



# The New Nation

## La noovel naasyoon



Fall 2010



# The New Nation

## La noovel naasyoon

is a publication of the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research.

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# The New Nation

## La noovel naasyoon

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# GDI Joins the Saskatoon Ex Parade

Article by Jessica Sandell and Photographs by David Morin

After participating in the Meadow Lake Exhibition Parade earlier this year, I realized that it provides a great opportunity to promote the Institute and garner positive feedback from the community. As a result, the Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) began exploring the idea of participating in the Saskatoon Exhibition Parade.

This event kicks off the Exhibition festivities every year with floats, bands, clowns, horses, and fun for the whole family.

To get things rolling, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) Parade Committee was created, consisting of DTI staff Jessica Sandell and Jennifer Kastrukoff, and summer students Amanda Goller, Ashley Matheson, Alicia Elliott, Kaylie Bell, Kayla Morrison, Melissa Dicus, Kendall Trotchie, and Brad Brown.

Our goal was to create a float that represented all of GDI,



reflected our Métis heritage, and was appealing to the eyes and the ears. The committee moved forward with their vision, hiring fiddler Dallas Boyer and his father Phil to provide Métis music. We constructed a Red River cart and a large infinity symbol made out of styrofoam, vinyl fringe, and pompoms. A canoe added another interesting element.

On parade day, Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, we didn't have the best weather, with periodic showers and a chilly breeze. However, our team was able to make the most out of it, and we eagerly donned our sashes and "Year of the Métis" t-shirts. After three hours of preparing and waiting, the

parade started on 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Spadina Crescent East and made its way through downtown with Jason Johnston driving the truck pulling our float. Despite the weather, hundreds of spectators came out to watch the parade, and we were excited to carry the Métis flag, and wave at the kids. We were proud to represent GDI.

The parade was broadcast live throughout the day on Channel 10, and all local TV, radio, and newspapers covered the parade. GDI was mentioned fondly and we were thanked numerous times for our participation.

Thanks again to every staff member who helped contribute to the success of our float. We got some great pictures to help us forever remember this unique experience.



# Back to Batoche 125th



*honour*



*remembrance*



*fun*



*history*



*culture*



*talent*



*teaching*



*learning*

**125**  
1885-2010  
*Remember with Pride*

# Back to Batoche: A Brief Journey

## Through Time

Article by Darren Prefontaine and Photographs by *New Breed Magazine*, [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)

Every year, *Back to Batoche*, draws in thousands of visitors from across the Métis Homeland and beyond. Ever wonder why it is held during the third week of July when the Métis component of the 1885 Resistance lasted from late March to May 12, 1885? In a sense, *Back to Batoche* actually predates the 1885 Resistance by one year. In 1884, Batoche-area Métis inaugurated “St. Joseph’s Day,” July 24 as a Métis national day. St. Joseph is the Métis’ patron saint, and not surprisingly the celebration focused on a mass and a country fair with music and dancing. Men participated in horseracing, shooting, arm wrestling contests while women displayed their embroidery, quilting, rug hooking, sash weaving, and crocheting.



***Back to Batoche, 1975***

St. Joseph’s Day was celebrated at Batoche until the 1930s, but was discontinued due to societal breakdown.



***Back to Batoche, 1978***

On June 26-28, 1971, the modern *Back to Batoche* celebration was inaugurated. Costing \$30,000, the gathering was actually a Métis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS) convention, with July 25 being set aside as a “camping day.” The Army supplied tents and ration kits, and policing was provided by “Special Native Police” and the Rosthern RCMP. The event was labelled as a political and cultural “rebirth” of the Métis Nation, and included pow wows, racing, sports events, turkey shoots, bannock baking, tent pitching, fiddling, and dancing contests.

During the 1970s, *Back to Batoche* occurred on various dates throughout July, August, and September. During the 1972 gathering, over 12,000 attended, and enjoyed watching and participating in a beauty contest, a pow wow, a greased pole event, chasing greased pigs, bannock baking, jigging, fiddling, tent pitching, hand games, canoe racing, ball tournaments, bingos, and saddle horse racing. In 1976, the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS) received funding only three days prior to *Back to Batoche*’s start. In 1977, there was no gathering at

Batoche because AMNSIS and government could not agree to a funding arrangement. In 1978, 7,000 attended *Back to Batoche*, which demonstrated that government interference couldn't dampen the Métis and Non-Status Indians' spirit and resolve to fight for their rights.

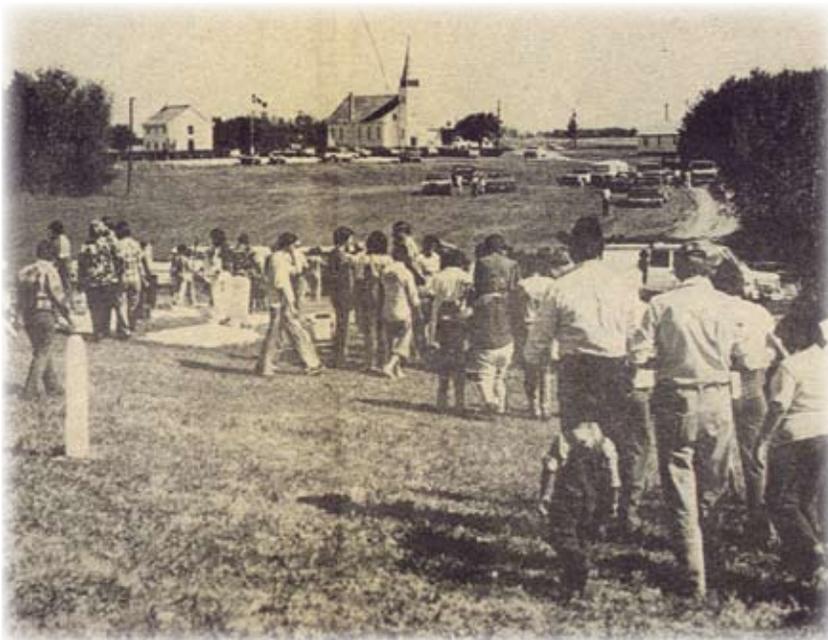
During the 1980s and early '90s, *Back to Batoche* was almost always held in July. At times,

