

# Feathers In The Wind

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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



***No winter lasts forever;  
no spring skips it's turn.***

*~ Hal Borland*



### **On The Blog: The Life And Times of Catherine Annennontak**

In the year 1649, a little girl named Catherine Annennontak was born into an extremely dangerous and tumultuous world. She was born during the height of the Iroquois Wars, also known as the Beaver Wars, and it was a critical time for her people, the Huron. This series of conflicts involved the Haudenosaunee Confederacy (also known as the Iroquois Confederacy), as well as other Iroquois groups and French colonial forces and allies. This war shaped the course of many Native peoples, and has significant importance to the world Catherine lived in.

Conventional colonial history sets up the "Beaver Wars" as simply a war about the fur trade. With the use of guns by the Natives, provided by colonists in exchange for furs, the beaver populations dropped quickly and significantly. Since beaver pelts were essentially the currency of the new world for the Natives, this lack posed a very



would like to thank the OMFRC for their help in verifying my Aboriginal ancestry.

With guidance from some of your suggestions I am learning how to do some research on my own and am really enjoying it. My family has been at a impasse in finding these ancestors until now. We are all very happy with all the discoveries, and I look forward to future endeavors with the Painted Feather Woodland Metis community.

*Regards,*

*Carolyn Q. - Member OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis*



### **Saving the Nokota horse breed, a descendent from Sitting Bull's horses, from extinction (Video)**

On a lonesome farm in Linton, North Dakota something wonderful is taking place. Frank Kuntz and his brother, Leo have taken on the difficult task of trying to resurrect a wonderful horse breed that was on it's way to extinction if they had not stepped in. The two brothers are trying to preserve a piece of history that being the Nokota horse.

It is not only a story about bringing the Nokota horse back from the brink, but a story of the passion of the people who have put their entire lives into making certain the Nokota will be here for generations to come. The Nokota horse is believed by some to be descended from Sitting Bull's buffalo ponies. It was long forgotten it seemed until that fateful day when Frank and his brother discovered them in a National Park in North Dakota.

**[Read More And Watch Video Here](#)**

real problem for the future of the Iroquois Confederacy.

**[Read The Full Story Here](#)**



### **From residential school to one of Manitoba's 1st Indigenous nurses**

One day, four-year-old Ann Thomas Callahan was told to get ready. She put on a dress, and was proud to wear it. Her father packed a lunch and together they travelled to the File Hills Indian Residential School near Balcarres, Sask., by horse and wagon.

She was excited about the prospect of being able to see her sister, who was already at the school, but on the ride through the bush, she noticed that her father was unusually quiet.

When they got to the school, her father held her hand and walked her up to the veranda as other children were arriving at the school. When they reached the steps, he handed her off to her cousin and asked her to keep Ann calm.

As he walked away from her, that's when it sunk in - her father was leaving her there.

**[Read The Full Article Here](#)**

### **On The Blog: Blankets, Beads and Birch Bark; The "Quintessential" Eessentials of Early Metis History"**



*~Source: Article and photos by Roxann Barker, Photojournalist*

A lifelong "collector", Todd Fontaine, a man who is passionate in his quest for items that piece together a rich and vibrant history of the Metis, is overjoyed that his daughter, Carmella, shares in her father's passion; consequentially, he has inspired her to learn and value the treasure her father has amassed over past years. Carmella has a wide selection of original Hudsons Bay Blanket coats to choose from and proudly models a red HB Blanket coat, featuring a Metis sash and matching red leather trim, handmade by her father a few years ago. The beaded moccasins, mukluks, gauntlets, wampum belts and complete infant's doeskin winter snowsuit were all collector's finds by Fontaine, who searches through yard, rummage and antique sales, occasionally trading for items he has in plentitude within his current and growing collection.

