

TRADITIONAL LAND USE STUDY

METIS NATION OF SASK - EASTERN REGION III



NEW THIS MONTH:

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WHY I'M INVOLVED

BY DEXTER MONDOR

First off, I will introduce my self. I am Dexter Mondor, I am the Co-Chair of the TLU study, President of Local 182 Moose Mountain and I sit on the Lebret Farm Land Foundation.

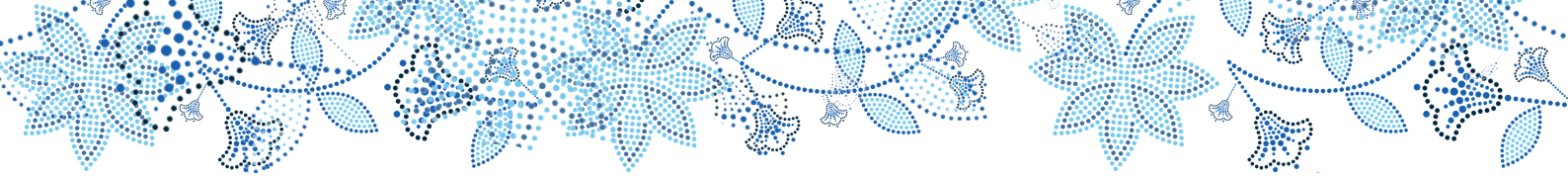
There are several reasons for me getting involved with not only this project but with Metis Nation-Saskatchewan. History and discovering the extent of the Metis footprint in our area is the most intriguing part of this whole study. As we sit through several meetings and listen to updates on how the project is progressing and listen to the stories being shared, I started to realize with my own family that there is a huge gap in the family history and there are many stories and family teachings that are long lost.

My Metis roots come from the Willow Bunch area, and like many Metis

families we are a large group. But in my family, with the passing of all my grandparents there is no one left to ask about the stories and oral history. Not much was shared with my parents and aunts and uncles. In essence, this is now lost forever. I can only piece together what has been found in photo albums and any notes that were saved in hopes to pass on the rich Metis History to my own kids.

A project such as the Traditional Land Use Study is extremely important not only for gathering the knowledge but sharing it with current and future generations. It's **our** stories, and they should be shared and carried on.

If you have some stories or know someone we should reach out to please contact us and lets share how large the Metis footprint is.



AN INTERVIEW WITH ROSE BAILEY

BY SHAUNA MCNABB COTE

Knowledge Keeper, Rose Fayant-Bailey opened up during the interview and evoked many poignant memories from yesteryear.

When asked "What did your family do to survive and put food on the table," Rose Fayant-Bailey's response was quick-witted, refreshing and left a lasting impression. "I'm sure we were better off than the farmers, we ate gophers like crazy!" After our laughter quieted, I knew from there, we were going to have a wonderful visit.



Rose mentioned different ways and methods that they would gather their food. Her father Fred and most of her brothers would hunt, trap and fish and her mother Jean, would spend most days cooking big, hot bannocks & canning all types of berries, meats and vegetables. "She was a hard-working mother that I just think about so much, all the time," she said with a love and a hint of heartache in her voice.

We went on to discuss how she started working at a young age. After doing some work for Norman McKen in Lemberg, she then worked with siblings, Kenny, Lori and George and they would stook, pick rocks and labour for farmers around the Abernethy area. Since pay wasn't that much, the farmers would give her father meat from a slaughtered pig and then her mother would make the best head cheese. "No one ever made that before, it was damn good!" I asked if there was other work that went on Rose responded, "There was a great big potato farm some place by the lake there. Half the rest of my people worked there. I didn't work there; I was married at 17."

She shared a memory of collecting eggs almost every morning from the ducks by the river. I asked how they'd know when to get them and she explained her father hid behind a little hill to watch

“*There was a great big potato farm some place by the lake there. Half the rest of my people worked there.***”**

them and then he'd call the kids to tell them that they just laid. "Ducks would lay and then we'd go get the eggs. But after 3-4 days you can't because that's when they make their babies."

Rose had enjoyable winter memories. "We didn't have no sleighs. No sleighs at all. We had boxes, big boxes we'd put at the top of the hill-- weeee!" I tell you, the hills of Qu'appelle valley have much more meaning with those pleasant memories ingrained in them.



