

Remembrance Day
Special Edition

November 2009



MNBC VETERANS COMMITTEE

Veterans' Messenger

November 11th, 2009 Commemorative



Chairman's Message

It is with great pleasure that I wish to inform the Membership that we have seven members of the Veteran's Committee going to Juno beach for the unveiling of the Métis Red River Cart and November 11th Commemorative Services.

Two Métis Veteran Members funding for the trip was secured through the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Federal Interlocutor for the Métis. This funding also included the commissioning of the Red River Cart & historic memorabilia to be built and transported along with the Curators and Artists involved for the unveiling.

The President of MNBC donated \$100.00 at the 2009 AGM in Penticton and challenged anyone else who felt they could afford it, to do the same. When the tears had cleared the Métis people had opened their hearts to the tune of almost \$8000.00 by the end of the AGM.

In addition to that, Métis Nation British Columbia announced that they would match any contribution made to the Veteran's Committee for the trip to Juno Beach.

The monies donated are enough to pay most of the expenses for six Métis Veteran's and our MNBC Veterans Minister to attend the Unveiling Ceremony at Juno Beach. Traveling along with our Métis Veterans will be, the wife, Métis Veteran son and daughter-in-law of one of the sponsored Métis Veteran's.

It is regretful that the Métis Veteran's who were involved in the war time event at Juno Beach, such as Region 5 Representative, Stan Dotchain are not able to make the journey.

We have asked those going to get as much in the way of pictures of the events and write of their experiences, so that their experience at Juno Beach can be shared with our World War II Métis Veteran Members and Métis Citizens of British Columbia.



Photographed by:
Richard E. Klyne ,
Métis Veteran, Ex
RCAF Regular, and
Royal Canadian
Engineers reserve and
a Director of Nova
Métis Heritage
Association

This monument is located at the South East corner of the CPR station in Vancouver, BC. This monument commemorates the Canadian soldiers of wartimes past.

The monument depicts an angel taking a fallen soldier to heaven.

MNBC Métis Veterans Committee currently has a total membership of seventy persons, both Métis Veterans and associate members.

Among our membership we have Métis veterans with family military associations dating back to the days before Canadian Confederation.

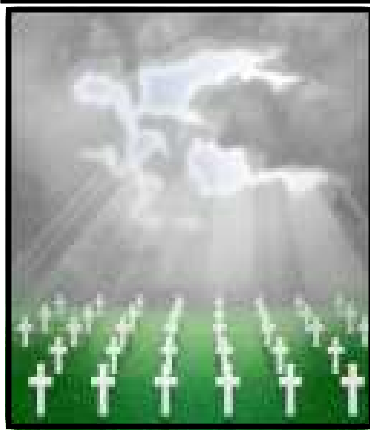


Our Women of Service.....

BARBARA HULME, METIS VETERAN, MNBC VETERANS COMMITTEE WOMENS REP.



My name is Barbara Hulme (nee Mitchell) and I was born and raised in Selkirk Manitoba. My father had been a member of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles during WWII and his sister, my aunt had been a member of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp as a nurse during the war and for a period after the war. After the War, my Dad was hospitalized on more than one occasion at Deer Lodge Veteran's Hospital in Winnipeg and I, with my Mum and brother, were regular visitors. I admired my Aunt and the nurses who cared for my Dad and when I graduated from high school I decided to become a nurse. I graduated from the Victoria General Hospital School of Nursing in Winnipeg and became a staff nurse at Deer Lodge Hospital. While in nurses training I met a number of the Air Crew Training cadets from CFB Winnipeg and they made me think that a career in the military might be something I would like. I liked the idea of living in different places and learning new skills offered by the military. I joined the military (Air Force) about 13 months after graduation from nursing. I have been posted to CFB Shilo MB, CFB Chatham NB, CFB London On, CFB Borden On, National Defence Medical Centre Ottawa On, CFB Petawawa ON and CFH Esquimalt BC. My career was interesting and varied as I had hoped and I retired after 27 years with the rank of Major. My Husband, brother and father in law also had full military careers. My husband and I have two children and two grandchildren.



SAMANTHA SANSREGRET, METIS VETERAN



"I was born in Calgary and completed Registered Nurse training in Edmonton in 1968. One of my hobbies was sky diving and I dreamed of doing para-rescue work. I served in the Canadian Armed Forces, Air Command, as a Nursing Officer from 1970 to 1974. During that time I was posted in Borden, Ont; Halifax (Stadacona); and Holberg BC. The year that I enrolled, the military decided not to use nurses for the para-rescue team but another reason that I enrolled was a desire to travel and I did get to see both the east and west coasts.

