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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.

A Member Writes

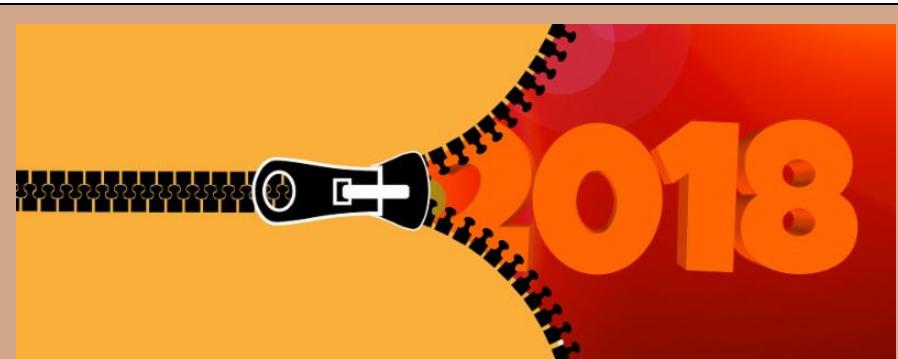
I just want to thank everyone at the OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis for the information that I am getting from you. It is so very interesting.

There is much effort being put into



From nowhere we came; into nowhere we go. 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.

~ Chief Crowfoot - Blackfoot Warrior Chief, 1890



A Message from OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis Community

The OMFRC/Painted Feather Woodland Metis Community wishes everyone all the best as we move into this year!

We are working hard to make sure that you feel connected. We are looking for more community members to share with everyone via the newsletter! If you have articles, pictures, or stories that you'd like to submit, please email us at omfrcinfo@gmail.com with the Subject "Newsletter Content". Even if you just have ideas, links to great articles or things of interest, please send them along. It's you and your contributions that make our community amazing and vibrant. Thank you so much for your support, and we look forward to being there with you every step of the way this year and every year going forward!



this. I want to wish everyone a Happy New Year and want you to know how much you are all appreciated.

Sincerely,

Constance Allard
OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland
Metis community member



A Member Shares

This semester my grade 9 Native Studies Art Class made moccasins. One student, Myles Marvin, made his baby sister Minnie her own special pair.

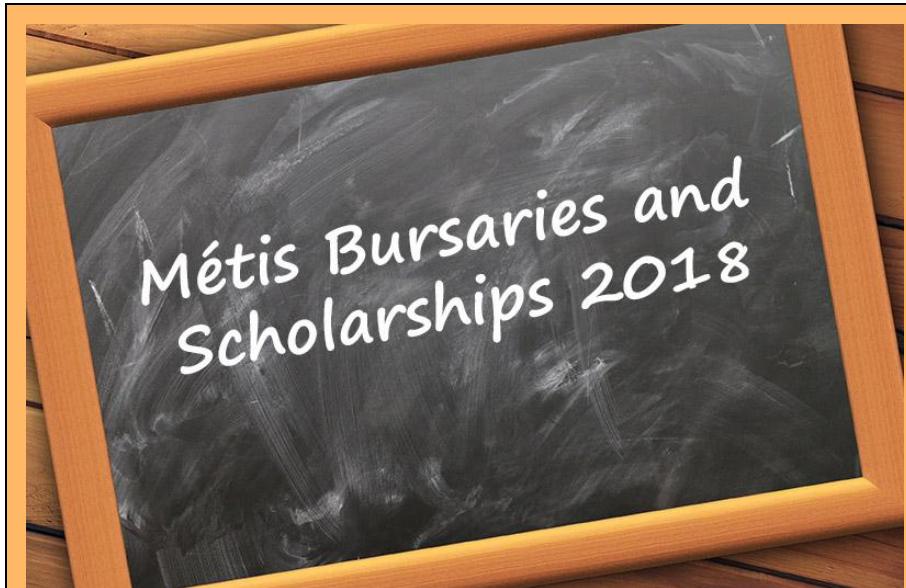
Pamela Vanderburg
Teacher Native Studies
OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis
community member

~ We think they are absolutely gorgeous! What an adorable model, too! Thanks for sharing!



A Member Writes

I want to thank the OMFRC Research Team for all of the work that they've put into my file. I was not able to get very much information due to layers and layers of family breakdown on both sides of my family making it almost impossible to gather more than the most basic information. Despite the challenges, OMFRC's Research Team was able to persevere and find the Metis/Aboriginal link that was required by comparing what I was able to provide with their private



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 LIST**](#)

Community Happenings:

METIS HUNTING AND TRAPPING

As part of an ongoing effort by the Simcoe County District School Board to promote FNMI cultural awareness, various guests have been invited to speak to students at various schools around the Board.

On December 19, 2017, I was invited to speak to Mr. Drew Forsyth's class about Metis hunting and trapping issues. Drew is Barrie North Collegiate Institute's Native Studies teacher, and has provided his students with a wide variety of cultural insights through ceremony, speakers and research projects.

