

MEMBERTOU HERITAGE PARK



V. I NO. 1

SYDNEY, NOVA SCOTIA

JANUARY 31, 1966

SITE GETS '67 GRANT

Plans for major improvements to Chapel Island, site of Cape Breton's famed Indian Island Mission were given a boost last month with the announcement that the site has been approved as centennial project.

Plans for the Island "face-lifting" began last summer by a seven man committee comprising of Chiefs from throughout Cape Breton. Cost of the improvements include repairs to the church and the erection of a monument to Father Maillard are estimated at \$15,000 dollars.

Indian Services Scanned By Laing

The Honourable Arthur Laing today issued the following statement concerning the proposed extension of Indian welfare and other services by Ontario (quote) "The National Indian Advisory Board made up of representatives of Indians across Canada held its first meeting on January 10, 1966. At that time, several members of the Board voiced considerable concern over newspaper reports that Ontario was assuming responsibility for Indian Affairs. I have received many other representations as well. It is not in the public interest that this concern be allowed to continue.

For some time now, the Indian Affairs Branch has been considering with the several provinces and with the Indian people, how the Indians could gradually and effectively be brought into the mainstream of ordinary Canadian life, to the extent they might wish to enter. We have taken the attitude that with the safeguards of a gradual approach and continuing and effective consultation with the people concerned, the Indians of Canada could benefit from being more closely associated with the services and opportunities available to all other Canadians in the province. If this was the wish of the Indians. There has been general acceptance of this line of thought.

Before going further, I should make clear that this process has nothing to do with the ancient guarantees to the Indians, including reserves and other rights, made in any cases first by the British Crown, and by successive Canadian governments. Nor does it qualify in any way the special responsibility which the government of Canada has in respect of Indians and Eskimos, our indigenous peoples have long been excluded from many of the services enjoyed by all other Canadians from their provincial governments. We are now of the opinion, and we hope that many of the Provinces are of the opinion, that

should Indians so desire they should not be excluded from provincial programs. Representative groups of Indians have agreed. I will deal more fully later with the consultation process. The Federal Government believes the Indians should have access to these benefits if they so wish and it is prepared to help with money and experience for the provinces to ensure that this is made possible.

I should also point out that extension of provincial services to Indians is not new. For example, about 45

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ISLE SAINT FAMILLE CHAPEL STORY TOLD

On November 28, 1792, Lieut. Governor MacCormick, Governor of Cape Breton Island, granted leave to two chiefs of the Miqmaqs, Francis Bask and Michael Timma to build a chapel on the island of St. Villenai (obviously a mistake for St. Famille) in the Bras d'Or Lakes, about nine miles from St. Peter's, for divine worship agreeable to the rites of the Roman Catholic religion.

stand by a cenopy and usually occupies the position of honour on the right side of the altar.

The church that was standing in 1900 was the fifth church erected since the fall of Louisbourg under the direction of Father Maillard. The first small church was erected on the island and given the name of "Ile Saint Famille". The Island of the Holy Family.

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The chapel was dedicated to St. Anne, who doubtless as a result of the early French missionaries, is everywhere granted as the patroness of the Indians.

STATUE
Its appointments are similar in character to those of the Small Roman Catholic Church but it also contains a statue of the good St. Anne herself which is regarded with the greatest possible veneration by the Indians who say that it was brought out to Cape Breton by Father Maillard himself. The statue which is apparently of wood covered with plaster of paris is about 7 1/2 life size representing the saint seated and instructing the Blessed Virgin, as a girl, from an open book.

The figures are upon a moveable

Named Roving News Editor

Mr. Russell C. Moses, a Delaware of the Six Nations Band in Southern Ontario has been appointed Roving Editor of the Indian News.

Mr. Moses has spent much of his time visiting Indian Reserves in the Maritimes, including our Reserves in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia.

We were pleased to have Mr. Moses as our guest speaker for the Reporters Meeting held at Antigonish, on 19 November 65.



Co-Editors of the "MICMAC NEWS" Roy Gould, Membertou, and Noel Doucette, Bara Head, also included in the picture — Audrey MacDougall, one of the St. F. X. Extension Department Field workers involved in working with Indians in Eastern Nova Scotia.

MEMBERTOU HERITAGE PARK

DITORIAL

WE'RE GROWING UP!

This month we are celebrating our first anniversary of the MICMAC NEWS, and starting off with a bang with this new issue.

The Micmac News was started by Mr. Ernie Cinner of the Eskasoni Indian Affairs Branch. It proved that the people of Cape Breton had interest in the paper. At first, the paper was not an Indian paper until with the encouragement and assistance of people from the Pension Dept., it was taken over by the Indians themselves.

