



Métis canoe trek passes through

By Nicholas Donaldson
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Unfortunately for the Métis Nation of Ontario's 2017 canoe expedition team, the weather washed out its planned ceremonial entrance to Fort Frances last Wednesday.

Heavy rain prevented the dozen Métis youth from paddling their large, voyageur-style canoe into Point Park wearing their traditional Métis garb.

Instead, the paddlers made their introductions in the dry banquet room at La Place Rendez-Vous here.

Their journey began in Ottawa on May 23 and will end with a visit to Kenora this Friday—just in time to attend the MNO's 2017 Annual General Assembly on Aug. 19-21.

It's a roughly 2,200-km trip lasting 86 days in total as they follow the historic fur trade routes of their Métis ancestors, as well as stop in several communities to deliver presentations and speak about their Métis heritage.

The trip is held every few years, with the last one taking place in 2014.

"Lots of ups and downs so far," paddler Will McLean told the Times. "But on the whole, it's been cool to step into our ancestors' shoes for this long and live the life of a voyageur."

"Biggest challenge has been being away from home and people," he added.

McLean also lamented having to deal with bad weather and sleeping outside every night away from the comforts of a bed.

But he also knows that once the journey is complete, he's going to feel the benefits of this



Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne looked over some traditional Métis items during the arrival of the 2017 Métis Nation of Ontario Canoe Expedition held upstairs at La Place Rendez-Vous here last Wednesday. The premier and her spouse, Jane Rounthwaite, met up with the expedition in Fort Frances to begin their four-day participation in the journey.

—Nicholas Donaldson photo

experience.

"Thinking and living like your ancestors did, learning from that and gaining perspective, is amazing," McLean enthused.

"Also being able to connect with Métis communities across Ontario, and coming into con-

tact with more Métis youth that are like-minded, is big," he added.

McLean admitted he didn't know much before starting the trip, but now he's learned a lot about the Métis culture, dancing, art, games, and the lifestyle of a voyageur.

This also is a unique experience for McLean, who grew up in Toronto.

"I've been out in the bush a little bit but I've never done anything like this at all," he said.

"I'm obviously excited to get back to my life, but also excited to remember what I've done

here and keep the teachings as I move forward."

Couchiching Chief Brian Perreault welcomed the paddlers on behalf of the local First Nations while Sunset Country Métis president Clint Calder led a prayer for those on hand.

Please see "Canoe," A7



INSIDE



Chiropractor returns home

There is a new name printed beneath Dr. Jeremy McGuire's on the door of the Fort Frances Chiropractic Centre—and it's one people here already should be familiar with.

Dr. Cody Caul has become the newest addition to the office.

See story on A2



4-H member loves cattle

Katie Hay is a bit of an oddity in the local 4-H beef clubs.

Although in her seventh year of 4-H, Hay never has taken a market steer to the Emo Fall Fair—only heifers.

See story on B2



An evening with legends

It was an evening to both celebrate the past and inspire future generations to reach for greatness themselves at the second induction ceremonies for the Fort Frances Sports Hall of Fame.

See story on C1

Walk puts spotlight on river's importance

By Nicholas Donaldson
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Monday was the first day of the Youth and Elder Water Walk—a two-day journey along the Rainy River by local First Nations' members to recognize the importance of the water and the responsibility to take care of it.

The day began with an opening ceremony at the Seven Oaks area of Point Park as participants listened to a talk by elder Willy Yerxa about the importance of the river.

Traditional songs were sung and tobacco was offered to the water before two grandmothers gathered some of the river water in two small copper pails.

The pails then were carried along the river as the walkers set off in small groups, taking their way to Rainy River First Nations for the first day.

Laura Horton, who was asked to co-ordinate the walk on behalf of Fort Frances Tribal Area Health Services, made it very clear this was not a protest or demonstration.

"Protest is such an angry word and so is demonstration—although it is a demonstration of love," she explained.

"That's really what this is."

Horton noted water walks are happening all over North America as a way for First Nations to remember their responsibilities to the land.

Perhaps the most famous of these have been undertaken by Josephine Mandamin, who began in 2003 by walking around Lake Superior with her copper pail of water to raise awareness and pray for the water.

She since has been around the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence River, and other major rivers during her walks.

Horton said she personally has been praying for the water for the past 20 years.

She also noted that water walks happen fairly often, although usually without the organization and advertisement this one had.

"We don't always talk about them, we just do it," she remarked.

Horton said she was happy with the turnout of around 20 people. But she also admitted that years ago, they would have been able to get hundreds of people out for the ceremony.

"It is what it is and we love every person who showed up," she stressed. "And as they walk and pray, we are hoping that more people come out and join us for a little bit of the way."

Please see "River's," A7



Generous support

Brianna Gray, centre, helped Kathy Lampi and Heather Calder of M. Wu Dentistry load up the Iron Ranger Bus Lines bus Saturday afternoon during the "Stuff-A-Bus" to collect school supplies for the annual "Backpacks for Kids" campaign at Walmart. The public can

continue to donate supplies, backpacks, or cash at Causeway General Insurance (229 Scott St.) or M. Wu Dentistry (1201 Colonization Rd. W.), as well as at The Bargain Shop, up until Aug. 19.

—Duane Hicks photo

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