With the week-long 100th anniversary celebrations in 1985, directed by the Batoche Centenary Corporation, the event became known again as "Back to Batoche" days. In 1986, political events eventually led to a change in the celebration as the split between the Métis and Non-Status Indians in AMNSIS intensified at that year's *Back to Batoche*. Soon, the celebration



***Back to Batoche, 1975***

that continues to this day. *Back to Batoche 2010* drew in over 75,000 people during this special "Year of the Métis." While the original purpose and some of the activities have changed over the years, coming together to celebrate the Métis' vibrant culture and rich history has always been consistent.



***Back to Batoche, 1979***

the event struggled: in 1980, there was no AMNSIS AGM, no dances, and no rations, and the 1988 celebration was poorly attended because it coincided with the Labour Day long weekend. From 1981 until 1985, the event was officially called "Métis Heritage Days" since "Back to Batoche" was being saved for the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1885 Resistance to be held in 1985.

would become a Métis-only event run by the newly formed MSS (1988), and its eventual successor, the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. The Métis National Council also started to take a more prominent role at *Back to Batoche*, holding its AGM during the 1989 celebrations. By the mid '90s, *Back to Batoche* would always be held during the third week of July—a tradition



***Back to Batoche, 1974***

# Poetry Corner

---

Poetry by Anne Acco

## Aboriginal Sons

Dream-like she moved to crouch even further into the willow.

A two-lane very narrow gravel and very dusty road was in front of her.

Way behind her, close enough to be heard, the Saskatchewan River made that noise,

A forever sound, slowed down water lapping at the shoreline,

The swiftest water no soundings just paying no mind.

Out of her repertoire of things to fear, she had just sighted one, thus this crouching in the willow.

Slow moving men, she knew them all had firmly gripped a much younger man, choking him.

Picking berries like every summer, she had parked her truck in the shade of a familiar sugar maple grove,

Knowing something from those cautionary tales told far into the midnight sun strokes,

She breathed in and out ever so slowly and silently.

What was it again, the timing of everything has always meant the difference between,

Making it not making it, what is the question again, the willow, yes an analgesic,

God! Was she crouching on some old mooshoom's bones, but she wasn't trembling, she was turning into stone,

Every face she saw fifteen minutes ago was known to her, the darkening face a young second cousin.

A Northern village embraces all its Aboriginal Sons.

She had no gun on her, the men known as gunslingers, men who moved like Mafioso,

The picture shows told her so, how long can she crouch in this known willow bunch?

Her truck covered like a dusty Indian truck with the lightning-like struck wind-shield,

Was not in the least seen by her, but she was dealing with predators, hunters, they would know,

Someone had been there, look at her tire marks.

Grandma moved into her side, the knowing side, lifting  
memory from centuries ago  
How long did you wait Grandma, after all the men had died  
After LeClerque died on one of the horses, on your way  
back to the mountains?  
You are telling me your thoughts Grandma, wait someone  
might come by and see me,  
From the road the men will come back soon, to cackle about  
their latest kill, oh yeah, they have killed before,  
Maybe from the river while silently paddling by,

Why this moment and this place Grandma, like you standing  
at Walla Walla, hiding with your back to that trail,  
Great-Grandpa in your arms, another child right beside you,  
how come they did not cry.  
Can we settle my thoughts right now, can we see the many  
ways we have survived this way?  
Is it keeping silent in this wood, standing on top of  
mooshoom bones,  
Instead of a big old burial ground, you have no idea where  
Great-Great-Grandpa died you had to run yourself, right?  
Right, what about me crouching like a lynx?

Can I raise the alarm now? Can I run and get my truck? Can  
I chuck my berry pail in the extra cab seat?  
Okay, they went west I will go East, as fast as possible,  
before they sniff me out.  
Then, I come back with reinforcements, extra gunslingers of  
the law, the revenge troops of civil society,  
We will do that post-modern stuff of gathering evidence at  
the scene of the crime,  
Oh Grandma, Oh Grandma, where is the killing ground this  
time,  
Is it under the tree in the little meadow, the open field?

# John Arcand Fiddle Fest Now With a Roof!

Article by Lori Perkins and Photographs by Peter Beszterda

West of Saskatoon, out on Highway 60, you will find Windy Acres, the location of the 13th annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest. It was held August 12-15, 2010, and was as successful as ever, with over 4,600 people attending over the four-day period.

This year was very different from past years at the festival. In 2006, a fundraising campaign was launched called "Roof Over Our Festival" (ROOF), which will proceed until the project is complete. It consists of three phases: phase one involved the construction of a roof providing cover for a 60,000 square foot venue. After a lot of hard work by many people, it was completed in time for this year's event! Phase two will consist of building user-friendly, long-lasting bleachers. Lastly, for



*John Arcand*

phase three, the plan is to build more amenities for the annual event. Over the past thirteen years, the event has grown bigger and better each year. With the new building, the Arcands will be better able to accommodate the festival's growth.

Vicki Arcand made sure to give recognition to all ROOF

fund supporters at the event: "This wouldn't have happened without the public's help throughout all of the fundraising events." If you would like to help, please visit [www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com](http://www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com) to find out how you can contribute to this project, and help keep Métis culture alive.

