wellness Workshops in SE Region

When I first accepted the position of Knowledge Network Coordinator I had no idea how much I would become involved with Metis culture and the unique perspective of Metis on a personal level. I learned very quickly that our economic status, our education, our recognition of self (as Metis) very much impedes on our health and our wellness as individuals, as Metis and as true first Canadians. We are unique – this much I know to be true. What is good for Manitoba Metis will be good for all Manitobans.

The HWD (Health & Wellness Department) of MMF works directly with Manitoba Health and with the departments of Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) in Manitoba. In a development (politically driven) in the spring 2012 the RHAs of North Eastman and the Interlake merged into one component. Across Manitoba similar mergers took place catching everyone – the RHAs and MMF by surprise.

At MMF we are steady and we see change as a component of good. To this end we are flexible and intend to use the merger of RHAs to our advantage. This continues to work well as the new RHA's figure out how to work together with each other and with the MMF. Our MMF HWD had already worked closely with Metis from the south half of the SE region. As a result we shared your Metis Voice and from these meetings we arrived at a plan to better serve Metis within the (former) South Eastman RHA found in the southern half of SE MMF Region. In North Eastman RHA I personally worked with a number of committees that serve the north of Southeast MMF region.

In order to provide a genuine and realistic account of the Metis experience with the components of Chronic Disease and Wellness we need to hear from YOU 'first hand' with regard to your Metis experience with chronic disease or as a caregiver or simply as a loved one of someone who suffers from constant illness. What is chronic disease? Pick any of the following: cancer; respiratory illness; heart disease; diabetes; kidney disease; mental illness or addiction; the list goes on and on but I think you know that.

The Health and Wellness Department of MMF needs your help. The largest component of our department is research. A huge element of this research - beyond recorded health data - is the "Metis Voice" which is your perspective on Wellness. To this end we have been conducting "Wellness Workshops" throughout Manitoba. A few years ago we did the same thing in the south of our Region. Especially since the merger of the RHAs, we want to hear the voice of Metis people in the north of Southeast Region.

The HWD are in the process of forming a new Knowledge Network with the new Interlake Eastern Regional Health Authority and will be conducting Wellness Workshops in your area. Currently we are planning Wellness Workshops for Pine Falls/Powerview; Lac du Bonnet (& district); Manigotagan; and the East Beaches area that includes Grand Beach, Traverse Bay, Stoney Point and Grand Marais.

If you are interested in participating, please call me at the SE office.

...Respectfully submitted ~ Laura Tutlies

Do you have your new MMF card?

A friendly reminder if you have not done so already, we encourage all our existing members to complete the new membership process before September 2014.

Membership Applications can be found on the Manitoba Metis Federation’s website at www.nmmf.mb.ca or by contacting Debbie at our MMF Southeast Regional Office.



BELIEVE...

Documentation needed when applying:

- ◇ Certified Genealogy
- ◇ Long Form Birth Certificate or Baptism Certificate showing parents
- ◇ Government issued photo identification i.e. drivers licence or if using a passport or student card another form of identification with current address is required i.e. Manitoba Health card
- ◇ Membership or Harvester card fee of \$10.00 in cash or Money Order payable to the Southeast Regional Metis Corporation
- ◇ Two passport photos or photo taken at membership drives or at the Regional Office.

If you should have **any further questions** your may contact Debbie LeClaire at the Southeast Regional Office or our Central Registry Navigator Kira Giles at 1-800-665-8474 toll free. Locals can also contact Kira for direction on membership.

Membership has been extremely busy and the application process is taking longer than usual due to the volume of Membership and Harvester application being submitted to Southeast Regional office.

I thank the Locals for inviting me to their Membership Drives; I have attended several and look forward to attending more. Contact Debbie LeClaire at the MMF Southeast Regional Office to arrange for attendance at your MMF Local Membership Drive

Southeast Local MMF Membership Drives for the month of April 2013:

| When | Where | Time | Place |
|----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| April 6 | Anola | 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. | Springfield Library |
| April 13 | Woodridge | 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. | Woodridge Community Hall |
| April 16 | St. Malo | 4:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. | EPIC on Main ~ St. Malo |
| April 25 | Richer | 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. | LUD in Richer |
| April 30 | Lorette | 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Le Club des Bles D’or |

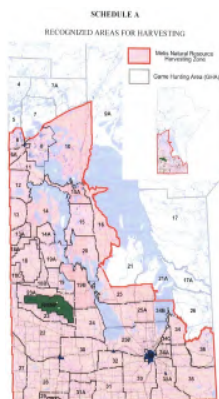
Attention: MMF Harvester Identification card holders

It’s time to renew your Conservation Trust Fund Sticker to validate your Harvester card.