Since then it's been in our hands and even though we were interested from the people, it proved more so when ten teen-age boys and girls volunteered to report for us news.

We gradually expanded and now cover all nine reserves in Nova Scotia, with the hopes of expanding to the Reserves in New Brunswick and P.E.I.

You, the readers, own the Micmac News and deserve the credit for the printing and supplying the news.

This paper is not sold in Nova Scotia but a great number of our readers are way from our reserves. The paper also goes to other Indian News Editors across Canada.

Only you, the people, can keep the Micmac News alive, and we ask for your continued support.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to the Micmac News can do so by contacting any of the Reserve Reporters or sending directly to the Micmac News, 124 Membertou St., Sydney, N. S. and enclosing \$1.50 to cover the cost of a year's subscription.

International Listing Indian Editors

Here is a list of Indian Editors across Canada for anyone interested in obtaining copies of Indian newspapers from the Indian Editors.

Mr. Reggie Black Plume
Editor-Sundance Echo
c/o Local Press
Cardston, Alberta

Mr. Walter Balhead
Editor-Indian News
151 Melyre St. N
Regina, Sask.

Mr. T. Chartrand
Editor-Camperduck News
Camperville, Man.

Mr. Boniface Guimond
Editor-Sakgeeng News
P. O. Box 261
Pine Falls, Manitoba

Mr. Lawrence R. Johns
R.R. 3
Walpole Island
Wallaceburg, Ontario
Mr. Tom Lawrence
Editor-Calgary Indian Newsletter
Calgary Indian Services

Mr. Francis Kewaquedo
Editor-C. I. Y. C. (?)
Points Au Baril, Ontario

Mr. Guy Williams
Editor-Native Voice
Native Brotherhood of B.C. Inc.
422 Standard Bldg.

510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver 2, B.C.

Miss Alicia Marquis
Editor-Kanawake News
Box 424
Caughnawaga, Quebec

Miss Darlene Moar
Editor-Scout
c/o Friendship Centre
836 Lorne Avenue
Brandon, Manitoba

Mrs. N. Meadmore
Editor-N.I.C. Bulletin
1187 Fleet Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Mr. Malcolm Norris
Editor-Moose Call
53 River Street East
Prince Albert, Sask.

Mr. T. Pellstier
Editor-Thunderbird Publications
72 Arlington Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario

Miss Dorothy Roy
Editor-Prairie Call
c/o Friendship Centre
376 Donald Street
Winnipeg 2, Manitoba

Mr. Lawrence Whitehead
Editor-Birchbark News
c/o Indian & Metis Centre
P. O. Box 1724
The Pas, Manitoba

Chapel Story Meeting Molds Hall's Future

(Continued from Page One)
OLD CARVED ALTAR

The present altar is modern, but for many years their church contained an old carved French altar which bore upon it the date 1717.

It was unfortunate that some years back the Indians agreed to give the altar to the priest there stationed at Red Island. Today it is to be found in the vestry of the Sacred Heart New church. It is stated that this altar formerly belonged to the chaplain in the old French Fort at St. Peters which was then known as Port Toulouse, and when the English took the place the altar was carried off by the French and hidden in the woods and was later found and jealously guarded by the Indians.

SACRED SPOT

There is a sacred spot on the Island fenced in from desecration where the good priest Father Maillard preached from a granite rock, the Gospel of Christ to his beloved Indians. The rock is marked plainly by a cross cut in the stone and is surmounted by an iron cross. The prayer books used by the Indians are most interesting, their written language was arranged by Father Maillard. One of the prayer books was sent by Rev. Father Ouinan of Sydney to the poet, Longfellow.

The Rev. Thomas Wood, rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Halifax wrote several of the prayers of the Anglican Church into the Micmac language and held services for the Indians in the church.

Abbe Maillard lived his last days in Halifax and was a great friend of Rev. T. Wood. In fact at his last in 1762, there was not a Roman Catholic priest at hand, so Rev. Wood was requested to read the Anglican prayers for the visitation of the sick, in the presence of a great number of French citizens of Halifax.

Upon the death of Father Maillard, the Lieut. Governor of Cape Breton and Nova Scotia ordered the remains buried in St. Paul's church yard. Rev. T. Wood performed the last rites of the church in the French language.

LETTERS

What are the duties and powers of the Grand Chief of the Micmac Indians?

What are the duties and powers of the Grand Councillor?

What are the duties of the Grand Captain?

What are the duties of the Captains appointed on each of our Reserves?