Thursday and Friday consisted of jigging, fiddling, guitar, and piano workshops, which were free upon registration. The workshops were available for all skill levels, from absolute beginner to advanced.

The "Fiddle Instructors Showcase" took place Thursday evening featuring artists such as John Arcand, Freddie Pelletier, Calvin Vollrath, Patty Lamoureux, Gord Stobbe, Desmond Lagace, Rodney Krip, Daniel



*Youth participants*

Gervais, Shamma Sabir, and Trent Bruner.

Seeing that 2010 was declared “Year of the Métis” by the province, John and Vicki incorporated this into a Métis showcase on Friday night which featured some of the best Métis performers from Western Canada, and included singing, dancing, and fiddle playing. The dance group “Red River Mates,” from Manitoba, performed and held the crowd’s attention during their whole performance. If you weren’t swinging your partner on the dance floor, you were definitely toe tapping and enjoying yourself.

Preliminaries for all competitions

ran Saturday with the “John Arcand and Special Friends” concert during the evening, and then capped off the night with an “Old Time Dance” featuring “Bannock Country.” It was another magnificent night of entertainment!

The finals took place on Sunday. This year, there were 81 competitors that competed in the fiddling and jigging competitions with a whopping \$10,700 in prize money awarded to competitors. The John Arcand Fiddle Fest is not just about workshops, dance, and music. It’s also about people coming together to appreciate the wonderful amount of talent, meeting

new friends, enjoying the ever welcoming atmosphere, participating in the workshops, or just sitting back, relaxing and having fun! It’s an event for all ages. It’s not only a good time, but it’s also keeping future generations familiar and in touch with Métis culture through the Red River jigging championship and the traditional Métis-style fiddle contest. The Arcands and their crew did an outstanding job of accommodating everyone. A person can’t help but feel at home when visiting Windy Acres during the event. This year Mother Nature wasn’t totally on their side, but it sure didn’t stop everyone from making the most of it!



“Fiddle Instructors Showcase”

*Li Michif mitooni katawashishin (Michif is a beautiful language)*

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is grateful to Claude Langan for his work to promote and preserve Michif. Claude passed away recently. He was a member of the Michif Speakers’ Steering Committee through which his passion for his language was shared and expressed. Our condolences go to Claude’s family and friends. *Marsij, Claude.*



# *Back to Batoche 2010: Rodeo Retrospective*

Photographs by Peter Beszterda





# Proud to Be Métis—The Métis National

## Anthem CD Released

Article by David Morin and Photographs by Peter Beszterda

The Gabriel Dumont Institute is excited to announce the release of the new CD, *Proud to Be Métis—The Métis National Anthem*. Launched during this year's *Back to Batoche* celebration by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau, this CD captures the essence of Métis pride.

During the 2009 National Aboriginal Day celebrations at the Batoche National Historic Site, one of the creators of the traditional "Proud to Be Métis"—The Métis Nation Anthem, Clint Buehler, joined with Andrea Menard, Donny Parenteau, and Karon Shmon to write a

shorter version of the anthem that encompasses the spirit of the original, which was originally composed in the 1970s. The new rendition celebrates our proud past and bright future. It has been released in 2010, the *Year of the Métis* and the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Northwest Resistance, as a tribute to our ancestors, to whom we owe an immeasurable amount of gratitude. Because of their strength and commitment, we are proud to be Métis.

*Proud to be Métis* includes the original song as well as the new shorter version written as a "Year of the Métis" tribute

and masterfully sung by Andrea Menard and Donny Parenteau, complete with instrumental versions for those who want to sing it themselves. The original, composed by Clint Buehler and Dennis Charney, has earned its place as the traditional version and is accepted as the Métis national anthem.

### *Year of the Métis Tribute*

Lyrics by Clint Buehler, Andrea Menard, Donny Parenteau, and Karon Shmon

Music by Dennis Charney

Long ago was born a people,  
a new nation rose up strong,  
Years of trials and tribulations  
placed us here where we belong;  
With the past as motivation,  
all our dreams can be fulfilled;  
If we're true to our traditions,  
what a future we will build.

We are proud to be Métis,  
watch our Nation rise again.  
Never more forgotten people,  
we're the true Canadian.

We are proud to be Métis,  
watch our Nation rise again.  
Never more forgotten people,  
we're the true Canadian.



*Donny Parenteau and Andrea Menard*

Clint Buehler is a veteran journalist, educator, and administrator who has spent forty of his fifty-year career working with Métis and First Nations people and organizations, including five years as Executive Director of the Métis Nation of Alberta. His thoughtful lyrics on the original "Proud to Be Métis," written with Dennis Charney, touch the Métis heart whenever it is played. His creativity and energy on the recent collaboration of the shorter version make it extra special.



*Dennis Charney, Andrea Menard, Clint Buehler, and Donny Parenteau*

Dennis Charney is a prolific songwriter who has been recognized by the Alberta Recording Industries Association's Award of Distinction (1996) and by the Alberta Entertainment Writer of the Year award (1997). He is recognized by his peers as a force on the music scene. Métis across the homeland appreciate his talent, particularly on the collaboration with Clint Buehler, "Proud to Be Métis," now acknowledged as the Métis national anthem.

Andrea Menard is an award-winning singer, actor, and writer. Her hit one-woman jazz musical, "The Velvet Devil," received acclaim and awards across Canada, and has been made into both a CD and television drama. Her creativity sparkles with her latest CD, "Sparkle," also the theme for her forthcoming television special. Whether she is performing at fundraising concerts, before prominent dignitaries, or making an indelible screen presence, Menard's talent and charisma is unforgettable.