I am the proud mother of 26 year old Michael and I went back to school in 1998, graduating with a degree in Indigenous Social Work from UVIC in 2003. I currently work for Aboriginal Health, VIHA, as an Aboriginal Women's Wellness Coordinator. I have also been part of the Elder's Voices at UVIC for the past year and Elder in Residence every second Friday starting last September. I am so very happy to be able to support our youth. "

Continued on page 4....

TANYA DAVOREN (nee: Sterling) METIS VETERAN AND MNBC DIRECTOR OF HEALTH



I joined the British Columbia Dragoons Armored Reserves, in September of 1990 at the age of 17, my mother signed for me. I had many friends (including my future husband Rob) already serving in the Military. I finished my General Military Training in my last year of high school, and went on to take my: Basic Military Training (Armored), FMC (Forced Mobile Command) Driver Wheeled Course and AVGP (Armored Vehicle

General Purpose) Cougar Driver Course. I trained in Wainwright Alberta, Calgary Alberta, Yakima Washington, Chilliwack BC, and of course all over the Okanagan on various exercises.

I had so many amazing experiences in the Army, and have many memories and gained lifetime friends, two of which are serving in Afghanistan today. I was not in the typical “female” oriented field; I was the first female in Western Canada to be AVGP trained. The British Columbia Dragoons' insignia is “Quansem Ilep” (Always First). I was a crewman (definitely preferred that over “person”). I drove a 6 wheeled Armored Vehicle called a Cougar, it was a 10.7 ton, 6 wheeled vehicle with a Scorpion tank turret with a 76mm gun. The Cougar was fully amphibious with marine drive and propellers. Driving hatches down was always the best. I liken it to driving a “boat” as we often called it. The ride for the driver, whether forging through rivers or performing exercises on land was always smooth...the Gunner and Crew Commander in the turret, not so much, and occasionally someone would be thrown “free”.

Some of my best memories of my seven years of service were related to that vehicle, even when it was stuck to the trim vane in mud...and it takes a lot of mud to bog down a 10.7 ton six wheeled vehicle...Wainwright with it's “wait ten minutes if you don't like the weather because it will change” always provided us with enough mud. Grab your shovels troop, “we're digging out”.



When asked to write this article I didn't know what to specifically write...so here goes. What did I learn in the

service? I learned:

-after spending over two weeks in the field with your Squadron, you make friends for life, even if they don't really like you, you know they've got your back, and everyone smells the same eventually (phew!)

-There are really big leeches in the Purple Ford in the summer.

-IMP's (Individual Meal Package) Do not pick the plain omelet (aka lung in a bag).

-Sentry duty will make you hear things at 4:30am, and it's usually enemy forces.

-Iltis's (Jeeps) can fly if you hit a log at the right angle.

-Firing a C-6 (7.62mm belt fed machine gun) from the hip is the coolest thing ever!

-CS / tear gas huts, I can eat a lot of Smarties before masking up! I win J

-Watching “trace” at night is better than fireworks.

-Timeliness is next to Godliness!

-Always get the new recruits to ring the “bell”

-No matter how late you stay up the night before you better be dressed and ready to go at a moment's notice or do the “hat-less” dance.

-Attention to detail...first and foremost detail.

-Be task oriented.

-No fist-a-cuffing or donny-brooking!

A Veteran - whether active duty, retired or reserve - is someone who at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Country of Canada', for an amount of 'up to and including my life.' - Anonymous

My Uncle Bob Trumbley served with the BCD's in the 60's, my husband Rob served for 11 years and now my nephew Jordan Sweeney joined BCD's A Squadron in September. We are a proud military family and I am so truly honored to go to Juno Beach with the other Métis Veterans.

I will be taking my Grandfather's cap badge (South Saskatchewan Regiment) with me to France to honor him this Remembrance Day.



C.R. “Smokey” Trumbley
December 30, 1922 – September 23, 2008.

Métis Veteran Visits Our Fallen in Korea.....

By: Metis Veteran,
Gerry Rempel
KootenayRegion

This story was submitted to us following Métis Veteran Gerry Rempels visit to the UN Memorial Park in Busan (Pusan) Korea

A brief on the Wreath Laying at Busan (Pusan) South Korea.

I had originally arranged to conduct the ceremony on the Friday 21 Aug 09 as we had arrived in Busan the night before. Our luggage, however, did not arrive until Saturday, so I changed the appointment with Mr. Leo Demay, Director of International Affairs for the UN Memorial Cemetery, to Monday 24 Aug 09. The large wreath, which had been donated by Castlegar-Robson Branch 170 Royal Canadian Legion, arrived broken into six different pieces in the suitcase, so had to spend one afternoon taking it apart and rebuilding it for the ceremony.