The April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014 Conservation Trust Fund Stickers can be purchased at any MMF Regional Office, MMF Home Office or at a Membership Drive. If you should have any further questions or concerns please contact Debbie LeClaire at MMF SE Office.

Reminder: - Historical Harvesting Agreement

As of September 29, 2012 all MMF Harvester Identification card holders have the right to harvester in the **“Schedule A Recognized Areas for Harvesting”** following the Metis Laws of the Harvest revised 3rd edition. Maps can be found on the Manitoba Metis Federation’s website at www.nmmf.mb.ca if further information is required you may contact the Natural Resources at our Home Office at (204) 586-8474 or Debbie LeClaire at the MMF Southeast Regional Office at (204) 754-2721.



Land Claims Victory for Manitoba Metis

~ ~ ~ ~ Milestones ~ ~ ~ ~



1870 - The Manitoba Act stated that Métis lands would be protected but all other lands were the property of the Dominion of Canada. The Manitoba Act was passed in Federal parliament “to establish and provide for the Government of the Province of Manitoba) [Assented to 12th May, 1870] There were 36 provision and the 31st provision said this...

31. And whereas, it is expedient, towards the extinguishment of the Indian Title to the lands in the Province, to appropriate] a portion of such ungranted lands, to the extent of one million four hundred thousand acres thereof, for the benefit of the families of the half-breed residents, it is hereby enacted, that, under regulations to be from time to time made by the Governor General in Council, the Lieutenant-Governor shall select such lots or tracts in such parts of the Province as he may deem expedient, to the extent aforesaid, and divide the same among the children of the half-breed heads of families residing in the Province at the time of the said transfer to Canada, and the same shall be granted to the said children respectively, in such mode and on such conditions as to settlement and otherwise, as the Governor General in Council may from time to time determine.

In 1981, MMF President John Morrisseau told the Metis and non-status Indians that regarding the Constitutional review Commission: “We can’t draw up the rights of a new constitution when our rights entrenched in the Manitoba Act of 1870 are still outstanding. We’re only putting ourselves back and giving them another way out. First of All, let’s settle the issue that’s there, that’s the issue of land claims. Our People sent a message that our Land Claim must be a priority and one that I must advance all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada to seek justice. This case is about lost and stolen properties and a People who were displaced and dispersed across and beyond their Homeland.

The 1870 Manitoba Act recorded solemn promises made to provide lands to our children and to recognize the titles to our lands along the Red River. These and other promises were not kept. The Métis children and their families were swindled and their lands stolen by speculators. This was facilitated by government delays, unconstitutional legislation and orders in council.

Morrisseau as MMF President brought forward the motion to the MMF. This motion subsequently catapulted the issue of MMF Land Claims to move forward. Audreen Hourie and Gordon Ranville were sent to Ottawa to begin the research



1990 - Yvon Dumont was the President of the MMF and that year the case was taken to the Supreme Court of Canada to ask if the case had merit. We won in a 9 to 1 decision which said the case had merit.

The Manitoba Metis Federation in support of land claims pursuant to the Manitoba Act of 1870. The case of Dumont vs. Attorney General of Canada and Manitoba is pending before the courts. In 1990 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that it should be heard on its own merits.

At Left - Metis Senator Ed Head and legal council Tom Berger

Below Left - Don Roulette, (the late)Ed Head, Bruce Lavallee, (late) Joyce Gus, David Chartrand, Edgar Bruce, (late) Cecil Asmus on the steps of the Supreme Court in Ottawa.

Below Right—Denise Thomas and Tom Berger



1997 ~ President Chartrand promised to take the Land Claims case to the Court of Queens Bench and see it through to the Supreme court of Canada.



2011 ~ December. The Supreme Court of Canada received the petition from the Manitoba Metis Federation.

2013 ~ March. The decision of the Supreme Court ruled in favor adherence to the Manitoba Act which granted 1.4 million acres to Metis descendants. “The land claims decision will still be some time in the making as details of the settlement are worked out.”

It was also ruled that all court costs endured by the MMF would be paid in addition to the settlement.