Donny Parenteau is one Canada's most versatile and dynamic country music singer-songwriters. A seasoned entertainer who has performed with numerous country legends, Donny has honed his superior vocal skills in a variety of genres including country classics, blues, and easy rock. Donny has garnered numerous provincial and national music nominations and awards including a 2008 Juno nomination for Aboriginal Recording of the Year. He is indeed a genuine and rare all-around musical artist.

To order, contact:  
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Saskatoon, SK S7M 5W1  
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[www.gdins.org/catalog](http://www.gdins.org/catalog)

# National Aboriginal Day 2010

## Celebration at Batoche

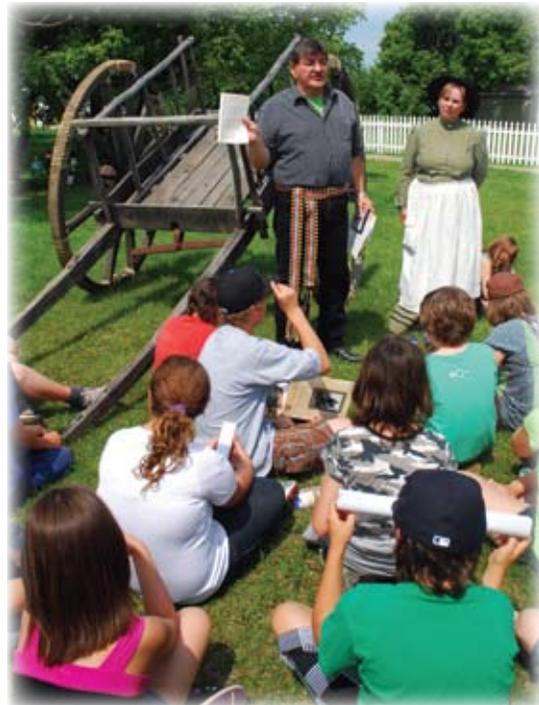
Article by David Morin and Photographs by Peter Beszterda

In a spring and summer full of rain, June 21<sup>st</sup> managed to break away from the trend by having the sun shining all day long out at the Batoche National Historic Site (BNHS). Once again, the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI) partnered with the BNHS to offer an entertaining day of celebration for National Aboriginal Day.

The day started with the One Arrow Drummers singing an Honour Song and Elder Rose Fleury offering an opening

prayer. Greetings were brought from the park by Ray Fiddler, Site Manager, and Mark Calette, Manager of National Historic Sites—Saskatchewan South Field Unit, and from GDI by Karon Shmon, Director of Publishing and by Geordy McCaffrey, Executive Director.

During the afternoon, entertainment included Len Dumont playing the fiddle while accompanied by



**Norman Fleury Teaching Michif**

Mel Vandale on guitar, as well as Krystle Pederson singing a few beautifully-sung songs.

Sherry Farrell Racette was on hand to launch her new resource *The Métis: A Visual History*, a book and poster set chronicling the history of the Métis from the arrival of Europeans to Canada, to Métis life on road allowances. She provided great insight into her book, and into the stories behind



**Kayla Morrison and Lacey Pilon**

her art. Gregory Scofield took to the stage following Sherry to read some poetry that he had written about Louis Riel.

Some events happened throughout the day, such as the mini-voyageur games, led by GDI summer students Brad Brown and Kayla Morrison.

Students who came to the site were able to enjoy games such as a squash ball slingshot target shoot, a mallet toss (in place of a hatchet!), and water pail carry races. Norman Fleury, Michif specialist, spent the day promoting the Michif language to children and adults by the church, while Edwin St. Pierre and Harriet Oaks taught Michif to groups at the Caron Home. Throughout the day, bannock, which was enjoyed by all, was cooked in an oven in front of the rectory by park staff. The event was a success with many school groups and visitors to the BNHS enjoying and celebrating many aspects of Métis culture. Be sure to plan a visit to the site next year for National Aboriginal Day!



Li Gabriel Dumont Institute ka achimo daan aen liivr aen nistwayr aen wapatawayk aen borr poor lii michif saan vaent saenk aan passii. Oma ka achimook, la lway li taan passii kii shookun, pi nimooya wiitamuk lii Michif ka kii wiikichik sur li terrain avaant li Goovaarnimaan ka tipaytamashoot wiyawow lii drway kii ayawuk sur li terraen. Ooma kii ooshpayikatew daan enn laang kaaya lii Michif aen kaashkitachik chi ayamitachik pi miina kii aashchikatew iita kaaya lii Michif chi wapatakik. Kiishpin kii paytakik oonhi lii parull, mishchet lii Michif nimooya ka nishtotamuk taanshi ka itwek akooz si tenn laang denn nootr Naasyoon pi la parull di lway kii ayapatiswuk kaaya toot li moond aen kishkaytakik. Poor atiht lii Michif ka nishtotakik lii notiss daan lii Gazett, Kiishpin enn ripoons chi maykichik sa praan chi tapwaytakik la noovel lway. Sa praan chi itootayyenn la koor chi natotamakayyenn anima ka wii kaashkitamashooyenn. Li miyeur chi totamunn kiishpinn la lway chi natamaash y foodra chi maykiyenn toon terraen poor li terraen pahkaan itay o baen doon ayapichiish laarzhaan. Kakiyow leu zhoovraagh jhur paarii leu farm aen waashkayikaychik pi iita ka wiikihk chi ooshtak y foodra miina kakiyow kiitwaam chi maachitaak. Anima pikoo chi ootinamun aen kaashkitayenn chi matinamunn. Ooma li notiss kii maykiwuk aata lii lettr, lii petisyoon, pi li moond chi piikishkaytamwachik lii Michif. Lii Michif kii wanitawuk leu terraen pi mishchet kii wayayshihikashoowuk leu terraen o baen doon laarzhaan ooshchi aniki li moond ka atooshkatikochik. Ni wiitamakoonanik daan li liivr ita ka kwanaytamik lii koontr aen itwayk ooma la bunn histwayr akooz aykooshi aen ishi wapatahiwayk. See our next issue for a translation in English.



# GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

## of Native Studies and Applied Research

917 - 22nd Street West, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7M CR9  
Phone: (306) 657-2230 Fax (306) 242-0002

September 21, 2010

### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT: AN INVITATION TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS

The Gabriel Dumont Institute invites you to nominate a person to the Order of Gabriel Dumont.

The Order of Gabriel Dumont is awarded by the Gabriel Dumont Institute to a small number of persons who have serviced the Métis of Canada with distinction. The award itself, however, is made to persons without regard to race. The **silver** awards honour those who have made a significant contribution to the Métis. The **gold** awards recognize those who have distinguished themselves with outstanding service to the Métis. In past practice the **gold** medal has been awarded based on lifetime achievements and service and has been awarded posthumously.

The Order is presented in the form of a medallion, a certificate signed by the Officers of the Institute, over the Seal and which enrolls the recipient in the Order. The awards will be presented on November 19, 2010 at the Gabriel Dumont Institute's 30th Anniversary Cultural Conference.

A nomination form is attached to this announcement. Anyone may submit a nomination. Deadline for receipt of nominations is **October 15, 2010**.

Further application forms can be obtained from GDI at:

Gabriel Dumont Institute  
917 22<sup>nd</sup> Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9  
(T) 306.657.2230  
(F) 306.244.0002

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

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(T) 306.934.4942  
(F) 306.244.0252

For further information about *The Order of Gabriel Dumont* or the Cultural Conference, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

---

Geordy McCaffrey,  
Executive Director – GDI

---

Gabriel Dumont Institute Mission Statement: To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collections and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.



# GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE

of Native Studies and Applied Research

## NOMINATION FORM

### THE ORDER OF GABRIEL DUMONT

I would like to nominate the following person to the Order of Gabriel Dumont:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Nominator Contact Information

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Community: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

My reasons for making this nomination are: (This should be a statement of why you think your nominee should be a recipient and be specific about your nominee's achievements and contributions to the Métis community. Please limit your nomination to a maximum of one page or 300 words.)

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Send completed nominations and two or more letters of support by **October 15, 2010**, to:

The Selection Committee  
Order of Gabriel Dumont  
917 - 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, SK S7M 0R9

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Gabriel Dumont Institute reserves the right to determine the level at which the successful nominations will be honoured.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Mission Statement: To promote the renewal and the development of Métis culture through research, materials development, collections and the distribution of those materials and the development and delivery of Métis-specific educational programs and services.

# Back to Batoche — From the Heart

Article by Andréa Ledding and Photographs by Peter Beszterda

The 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary *Back To Batoche* was an amazing time to be alive and gathered. I went to gather stories for a manuscript on the survivors and descendants of 1885. I came home strengthened and encouraged by a nation that has faced civil war against a national government of immeasurable resources, been persecuted and scapegoated, and yet remained quietly but unbreakably strong, and as vibrant as the careful beadwork Gregory Scofield and Sherry Farrell Racette were teaching. As the cemetery gates say, “*Niiyana an mina ki tipaymishona an pi mina ki pa ashpina an poor tout boon.*”—“*Nous sommes maintenant libres a jamais.*” We are now and forever free.

There were so many “big crowd” moments of shared emotions, like the gatherings at the cemetery on both Sundays. As the fallen on both sides were listed, and Andrea Menard sang “There will be peace in the valley”, and the descendants of Asiwiyan and McKay and Isidore Dumont hugged—there was great strength in remembering together, and processing what that meant individually. (Read: many tears, for many reasons.)



Maria Campbell wrote a strong column in *Eagle Feather News* about how thousands and thousands should be marching to the cemetery on that final Sunday to pay respects to the fallen, and it is true. Part of the reality of *Back to Batoche* is knowing that amidst the jiggling and entertainment and music-filled campfires, husbands, fathers, grandfathers and brothers died for their nation and for their vision. Women and children, the elderly and wounded, suffered in fear in underground caves, listening to the muffled popping of guns echoing down the riverbanks. Trying to keep the infants from squalling, and the suffering from crying out too loudly.

And we honour them by living well, and by remembering, and by celebrating a culture that is

still very much alive because of all that they endured.

They suffered and died for the rights of every citizen of this country to not be oppressed and abused by a grasping and bullying federal government that ignores the rights of certain sectors of the population, and makes promises it has no intention of keeping. (One visitor showed me a book about the disappeared Manitoba Métis community of Ste. Madeleine. In the back were copies of John A. Macdonald’s personal letters which stated he had no intentions of keeping any promises to the Métis people in the Red River settlement, and had made these promises only to get them to lay down arms so he could resettle their excellent farming areas with good respectable

white Protestant citizens.) They died for justice: their belief in the sacredness of the land, and their connections to it. They died for love: protecting their homes and their families. They died forever free, and left us all that vision of freedom to take up and carry on with.

The stories I heard were only a fraction of the stories being carried “in the pockets of our hearts” in the Métis nation. There were stories of pain and fear, stories of pride and survival, stories with humour. There were stories people were still afraid to tell, because their relatives had made difficult choices. Saddest of all were the stories that had been lost to time and memory, because they didn't know they were Métis for many years.

“My wife's family used to lock the door to make bannock,” said one man, who has been encouraging

his in-laws to get reconnected with their roots. “They were best friends with all the other Métis families in the communities, yet she didn't know.”