The Fayant sisters @ the 1st Fred and Jean Memorial, 1996.
Back Row: Anne Fayant, Josephine Tarr, Delphine Desjarlais, Cecile Flamont
Front Row: Irene Doetzel, Lori Bailey, Rose Bailey, Jean LaFontaine



METIS FOOTPRINT

A PLACE TO ENJOY SOME TEA AND BANNOCK

ROAD ALLOWANCE FAMILIES

By: Calvin Racette

There are several different Metis road allowance communities in southern Saskatchewan. These communities evolved in the early 1900's and existed into the 1950's. The residents would all have been connected as relatives or through marriages and would all have had common connections thru church, community and employment. The road allowance experience is not shared by other Saskatchewan people and is solely the experience of the Metis.

As a people, they were not allowed to live on the Reserves set aside for First Nations and they were excluded from townsites due to their Indigenous ancestry. As a result, they lived on road allowances that were government property that were set aside for future roads or correction lines. The Metis people paid no taxes and received no benefits and were not allowed any rights as citizens. The families depended on each other for survival and support.

These communities became prime recruiting areas our local farmers who were looking for a

cheap work force to do the menial tasks required on the farm. The Metis families provided the means to remove stones, cut pickets, harvest the grains and build the storage facilities that were needed.

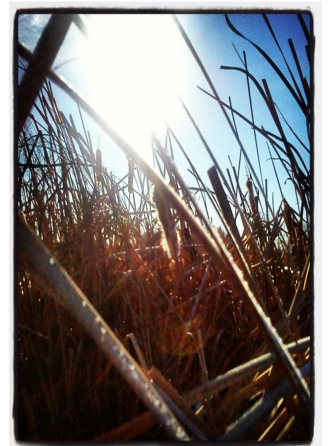
These communities also provided a substantial work force for elevator construction and repair across the prairie provinces. Metis crews provided this service to the elevator companies and the men were recruited through an apprentice format with a Metis foreman.

These communities no longer exist as they once did; the families have been dispersed but many still share those common bonds and continue to visit the gravesites and connect back to the land to harvest berries and medicines. Those common bonds are still very strong between the families and sharing the experience and the stories have become a source of pride. The stories are of survival and doing whatever work that was offered, hence a wide range of experiences.

**HAVE A STORY?
CALL US**
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NEWS & EVENTS

SOCIAL



LOCAL COUNCIL MEETING

Fort Qu'appelle Local is having it's first general meeting since the new president and council have been voted in which includes President, Linda Lagace, Vice-President, Claude Beaulieu and Secretary/Treasurer, Shauna McNabb Cote.

Date: Wednesday April 14th, 2021

Time: 7:00pm

Place: Ka-Pa-Chee Training Centre

COVID-19 safety precautions and measures will be taken for the safety of our local citizens.

POLITICS



2021 MN-S ELECTIONS

Mark your calendars for May 29th, 2021 for Saskatchewan Metis Election Day! Important Dates are as follows:

- April 24, 9:00am- Nominations open
- April 29, 2:00pm- Nominations close
- April 30- Chief Electoral Officer meets w/ candidates
- May 14- Voting in the Regional Returning Office begins
- May 17- Last day to request mobile poll
- May 21- Last day to vote in Regional Returning Office
- May 22 - Advance Polls & Mobile Polls Open
- May 29, 9am-8pm - Election Day**
- June 7- Publication of official results

Voter registrations and ID requirements:

Any person who is an eligible Metis voter can register to vote. All Metis must register to vote before receiving a ballot. This occurs at the polling station. To register you must:

- Show documentary evidence of your name, current address & signature
- Provide Metis Citizenship card or documentation that your in the process of becoming a registered Metis citizen
- Saskatchewan Health Card
- Sign & affirm vote registration form

Please visit mnselections.ca section for a detailed list of approved documentary evidence needed for registration, nomination papers or further details.

Good luck to all candidates!

SOCIAL



Photo courtesy of Shauna McNabb Cote

ELDER'S GATHERINGS COMING SOON

We will be hosting small gatherings adhering to COVID guidelines, to give Elders a brief description of the project and give them the opportunity to see each other and become more involved.

Many have come forward to participate in our study and we want to extend our gratitude to honour those who have shared stories, photos, memories & words of wisdom..

Please stay tuned as we pay homage to our old ones.