My wife Carolyn, daughter Jennifer and I arrived at the Cemetery in the afternoon of the 24th and were met at the gate by Leo. He was a very gracious host and we were pleased he joined us in the ceremony. The Cemetery is very well maintained and is very beautiful. We proceeded to the Memorial to Canadians where the ceremony was to take place. I began with a smudging using tobacco and my abalone shell. Due to international regulations I was not able to bring any cedar, sage, sweetgrass or tobacco into the country, so had to purchase the tobacco there. I felt also, tobacco would be fitting as it represents the east and of course, with the ceremony in a cemetery, the smoke would pass our thoughts on. Also, due to international laws, was unable to bring an eagle feather as well. I laid the wreath at the foot of the Memorial, held a two minute silence, recited the Act of Remembrance and our daughter read "In Flanders Fields" and the poem "Korea", written by Pte. O'Connor who was killed in action. I then said a prayer for all the Canadians interred there and an Aboriginal Prayer for all our brothers.

Also, at Art Lefever's request, we visited his cousin Rfn Norm Ferland and his Sgt. Gerald Koch who are both buried there. We also visited Leo Demay's father who was also killed in action.

I then returned the tobacco to the land.

Leo spent another 2 hours with us taking us to the Wall of Remembrance. Here, on large black granite slabs, in a semi circle around a pond with 11 fountains depicting the 11 countries involved in the Korean War, are inscribed the names of every military person killed.

It is a true honour to perform this ceremony on behalf of our Métis Veterans and I sincerely hope that what I was able to do is acceptable. I'm truly thankful.

A little information about myself..... my occupation is that of Fire Chief for the City of Castlegar. I am also a member of the Canadian Forces Reserve with the rank of Captain and am in the position of Commanding Officer of 561 "Osprey" Squadron Royal Canadian Air Cadets in Nelson. In my spare time, I also hold the position of Chairperson of the Branch Executive committee for the Trail/ Kootenay Branch of St. John Ambulance.

Gerry Rempel CD, CCFI-C

Fire Chief, City of Castlegar



UN Memorial Cemetery Busan, Korea



Pre-Ceremony Smudge

Gerry Remel and Leo Demay



Two minutes of Silence at the Canadian Memorial

Continued on page 6..



Wreath at Canadian Memorial



KOREA

There is blood on the hills of Korea
 The blood of the brave and the true
 Where the 25th Brigade battled together
 Under the banner of the Red White and
 Blue



Offering of Tobacco



Canadian Memorial at UN Memorial Park Cemetery, Busan, Korea

As they marched over the hills of Korea
 To the hills where the enemy lay
 They remembered the Brigadier's order:
 These hills must be taken today
 Forward they marched into battle
 With faces unsmiling and stern
 They knew as they charged the hillside
 There were some that would never return
 Some thought of their wives and mothers
 Some thought of their sweethearts so fair
 And some as they plodded and stumbled
 Were reverently whispering a prayer
 There is blood on the hills of Korea
 It's the gift of the freedom they love
 May their names live in glory forever
 And their souls rest in Heaven above.



Gerry at Canadian Veteran Graveside

*By Private Pat O'Connor
 Royal Canadian Regiment.
 Written 29 May, 1951
 Killed in Action 30 May, 1951 .*



Laying the Wreath at the Canadian Memo-



Tobacco Returned to the Soil

Introducing our New Vice Chairman.....

Story submitted by Wayne Price



Edmund Wayne Price was born in Prince Albert Saskatchewan in 1941, the third youngest child of ten siblings fathered by Métis Veteran Sgt. William Joseph Edward Price of the Royal Canadian

In the year 1947 we moved to Armistice Alberta, to a farm six miles North West of Elk Point.

In 1956 the Price family moved to Port Alberni British Columbia, there I met Victoria Price (nee Lajeunesse, we were married in 1961 and had four sons.

I joined the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on January 29 1976 and was stationed in E Division all my career.

Engineers Army Unit.

Wayne's mother was Victoria Price (nee Collins) the daughter of Alexander Collins a Cree Native American and Marguerite Deschamps a Cree lady from Pigeon Lake Alberta.

The Price family moved from Prince Albert Saskatchewan to Elk Point Alberta, when William Joseph (Joe) Price disembarked for England in 1941.

We moved into a two room house, about five miles north of Elk Point near the Ki hewin Lake. The family stayed there until Joe Price returned from the War, in 1945.