This was not an uncommon story—but what is beautiful is these people were here, 125 years later, finding themselves and each other. Their heritage, their legacy, the vision and dreams are intact, waiting to be acknowledged and embraced.

There were others present who were not Métis, but come back year after year because they embrace Métis values and the Métis celebratory spirit.

These brothers and sisters carry peace and love for the Métis nation when they return to their communities.

And there were other storykeepers who were sharing their wealth of knowledge. They have made it their goal to

remember and record. Marcien Caron brought photographs and archival material for display in the Elder's Lodge. Oliver Boyer gave up an afternoon of his time to share just a few of the many stories he has sought out over the years. Ron Burwash sat down and sang me “*la chanson de Riel*”, and later mailed me a recorded copy. And there were so many others, too many to name.

But the favourite time for my daughters was the communal campfire I made in our little strip of bush. Two women from BC—one of them was a Lagimodiere on a quest to rediscover her roots—and beside us a man also from BC who had just returned from Asia, and was Irish-Métis—joined us. Under the stars we laughed and talked and told stories, and learned phrases in Mandarin, and became friends. In the morning, when we mentioned a few Irish relatives to our nearest neighbour, we had mutual cousins, and the girls were even more excited to know they had such fun with a stranger who turned out to be family.

And this is maybe the best way to sum up Batoche. Old friends, and new, and strangers who are family. The Métis nation has had many struggles, but there is more that unites us than divides us.



# Parks Canada Comes Alive Through Art

Interview with Tracey Verishine by Karon Shmon and Photographs by Karon Shmon

**Karon:** It's a pleasure to see the "Year of the Métis" receive such a high profile this year, and be acknowledged so uniquely and frequently. Please tell us about the "chair-painting project" showcased recently at Market Mall and the Saskatoon Exhibition.



**Tracey:** Not everyone has the opportunity to experience these places or sometimes hasn't even heard of the National Parks or National Historic Sites in Saskatchewan, so we thought this would be a unique opportunity to take the parks and sites to them. The idea really blossomed. Not everyone wanted to paint, which was fine, some just wanted to watch, ask questions, or share stories of past experiences. That was what the project was all about—sharing, relaxing, and enjoying at an interest level that everyone felt comfortable with.

With great cooperation and partnerships we were able to take the "show on the road," and paint at one location and display at another. Both locations had displays from the National Historic Sites including: Batoche, Motherwell Homestead, Fort Battleford, and Fort Walsh. The two National Parks—Grasslands and Prince Albert—were also on display complete with tent and sleeping bags.

**K:** How did you come up with the idea to promote the national parks with this idea?

**T:** I thought the chairs would provide a contemporary and fun way to express leisure, culture, and nature—something that can also be experienced through a visit to the parks. A long time ago, I saw a painted chair and found it really interesting and thought it would be fun and different if we invited people of all ages to come and spend some time with us painting. We wanted people of all ages to express their ideas of the parks through a visual piece that could be displayed at the parks and sites later.

**K:** What kind of response did you get from artists and the general public?



**T:** At first there was hesitation. This was a new idea and nobody knew what to expect. With the assistance of Saskatchewan Society for Education Through Art, artists were booked. The general public submitted drawings and showed up on the first day eager to start. As more artists (and budding artists) started painting, more people came in inquiring on what we



were doing, and some asked if they could join in. In the end 24 adirondack chairs became a canvas to the painters' inspirations.

**K:** The Métis-themed chairs pay a nice tribute to the "Year of the Métis". Who painted these chairs and how were the themes chosen?



**T:** All the chairs were beautiful from the child's rendition of the infinity symbol to the painstaking beaded moccasin chair where every bead was a dot of paint. The Métis sash was a pleasure to watch come alive. I was awed by her ability, her inspiration came from several sashes draped on a table beside her. The chair came alive as the painted sash cascaded down the chair back and the fringes spilled across the seat.

We wanted everyone to paint what they were comfortable with, and what memories they felt from our national treasures they wanted to capture.

**K:** The Gabriel Dumont Institute was pleased to be able to exhibit some pieces from our museum as part of your display. How do you feel the Métis portion of the display adds to your message?

**T:** It was great to show the beauty in the many forms of art that Métis culture is excellent at, but not always given credit for or is known for; the beadwork, the silk embroidery, the sewing, the books, are all part of the culture that we wanted to celebrate in the display.

**K:** Thank you for sharing such a great idea with us. What are your closing comments?



**T:** This project was an excellent way to educate, entertain, and engage a variety of audiences in a different fun sort of way. Thank you for helping make this idea a reality. We appreciate all the work our partnerships do to go places we have not been or touch people who may not know we exist.



*GDI Display at the Saskatoon Exhibition*

# Police Prep Program Shaping

## Community Leaders

Article by Tony Blacklock and Lisa Wilson and Photographs by Lisa Burry

This past March, 11 young women and men started the Aboriginal Law Enforcement Preparation program in Meadow Lake. The five-month program is being offered by Dumont Technical Institute (DTI) in cooperation with several community partners. Students earn an applied certificate that prepares individuals for employment in policing at the federal, provincial, or municipal level, as well as other law enforcement agencies.

Over the course of the program, the students gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the field of law enforcement. Studies focus on basic investigative techniques, addictions, the criminal justice system, history of policing, criminal law, interpersonal communication skills, introduction to firearms, and health and fitness. Students will prepare for and take the Police Officers Physical Abilities Test (POPAT). As part of the preparation for the POPAT, the students were issued running shoes and gym clothing at the start of the program. They run as a group each morning and work out regularly at a fitness facility.

Entrance into the program required applicants to have a grade 12 or GED, a criminal record check, Aboriginal ancestry, and have medical clearance for the POPAT.