**[Read The Full Article and See the Photos Here](#)**

**University of Victoria to offer world's first degree program in Indigenous law**

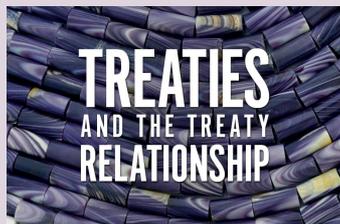


## A woman spent 14 years photographing our planet's oldest trees, and here are the results

Our planet is beautiful. In fact, most of us have absolutely no idea just how lucky we are to live on Earth. So far, our planet is the only one in the known universe capable of sustaining life as we know it. This makes Earth a special place, but there are many other things about Earth that make it a planet unlike any other.

When was the last time you took half an hour from your busy schedule to contemplate the world around you? Maybe just go to the beach, and watch the sunrise? Go to the lake and listen to nothingness?

[Read More Here](#)



## Educational Tool: Treaties and the Treaty Relationship

This year, Canada's History Society is publishing two magazines on Treaties and the Treaty Relationship. The first, under the banner of Canada's History, is aimed at adults and secondary-level students. It will launch in May. The second magazine is intended for younger audiences and will be published as the September issue of Kayak.

The Canada's History Treaties issue features guest editor Treaty Commissioner Loretta Rosslink opens in new window from the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. Contributing writers, from throughout Canada, will share their insights and knowledge on a wide variety of aspects of Treaty history and the Treaty Relationship.

[Click Here For More Information](#)

## How To Build A Root Cellar-



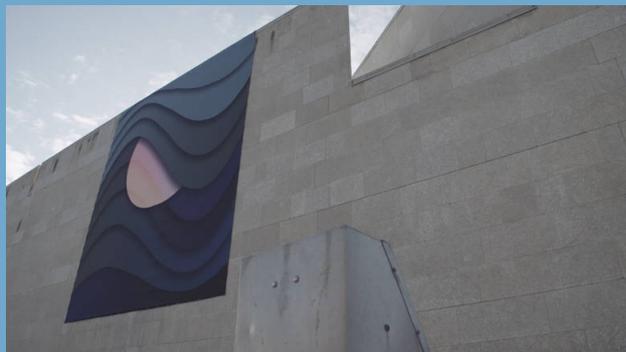
The Trudeau government has made it clear that it intends to make First Nations self-governance a reality - that it will establish a true, nation-to-nation relationship with Indigenous peoples.

It will not be easy, or quick, and it is not without controversy. Once out from under the authority of the Indian Act, and under their own legal jurisdiction, how will First Nations choose to govern themselves? What principles and processes - and lines of authority and accountability- will organize these societies?

The answers to these questions do not lie only in Canada's legal system.

Before colonization, Indigenous communities had legal orders of their own. The project of rediscovering and rebuilding those systems is already underway.

[Read The Full Story](#)



Kenneth Lavalée's "Creation Story" mural on the wall of the Winnipeg Art Gallery. (CBC Arts)

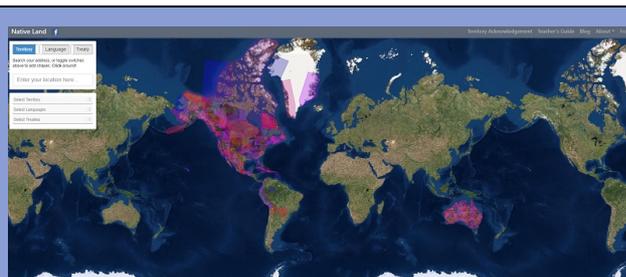
## What do Indigenous mythologies and Biblical creation stories have in common?

Growing up in Winnipeg, Kenneth Lavalée would admire the city's murals from the bus window and dream of the day his artwork would be on public display.

Now, Lavalée's work is the first thing you see when you drive by the Winnipeg Art Gallery. His piece, Creation Story, is a large 35x41' banner that hangs across the exterior of the WAG. It was specially commissioned for the Insurgence/Resurgence exhibit running until April 22, 2018.

