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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.

Congratulations Grads!

It's off to High School for this young community member. Congratulations Skylar on completing middle school



Every seed is awakened and so is all animal life. It is through this mysterious power that we too have our being and we therefore yield to our animal neighbors the same rights as ourselves, to inhabit this land.

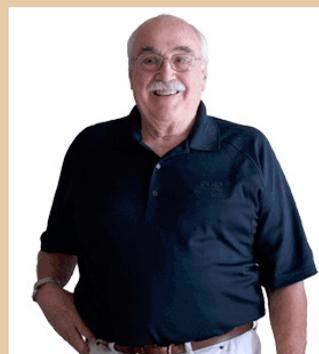
~ Sitting Bull

This Month's Focus on our Community

This month we are putting special focus on the incredible people who make up our Painted Feather Woodland Metis community. We hope you enjoy getting to know them. If you would like to submit an article about yourself, or let us know about someone else in our community who deserves to be celebrated, please drop us an email at omfrinfo@gmail.com

A Conversation with Metis Sculptor Ernie Fauvelle

Talking to Ernie on the phone, it's difficult to imagine him as an 87 year old man. His jovial conversation and his ready laugh make him sound much younger, and it's only in the many moments where he shares his tidbits of wisdom does the conversation really allude to his age. His humour and humility is a breath of fresh air.



Sculptor Ernie Fauvelle



and continuing your path learning Ojibwe! This was Skylars first year doing Ojibwe studies, and she liked it so much she's continuing it as a high school elective. Keep up the good work, Skylar, and congratulations to all of our youth graduating this year!



Thomas Godchere was from Long Lake 58 First Nation in northwestern Ontario. He was killed on April 9, 1917. (CBC)

Finding Pte. Thomas Godchere: An Anishinaabe family's journey to honour a fallen soldier

During the First World War, many Indigenous men from communities across Canada were quick to leave their reserves and join the battles in Europe.

Despite fighting for Canada, many of these soldiers returned home to unequal treatment, including being denied benefits.

Many others never made it home at all, and often, their families were not able to travel overseas to see where their loved ones were laid to rest.

Pte. Thomas Godchere was an Anishinaabe soldier who fought and died at Vimy Ridge - one of the iconic battles of the First World War, and the one often said to have defined Canada as a nation - where he is buried today.

[Read Full Article Here](#)

VIDEO: 'He's a natural': Dancing toddler steals the show at Camrose powwow

Ernie is now a sculptor, but throughout his life he's been and done an amazing variety of things. Growing up in Haileybury as a young man, he experimented with a lot of different types of work. He started work at 12 years old, taking advantage of the ready work of a mining community, he worked in mines and bush camps. At 16 he joined the Forestry Service. He worked at a print company. He was a radio announcer for a year. He worked for 7 years as a window dresser, travelling around Ontario setting up window displays for all different types of big box stores. At the time, window displays were the most compelling marketing and advertising tools used by department stores. "I was really good at it", he says confidently, and it's obvious the way he speaks of it that he enjoyed the work as well. It took him from Ottawa to Toronto to Sudbury and North Bay. While he never actually went to school for any of these jobs, it's fairly obvious that Ernie never does anything halfway, and would have excelled at anything he put his mind to.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

Wikwemikong First Nation and tech firm launch new Anishinaabemowin app



A new program seeks to develop an online community and resources to help in revitalizing Indigenous languages.

Challenge4Change is an initiative between Wikwemikong First Nation and Synergiq Solutions that has developed and launched a free app that teaches users common Anishinaabemowin words and phrases.

"The language of the territory is Anishinaabemowin and I think that's an important piece that requires recognition in this day of reconciliation," said Duke Peltier, Chief of Wikwemikong.

"The language of this land should be at the very least recognized and perhaps even used in some cases."

[Read More Here](#)



Community Spotlight: William Buchholtz (Pukinaage Makwa - Conquering Bear)

William Buchholtz (Allison), a long-time resident of the Chicago area, has been playing and recording music of many genres for over 40 years. Following careers in both performance and in retail music, Bill now performs Native American flute and piano, in programming aimed at both children and adults of all communities. An adoptee, his heritage is Canadian Algonkin (Algonquin, as confirmed by the Ontario Family Resource Center), Canadian-French, and Scandinavian. He performs under the name William Buchholtz Allison, Allison being the name of his paternal birth family.

As a boy, he studied the piano and organ, and played organ in bands as a young man. As an adult, he was gifted a Native American flute by a Lakota Sioux elder who "rescued it," in her words, from a pawn shop. Bill accepted the gift but said, "I can't play this." She smiled and said, "Yes you can." From that gift, he has been sent to countless organizations and dignitaries to share



A video of a pint-sized powwow dancer has gone viral after the two year old stole the show on National Indigenous Day in Camrose.

Albert (A.J.) Apsassin may just be a toddler, but he didn't hesitate to jump in on a dance in front of 3,000 people on June 21.

Wearing jingle bells, feathers and fringe on top of his Pampers, he stomped and hopped his way through the chicken dance, keeping to the beat of the drum with the other male dancers.

His mother, Martina Desjarlais, posted a video of the dance on Facebook. It has over 800,000 views. She said she has received nothing but positive comments and is not entirely surprised at how her son captured everyone's attention.

"He's a natural. He listens to the songs well and knows what to do," she said.

[Watch Video Here](#)



How to Build a Straw Bale Garden

When I moved into my new Philadelphia row house, I was determined to grow the vegetable garden that had eluded me all those years in a cramped Manhattan apartment. But reality struck with the first thrust of my shovel: my soil - a cocktail of concrete shards and construction debris mixed with a bit of sand and dirt - was useless.