Gordon McGregor Métis Veteran and MNBC Veterans Committee Treasurer



**GORDON
RCAF 1963**

I led a boring life in the RCAF. I spent 6 years in the RCAF(Aux) prior going to the Regular force for 5yrs. All my time was spent at radar sites during the cold war. This meant spending hours looking for Russian bombers which never materialized, thank god. After leaving the RCAF I was lucky to get on with BC Tel as a repairman due to my technical background with the RCAF. Over the years I have been very active in both my residential and my Métis community. I guess I can sum it up with the following

**I am Scottish
I am Cree
I am Canadian
I am Métis.**



**GORDON
1967
BC TEL
REPAIRMAN**



RADAR STATION



GORDON 1977 BC TEL

Métis Veteran and MNBC Veterans Sgt. At Arms

Story submitted by Jim Louttit



Sgt. At Arms

Jim Louttit was born in Hearst, Ontario on Oct. 25, 1934. The first part of his life was spent on the trap line in the wilderness near the small northern town of Oba, Ontario. It was during this time that the love of the wilderness was born in Jim. Then came 1939 and the World War II and family disruptions caused by his father being in the Canadian Army. Following the war the family settle in Dryden, Ontario. A happy family life was not to be and Jim and his sibling became wards of the Children Aid Society of Ontario.

After high school he had a short stretch in the Canadian Army (10 years) but the pull of the bush was too strong and Jim returned to the bush. Jim began to travel the length and breath of Canada finding employment in the forest industry from Newfoundland, the Yukon to Vancouver Island.

Traveling by canoe became his passion as well as prospecting. For a few years Jim spent time in the back country of the Yukon. In 1968 Jim landed on Vancouver Island working in the mining industry. That was not too last long and Jim returned to the forest industry on Vancouver Island. Health issues forced Jim to leave the forest industry as he recovered from a stroke. Jim spent a year recovering in the placer (free gold) gold country of Likely B.C. At the tender age of 53 he then returned to school, attending North Island College, Courtenay and Malaspina College in Nanaimo. After two years Jim graduated with his diploma as a Forest Technologist. Once again Jim was back in his beloved bush or as he called it his office

Through the Yellowknife branch of the Louttit clan Jim discovered his Métis roots. At the urging of his wife, Jim investigated his families genealogy. It became clear why the " Call of the Wild " was always so strong in his life. For many years the nickname of " White Indian " had been used to describe his preference for the forest and streams of this great country. Jim is now a proud member of the Métis Nation of British Columbia. He has recently been elected a director of the MIK'SIW Métis Association of Courtenay.

Jim retired from Forestry Engineering in 2000 at the age of 66 and became actively involved in Minor Forest Products namely the production of shake and shingle blocks.

Organizing, supervising and general being father confessor to production crew took its' toll and Jim finally hung up the chalk boots in 2006.

A new career began in 2003 with the arrival of Emily Dawn age 2 days. He became a full time father and nurse maid. Along with his wife of 35 years, Bev, they undertook the raising of their daughter's second child. At age 3 Emily enrolled at Comox Valley Aboriginal Head Start 2 year program. This brought Jim into contact with the Aboriginal Education and a new passion was born. Along with this new passion came more education about educational system and the Ministry's delivery of educational programs for Aboriginal children. Jim

now volunteers to serve on educational committees, is guest speak at local schools and is a member of the Aboriginal Educational Council as a Parent Representative K-12

For the past 8 years Jim has resided in Courtenay with his wife Bev, daughter (granddaughter) Emily, Bev's mom, Jenny, and at last count four dogs and four cats.



Discussing wilderness survival with students

Piece of Advice

Use every opportunity too acquire as much knowledge as possible, it does not weigh anything, can always be used, you become better equipped to deal with life situation.

It may sound strange but my role model would be Jesus Christ. As a man Jesus dealt with all adversity in life, was able to do good and had all the qualities I admire in a person.

Becoming a Christian. This life changing moment has lead to a life of faith, hope and love. As well as a life time of study and learning. Living a Christian life has made me a better person.

Interest

Sharing as much of my knowledge and experience as I can, promoting the Métis culture and history. learning all I can about the forest environment.

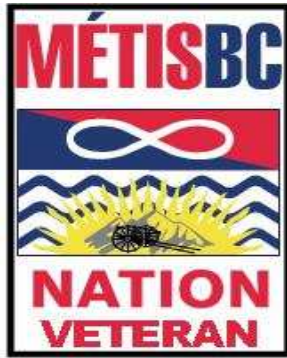
Hobbies

Golf, Art (drawing and painting), wilderness travel and living. Raising and caring for domestic pets.



The Boots Say It All





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E-mail: someone@example.com

MNBC-VC Secretary
2833 Creighton Valley Rd.,
Cherryville, BC V0E2G3

Your business tag line here.

www.mnbc.ca/veterans

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
In Flanders fields.

By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872-1918)

Canadian Army
(He served in both the South African War and
the First World War)

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