The presentation this day lasted about an hour, and started with a smudge. A short Power Point presentation was used to show some of my family's hunting and trapping experiences. Maps were also utilized to help give an overview of the history of the fur trade in Canada over the years. Next, various trapping related items such as hides, skulls, traps, plaster cast track impressions, flint and steel, and so forth were shown, then handled by the students. The importance of being close to the land and respectfully utilizing what it has to offer was highlighted, both from the perspective of the first trappers and fur traders, as well as those of present day.



I hope that the students left with a heightened understanding of how important our connection to the land is, and also hopefully a desire to learn more on their own.

I am grateful to Drew Forsyth, Alison Bradshaw (Principal of Indigenous Education), as well as the SCDSB for allowing me this opportunity to speak to the students at Barrie North. I look forward to working with other groups in the future.

Rob Ford
Teacher-Ferndale Woods E.S.
OMFRC Community Member

The Manuscript of Violet Lalonde

Editor's note: Mrs. Baker is a valued friend to the OMFRC/Painted Feather Woodland Metis Community, and we are very proud and honoured that she has given us permission to share her relative's manuscript with the members of our Community. These types of contributions of friends and community members enrich us all - their stories are our stories. Thank you again for sharing, Theresa!

historical data base of Metis and First Nations history. I'm still amazed that they were able to find a connection, in my opinion that was utterly brilliant detective work!

A. Bergeron
OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland
Metis community member



Harry Daniels: A Metis Man For The People

This great short video is a reflective of Harry Daniels and his wishes for the Metis people. A lovely watch.

[Watch Video](#)



Making Buckskin Mittens with The Urban Aboriginal

This fantastic video series walks you through all the steps of making buckskin mittens from scratch. This video is the first in a 12-part series taking you through the process from start to finish. All 12 episodes are available on the channel. If you make these, please show us your results!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Fry Bread Lakota Recipe

Few things trascend across Indigenous groups like the existance of some sort of frybread recipe. Each group has their own slant on this delicious and sustaining dish. Enjoy the Lakota recipe. Please let us know what you think!

[Get the Recipe Here](#)



Metis heritage discovery journey is new--although my dad had always told me I was Metis before his untimely death in 1973 when I was only 9. However, I was forced to hide it. My own mother repeatedly shamed me into silence. But no more. I am a 1st cousin to Louis David Riel 5x removed. My dad had always told me I was related to Louis Riel--he may have even mentioned exactly how and who. Despite my young age, I held onto some of the memories, although incomplete. Now I know who, how and when I found this manuscript from my relative, Violet Lalonde, on a common Facebook page consisting of primarily relatives of Chipakijikokwe I read it with eagerness. I was not disappointed. So today, I share with you Violet Lalonde's manuscript which shows much more than boring lineage statistics. No rather, Violet shows us Chipakijikokwe the woman--otherwise known as Marie Louise Riel, mentor to Louis David Riel, my 4th Great-Grandmother.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Theresa (Belanger) Boker, Co-founder of Free Stuff 4 Daily Needs
freestuff4dailyneeds.com

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE MANUSCRIPT](#)

MARIE-LOUISE: PROTECTOR OF LOUIS RIEL IN QUÉBEC

SÉBASTIEN MALETTE AND GUILLAUME MARCOTTE

"If you will, bless us in particular, us the French-Canadian Métis. Bless us with all the other Métis from all origins."
~ Louis Riel (1985a, p. 23; our translation)



Editors Note: This link goes directly to the archival listing with the full PDF of this essay.

Descendants of Métis from the eastern provinces of Canada are at present facing various accusations of being "ethnic frauds" and mere political opportunists from some of those within neo-nationalist Métis academic and activist circles.¹ They are told that using the term "Métis" essentially amounts to "cultural appropriation." And they argue that the term "Métis" should be reserved to the Red River Métis Nation descendants alone (by virtue of the transmission of some "matured" political consciousness that would have emerged only in the Prairies).² It is also suggested that the ancestors of Eastern Métis have never used the term "Métis" until recently, thus confirming their alleged neo-colonialism and "wannabe" impulses (Vowel and Leroux 2016, Andersen 2016). Finally, it is argued that Eastern Métis are merely archivist hungry ghosts or "zombies" (as if coming back from the dead) with no proof of living transmission of Métis culture or any genuine relationships (leading to accusations of "Self-Indigenization," see Andersen 2016).

In light of these accusations, this essay has two objectives. It first seeks to challenge Métis neo-nationalist discourses that deny the existence of Métis Easterners by presenting evidence to the contrary. Second, it wishes to refute the accusation that archival documents attesting the historical existence of Eastern Métis would not constitute a living proof of "genuine" Indigenous cultural transmission.