Faced with the expense (OK, and effort) of building raised beds, I decided instead to go cheap and easy: a straw bale garden. So I called up Joel Karsten, author of *Straw Bale Gardens*, and lead authority on all things straw.

Karsten argues that straw is an ideal "container" for growing vegetables. "The hollow tubes are designed by Mother Nature to suck up and hold moisture," he told me. And as the insides of the bales decompose, they provide a rich medium for vegetable growth.

[Read More Here](#)

his music.

[Read More Here](#)



Polaris prize nominee uses original recordings of ancestors singing for new album

An Indigenous opera singer is bringing back his community's traditions and songs, locked away in archives for more than a century, by singing duets with his ancestors .

New Brunswick singer Jeremy Dutcher has had his album *Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa* long listed for a Polaris Prize - a music award annually given to the best full-length Canadian album based on artistic merit.

Wednesday will see Dutcher perform music from the album at Vancouver's Queer Arts Festival.

"It's all been a lot," said Dutcher, speaking to the Polaris nomination and the album's success.

Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa - translated as "Songs of the River People" - is sung entirely in Wolastoqey, a language fewer than 100 people speak.

[Read More And Listen to Audio Here](#)



Community Spotlight: Monica Alexander

Gwe! Greetings!

My name is Monica Alexander. I was born in Waterville, Me, and brought up in Western Massachusetts where I reside with my husband of 34 years and one very spoiled dog. I am a self-taught graphic artist and craftsperson; my mediums are pencil, acrylics,

beads, leather, cloth, moose hair and porcupine quills. I have sold my work at various pow-wows in New England for the past 30 years; I have exhibited at various art shows in both Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and at the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, CT, and at the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum in Warner, NH.

I specialize in Northeastern Woodland art in the way of graphics, beaded items, bags, and quilled jewelry. But my journey with the latter medium really began just a few years ago, due to the encouragement of my very dear friend and fellow artisan, Rhonda Besaw. One day, Rhonda found a vintage quilled and birch bark box. "See if you can restore this," Rhonda said. Now my experience with porcupine quills was limited to earrings, chokers and a few, very simple items, but nothing in comparison to what my friend was presenting to me now.

[Read More of Monica's Story Here](#)

The Festival of Saint John and St John's Wort



Music of the Métis

Métis music reflects their mixed ancestry and therefore comprises an amalgam of music styles, languages, and socio-cultural elements.

Indigenous and French Influences
A good example is the following song in Plains Cree/English and French sung by Mme Alphonse Carrière of Winnipeg in 1971, when she was 63. Her family, originally from Manitoba's Red River colony, moved to North Dakota in 1872-3 (possibly as a result of the 1870 resistance) and later returned to Manitoba 'bringing' the song with them.

[Learn More Here](#)



The amazing moment a bird of prey does a loop-the-loop (Photos)

The bald eagle turned over in mid-flight making it look like he is falling out of the sky.

But he's actually flipped himself upside down 200ft above the ground in a mid-air stunt that legendary daredevil Evel Knievel would have been proud of.

Eagles can flip as part of a mating ritual but also use it to make a sudden dive down once they spot food lurking beneath the surface of water.

[See More Here](#)

Ontario Métis Family Records Center



(Hypericum Perforatum)

*~ Written and Submitted by: Dr Sandy Musclow, Naturopathic Physician,
Member of the OMFRC - Painted Feather Woodland Metis community*

Summer is the time of year where we yearn for sunshine, long days, warmth and to be in nature. While this time is not the hottest of the year (that time will come in August), this is the time of maximum light, the Summer Solstice, on June 21st. The shortest night of the year is lit up by St John's fires, a day historically celebrating the birth of John the Baptist, three days after the longest day of the year, on June 24th. This is a strong tradition in French Canadian culture, a provincial public holiday in Quebec. There is a plant that opens its bright, stary flowers at this time, St John's Wort (Hypericum Perforatum).

If you have been walking in the forest or along roadsides, you will notice erect stems that branch out and lead to many yellow flowers of 5 petals. If you bend down and look a little closer you will see many stamens, which will burst out of the flower at you, perhaps giving the impression of little 'earthly suns'. When holding the plant up toward the sun, you will notice small dots on the leaves that are transparent when held up to the light, and when rubbing the flowers between your fingers, you will notice a red staining.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)



The Perils of DNA Testing 'A dog DNA debacle'

A suspected Indian status scam that told a man he shared genetic ancestry with a dog should serve as a reminder of the perils of DNA testing for Indigenous ancestry, says an Edmonton researcher.

Kim TallBear, the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience and Environment, said she has long been wary of DNA testing for Indigenous heritage.

DNA testing may be the future of genealogy, but it should not define a person's Indigenous identity, the University of Alberta scholar said Thursday in an interview on CBC Radio's Edmonton AM.

People excited to learn about their roots won't find all the answers they're looking for inside a test tube, TallBear cautioned.

"I don't want to help them make money doing what I think is stupid science," said the author of Native American DNA: Tribal Belonging and the False Promise of Genetic Science.

"It's not that it's bad science but I don't think it should inform how we identify as Native people."

**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

Viaguard's DNA testing determined Snoopy has 20 per cent Indigenous ancestry - 12 per cent Abenaki and eight per cent Mohawk. (Louis Côté)

The latest controversy around DNA testing follows a CBC News investigation out of Quebec.

[Read The Full Article Here](#)

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

**Painted Feather
Woodland Métis
Community**

Certificate of Aboriginal Status
Rebecca Brant
00984747
Membership Number
D.O.B. Mar. 4, 2004 Expiry June 27, 2025
The person identified in this card is an Aboriginal person as per the meaning of the Canada Constitution Act (1982) and the membership provisions of the Ontario Métis Family Records Center.

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

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