"My work responds to the place where it's going to show," says Lavalée. In Winnipeg, Creation Story counters the stone exterior of the gallery with blue waves depicting the deluge of the "Great Flood" mythology found in Indigenous, ancient Greek and Biblical texts.

[Read The Full Story Here](#)



## Nativeland.ca

This fantastic resource site is fully interactive and allows you to search for different Native groups by criteria such as language and treaties, and have them show that group's territory on the map. There's a section for teachers with a guide available, as well as a wonderful blog. We encourage everyone to check it out!



### Tutorial

It's spring, but it's never too early to think of those projects that will help make the most of the summer crops. This great tutorial on a DIY Root Cellar might just make it's way on your list!

[See The Tutorial](#)



### Indigenous woman wins 50 kilometer race wearing a skirt and sandals

Lorena ran "without a hydration vest, without running shoes, without Lycra and compression socks, without any of those gadgets used by the runners of today."

María Lorena Ramírez, considered one of the fastest long-distance runners from the Rarámuri indigenous community in Chihuahua, won the females' 50-kilometer category of the Ultra Trail Cerro Rojo, in which 500 other runners from 12 countries participated.

But unlike her fellow contestants, Lorena completed the course with neither sports equipment nor professional preparation. For clothing she wore a skirt, hat and kerchief. For shoes, a pair of basic sandals with soles made from recycled tire rubber.

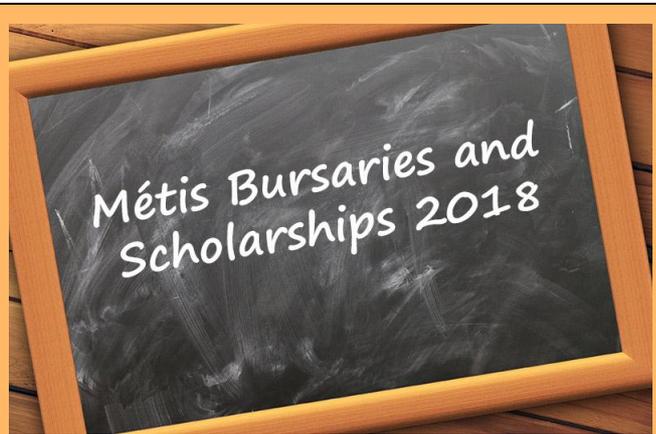
[Read Full Story Here](#)

### Ontario Métis Family Records Center



We're on the web!  
See us at:

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



### 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 Full List](#)



### For Indigenous people, 'Indian Horse' is much more than a movie

Edna Manitowabi was raised on Manitoulin Island's Wikwemikong reserve in northern Ontario as the youngest of eight siblings-and in 1947, at the age of six, she was torn from her family and sent to a Catholic residential school. "All of us were taken," she says today. "I was the last. When I saw the look of horror on my mum's face when she put me on the bus, I wondered what was going on. Nobody told me. Nothing was explained. But that look on her face was imprinted on my psyche."

Seven decades later, Manitowabi's childhood trauma has come flooding back to her as she makes her acting debut in the movie Indian Horse, playing a grandmother in the 1950s who escapes with her family to an ancestral lake, desperate to protect her grandchildren from being abducted to a residential school. For an especially painful scene, the film's director asked her to wail. "I thought, 'how am I going to do that?'" Manitowabi recalls, on the phone from her home on Manitoulin Island. "What I did is I remembered my mother's look and cry as she put me on the bus. I used that memory. I wasn't acting. I was reaching into the memories that are stuck in the body." As she wailed in take after take, she recalls, "It was cathartic, very emotional. I shook for two days afterwards."

[Read The Full Article](#)

## 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

## IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?



**Honour your heritage, your family history is more than names on a pedigree chart, it's your legacy.**



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

**Call 1-613-332-4789 to renew or join today!**



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