In mid-June, the students visited the RCMP Training Depot in Regina and visited the training site. During their time there, the students had unrestricted access to the training facilities. They were able to see the RCMP graduating class prepare for their graduation parade, and tour the training facilities and the RCMP Heritage Museum. The Meadow Lake students stayed in the barracks and ate with the RCMP cadets. Their sense of belonging as trainees for the law enforcement community was further bolstered by being referred to as “candidates”

by the Depot staff, rather than visitors. A major highlight for the DTI students was participating in a drill class led by an RCMP instructor—the first time a visiting class has been allowed to do so.

On their way back to Meadow Lake from the Regina Depot, the students stopped in Saskatoon and visited the Canadian Forces Recruiting Centre and the Saskatoon City Police.

The DTI Meadow Lake students have demonstrated their leadership by getting involved in their community. In early June, they participated in the Meadow Lake Stampede Parade as parade marshalls; they helped organize the floats, and seven students marched in the parade.



*DTI students tour the RCMP Training Depot*

In May, the students participated in a community clean up, successfully cleaning 14 km of highway close to Meadow Lake. Another 25 km will be done at a later time. They have also been involved with the Transition Place Education Centre, an alternate high school program for students with personal issues which have interfered with their abilities to function successfully in a regular school setting. The DTI Aboriginal Law Enforcement program students serve as role models for youth, presenting talks about the Law Enforcement prep program, playing volleyball with youth, and staging athletic competitions between the two organizations.

“I have heard so many good things about this program and these students,” says Métis Nation—Saskatchewan Area Director, Mavis Taylor, who is a proponent of the program and works in partnership with DTI. “There is no doubt that once they graduate from the program, they will go on to be successful in their careers as law enforcement professionals.”

The students in the DTI Aboriginal Law Enforcement Preparation program are making their mark as leaders and role models in the Meadow Lake community, and in the process, are making their community proud. A second intake for the program is planned for January 2011.



DTI students at an RCMP Training Depot classroom



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
of Native Studies and Applied Research



**GABRIEL DUMONT INSTITUTE**  
TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT INC.



**GDC**  
Gabriel Dumont College



### Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation

The Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation administers scholarships to Métis students twice per year. There are a number of different scholarship options, including:

<b>Napoleon LaFontaine Scholarship</b> (entrance, undergraduate, graduation, graduate, loan remission, and special)	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
<b>SaskEnergy Métis Incorporated Scholarship</b>	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
<b>SaskTel Métis Scholarship</b>	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
<b>Basic Education Scholarship</b>	Deadline October 1st and May 1st
<b>GDC Graduate Student Bursary Program</b>	Deadline October 6th and April 6th

For scholarship details including eligibility, academic criteria, and application forms, please visit our website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org) or contact:

Secretary, Gabriel Dumont Scholarship Foundation  
c/o Gabriel Dumont Institute  
2—604 22nd Street West  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7M 5W1  
(306) 934-4941

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# Gabriel Dumont Institute Celebrates

## 30 Years of Success

Article by Lisa Wilson

2010 has been declared the “Year of the Métis” in Saskatchewan as a means to acknowledge Métis history, celebrate Métis accomplishments, and commemorate the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance. 2010 also marks the 30th anniversary of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), the official education arm of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan and the largest Métis educational institution in Canada. Thirty years ago, in 1980, GDI was incorporated to serve the educational and cultural needs of Saskatchewan’s Métis community. The Institute has continued to grow and thrive over the last three decades.

Today GDI offers a wide variety of education opportunities and services for Métis people across the province. Programs are offered at the university, technical, and upgrading levels. Human resource development services are offered in a dozen Métis communities through GDI’s Training and Employment program. Each year dozens of scholarships are awarded

to Métis students by way of a Scholarship Trust established in 1985.

The longest running program of the Institute is the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) offered in cooperation with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina. To date, SUNTEP has graduated almost 1,000 students with Bachelor of Education degrees. These graduates make not only economic contributions to the province but significant social contributions as well.

“If we estimate that the SUNTEP graduates each teach 20 students per day, that’s close to 20,000 students who have the opportunity to experience education that is culturally sensitive and affirming,” says GDI Executive Director Geordy McCaffrey. “This means that more Métis and First Nations students will experience greater success and have more pride in their school endeavors. This is an outcome that has positive results for everyone in our province.” GDI also offers arts and science

courses to its students through the Gabriel Dumont College, and in 2006 the Institute launched its Graduate Studies program which today supports 20 Métis Masters and Doctoral students studying at universities around the world.

The Dumont Technical Institute (DTI), which operates under the GDI umbrella, is responsible for thousands of graduates, in trades, health, business and industry. In the last ten years, DTI has contributed to the health sector by graduating over 170 Licensed Practical Nurses. All DTI programs are community based and are strongly linked to local and regional labour markets. DTI also offers adult upgrading and literacy programming. Programs are offered in over 20 locations in Saskatchewan.

Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment (GDIT&E) offers career services to Métis clients across Saskatchewan, and operates community-based offices in Métis communities. GDIT&E offers not only client support, but employer support as well. Services include wage

subsidies, summer student work experience, scholarship matching, and ready workplace training. GDIT&E also operates a partnership office that connects with interested employers to support employer links to the Métis workforce.

In total, GDI serves approximately 2,000 Métis clients and students each year.

A Métis-specific library, and an award-winning publishing department, round out the Institute's programs and services. The GDI Library is located in Regina and Prince Albert, and boasts one of the largest collections of Métis and First Nations materials. GDI's Publishing Department is recognized for its beautiful Métis-specific books and learning resources. Dozens of GDI-published books have won and been shortlisted for Saskatchewan Book Awards. Most recently, *Dancing in my Bones* by Wilfred Burton and Anne Patton captured the Award for Publishing, the First Peoples' Publishing Award, and the First Peoples' Writing Award.