[Read The Full Essay Here](#)



History Matters: Will Jackson served as Riel's secretary

On Dec. 12, 1951, 90-year-old Honore Jaxon, looking forlorn if not lost, was deposited on the sidewalk outside his midtown Manhattan apartment in New York City. Behind him steadily grew a pile of books, magazines, and papers. By the time city officials had finished emptying his cellar apartment, the stack measured six feet high, 10 feet deep, and 35 feet long.

Jaxon's photograph, with his library now taking up a good part of a city block, ran as a human interest story in the New York dailies. But



Pre-Contact Native American Food with Mariah Gladstone

Pre-Contact Native American Food can change the game for Native People. It is healthier, more sustainable, and can get people back in touch with their indigenous roots compared to modern introduced foods. Join Mariah Gladstone as she prepares a pre-contact meal consisting of bison and wild rice cakes drizzled with a blackberry and sarvis berry sweet corn relish and green beans on the side.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH](#)



The No-Till Gardening Revolution: Why Farmers are Putting Down Their Plows

After thousands of years of turning the soil upside-down, farmers are finally realizing they're killing the microorganisms that keep soil alive... Faced with losing the farm, more and more are converting to the ancient "no-till" methods of permaculture.

To "till" soil means to dig it up, stir it, or turn it over. Whether it's done with a shovel, a hoe, a pick or a plow, the goal is to turn over the upper layer of the soil, bringing fresh nutrients to the surface, while burying weeds.

Tilling has been the hallmark of agriculture, since its inception, with the plow being the most intensive tool to this end.

But 10,000 years after we started doing it, humans are finally starting to question whether digging up the Earth is the smartest way to make her produce for us.

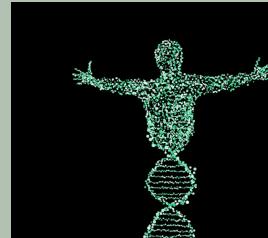
[Read The Full Article](#)

little was said about how the dishevelled old man was once the voice of settler protest in the Saskatchewan country in the 1880s and worked closely with Métis leader Louis Riel to secure a better future for his people.

Jaxon was born William Henry Jackson in Toronto in 1861. Educated in Classics at the University of Toronto, he moved with his family to Prince Albert, then part of the North-West Territories, in 1882. His older brother Eastwood worked as a druggist for the frontier town.

Young Will soon became involved in a local movement, known as the "agitation," that railed against federal land policies.

[Read The Full Story Here](#)



How DNA Testing Botched My Family's Heritage, and Probably Yours, Too

My grandfather was caramel-skinned with black eyes and thick, dark hair, and until he discovered that he was adopted, he had no reason to suspect that he was not the son of two poor Mexicans as he'd always been told.

When he found his adoption papers, according to family lore, he pestered the nuns at the Dallas orphanage where he had lived as an infant for the name of his birth mother. Name in hand, at 10 years old, he hopped a bus to Pennsylvania, met his birth mother, and found out that he was actually Syrian.

At least that's what we thought until my Aunt Cat mailed a tube of her spit in to AncestryDNA.

Genetic testing suggested that my aunt's genetic makeup was only a tiny bit Middle Eastern-16 percent, not the 50 percent you might expect if your father was a full-blooded Syrian, as my grandfather believed himself to be. The rest of her Ancestry breakdown provided some explanation, but mostly more confusion. While we typically think of the Caucasus as countries on the Black and Caspian seas like Turkey and Armenia, Ancestry's test also said it includes Syria. According to Ancestry, the Caucasus accounted for another 15 percent of my Aunt Cat's DNA. What about the other 20 percent? One line-item stood out as something my aunt hadn't expected, based on what she knew about either of her parents: She was 30 percent Italian-Greek. My mother's test revealed similar results.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

The Inuit Woman Who Survived the Arctic Alone

Ada Blackjack had no wilderness skills before she was forced to fend for herself on a remote Arctic island-and outlived four male explorers.

Except for the polar bears, a corpse, and a small house cat named Vic, Ada Blackjack found herself alone on Wrangel Island in late June 1923. Nearly two years had passed since a schooner dropped her off with four young white explorers who intended to claim the Arctic isle for the British.



Blackjack, a petite 23-year-old Inupiaq woman, had come along as a seamstress. Her job was to sew foul-weather clothing out of animal hides so the men could survive the northern winters. The team was planning to live off six months' worth of supplies and local game before being relieved a year later with a new crew. But when a ship didn't show up as promised in the summer of 1922, the expedition turned desperate. Three men went for help by dogsled over the ocean ice, some 100 miles south to Siberia, leaving Blackjack on her own to care for the remaining expedition member, Lorne Knight, who was bedridden with scurvy.

[Read The Full Story Here](#)



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](mailto:omfrcinfo@gmail.com)

613-332-4789

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



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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