Within the past year, GDI is pleased to have been awarded over \$5 million in federal economic stimulus funding. The funds are intended to strengthen partnerships

between GDIT&E and employers through training-to-employment programs linked to concrete job opportunities. Under the funding agreement, GDI is operating a large, province-wide health sector project and a smaller Strategic Partnership Development initiative.

The Strategic Partnership Development initiative is aimed at the proactive marketing of Métis training and employment partnerships, programs, services and clients to small and medium-sized employers across Saskatchewan.

To date, the Partnership initiative has assisted over 80 clients and developed nine employer partnerships. For more information visit the GDI website at [www.gdins.org](http://www.gdins.org).

This year, GDI celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special cultural conference and anniversary celebration scheduled for November 18-20, 2010 in Saskatoon. The first GDI Cultural Conference was hosted by the Institute in 1980, the year operations began. A highlight of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary includes the presentation of the *Order of Gabriel Dumont* medals to honour and recognize people who have made significant contributions to the Métis and distinguished themselves with outstanding service.

Over the past 10 years, GDI has grown by approximately 400 percent to become the most notable Métis educational institution in the world. The unique composition of basic education, technical training, university, publishing and human resource development programming has made the Institute a one of a kind institution.



# 30 Gabriel Dumont Institute 1980-2010

*Rooted in Culture,  
Seeding the Future*



# Caron Photo Collection

Article by Karon Shmon



*Norman (far right) and Marcien (next to him) with their mother, Justine, and cousins Mary, Mary Anne and Marie*

Louis Riel once said “We must cherish our inheritance. We must preserve our nationality for the youth of our future. The story should be written down to pass on.” This task has been taken to heart by Marcien Caron. Marcien has been collecting photographs all his life, but his interest became a passion after he retired and began to concentrate on family photographs. Over the last five years, he has collected images relating to his own heritage, which includes his grandparents, Jean Caron Sr. and Marguerite Dumas, who once resided in the Caron Home located on what is now known as Batoche National Historic Site. He can recall spending some of his childhood

in the home and going to mass as a boy, something he was able to repeat during his recent stay in Saskatchewan.

The image collection was graciously donated to the Gabriel Dumont Institute after it was on public display during Back to Batoche 2010. The collection will be posted on the *Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* in the near future and can be viewed at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca). Some of the family names in the collection besides Caron include Fidler, Letendre, Fayant, and Lepine. Our appreciation goes to Mr. Caron for sharing his collection so that many more can enjoy it. *Marsii, Marcien!*



*Visitors to Back to Batoche 2010 enjoy the Caron Photo Collection, Marcien Caron (right)*



*Marcien Caron and Antoine (Tony) Caron, sons of Pierre Caron and Justine Branconnier, grandsons of Jean Caron Sr. and Margurite Dumas, and Amable Branconnier and Marie Pilon. Photo taken Feb. 14, 2010 in Armstrong, BC on Tony's 90th birthday.*



# The New Nation

## La noovel naasyoon

### Advertising

*The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon*, is a publication of the Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), which promotes Métis history and culture, the Institute's activities and programs, and the larger Métis community in the province. Four issues a year will be published, one for each season: winter, spring, summer, and fall. Subscription rates to *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* will remain relatively low as we would like to see as many people as possible read it, and these rates are only meant to recover the costs associated with shipping the magazine. *The New Nation: la noovel naaysoon* will be available for free at the GDI Publishing Office, at cultural events in which GDI has a display, as well as online at the *Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

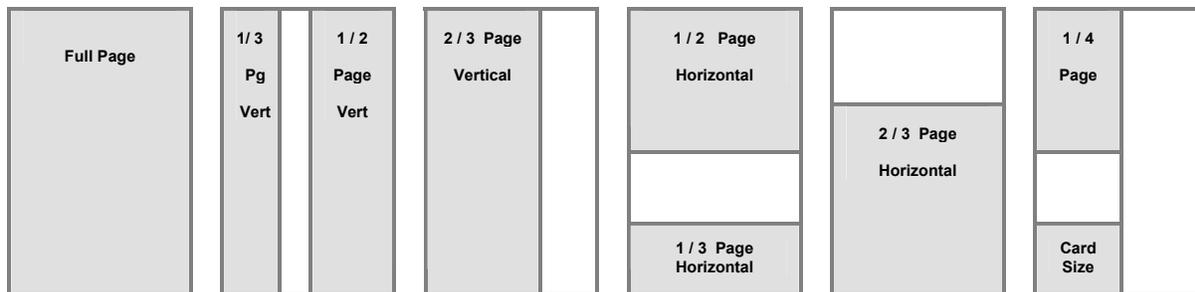
GDI's mission, which guides the Institute's work, provides a wide variety of topics to cover in the magazine.

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For inquiries regarding *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon* feel free to contact us by telephone 306.934.4941, by fax 306.244.0252 or by email ([david.morin@gdi.gdins.org](mailto:david.morin@gdi.gdins.org)).

The following rates apply to advertisements published in *The New Nation: La noovel naasyoon*. Advertisements appearing on the back cover are in full colour—these advertisements are subject to a 30% surcharge. All other advertisements are in black and white. There is a 20% surcharge for advertisements requested to be positioned on either the inside front or inside back covers. If you are a non-profit organization, please let us know when booking your advertisement to receive a 20% discount. GST must be added to these rates. Please make all cheques payable to the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

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½ Page Vertical	3 ⅝ inches	10 inches	\$900
⅓ Page Horizontal	7 ¼ inches	3 ¼ inches	\$650
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Card Size	3 ⅝ inches	2 ½ inches	\$150





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