I am sure there is a great deal of tradition in many of the above Titles, but not too many of us really know the true meanings of the positions.

Noel Stevens
Chapel Island
Indian Reserve,
Barra Head, N. S.

CONCERT

Residents of the Membertou Band, Sydney, were entertained by teenagers of the 45 family reserve with their annual Concert.

The concert under the direction of Roy Gould and Mrs. Marie Marshall included in the program were Christmas and Folk Songs as well as dancing comedy. Special guests from the area entertained, this helped make the evening a howling success.

Special thanks are extended to all those who took part in the concert.

MICMAC NEWS

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Address: "MICMAC NEWS", c/o R. Gould, 124 Membertou St., Sydney N.S.

CO-EDITORS: Roy Gould and Noel Doucette

REPORTERS: Mrs. J. T. Johnson, or Y.C.S. Members, Eskasoni; Margaret Sylliboy, Janet Wilmo, and Mary Catherine Smith, Whycomagh; Russell Marshall, Joseph Stevens, Barra Head; Marie Marshall, Katie McEwan, Membertou; Stanley Johnson, Janet Julien, Truro; Danny Martin, James M. Nevins, Shubenacadie; Theresa Francis, Mrs. Albert Denny, Pictou Landing; Nora Googoo, Nyanza.

MEMBERTOU HERITAGE PARK

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MICMAC NEWS

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Jan. 3rd '66 — St. Rita's Hospital. Miss Chisholm 3rd year student. Mrs. Noel Doucette, Eskasoni. Twins — Daniel and Donald 8 lbs. 1oz. — 8 lb. 3 oz. First Indian babies born in the New Year.

205 PUPILS ENROLL IN '65

Two hundred and five students are attending integrated Public and Private schools. One hundred and sixty-six are registered in Day Schools on the Reserves. Twenty-two are attending the Shubenacadie Indian Residential School. Ten are attending High Schools and colleges under total Educational Assistance. Of the various bands within the Shubenacadie Agency, nine members are presently taking full time vocational training.

OBITUARIES

FRANK MICHAEL PAUL

The death of Frank Paul 67, occurred Dec. 4, at the City of Sydney Hospital after a long illness. A native of Barra Head, he resided at Eskasoni.

Besides his wife, Isabel, Mr. Paul is survived by two sons, Stephen at Eskasoni and George in Toronto, two daughters, Mary Ann at Eskasoni and Mrs. Mary Mellin in Boston, Mass. and two stepsons, Frank and Andrew Joe both in Eskasoni.

The funeral took place on Monday, Dec. 7, from Holy Family Church in Eskasoni.

MRS. CECILIA MARSHALL

The death of Cecilia Marshall (the former Cecilia Googoo of Membertou) occurred at St. Rita Hospital, December 13th, 1965 after a brief illness. She was 39.

Besides her husband, Anthony, she is survived by 4 children ranging in age from 6 to 12 years: Patricia, Lorraine and Audrey, and a son Stuart all at home. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Googoo, three sisters, Mrs. Charlie Herney, (Malinda) Membertou, Mrs. Leo Levette (Mary Rose) Kirkland Lake, Ont., Mrs. Florence Rankin, Halifax.

The largely attended funeral took place on Dec. 15th, with the procession leaving the family residence at 9 o'clock for Requiem High Mass at St. Anthony Daniel Church by Rev. R. J. Laffin, P. P., and prayers at the graveside by Rev. Clarence MacDonald.

Pallbearers were: Jacob Marshall, Roy Gould, Fred Googoo, Charlie Gould, Pat Christmas and Alex Christmas.

MRS. MARY JANE JOHNSON

Mrs. Mary Jane Johnson, 88, a former resident of Eskasoni and recently of Barra Head, died Jan. 3, at the St. Rita Hospital in Sydney after a brief illness.

She was predeceased by her husband, Richard of Guysborough and one son John. She is survived by eight grandchildren.

The remains rested at the home of Paul Isaac. Funeral services were conducted by Fr. MacNeil, P.P., on January 7, burial was in the Salmon River cemetery.

Pallbearers were Paul Isaac, Alfred Joe, Noel Marshall, George Stevens, Murray Marshall and Peter

Should Enforce Truancy Laws

The following comments were taken from the book "The Education of Indian Children in Canada". One Indian man writes:—

"Recently a man in Indian Education asked me, 'What do you think would further your education if you had to repeat your school life all over again?' My reply was that I would have liked my parents to have seen to it that I had started school as soon as I was old enough and that they had made me attend school regularly so that I would have completed the work prescribed for each grade satisfactorily. I believe that the school facilities avail-

able in my reserve at that time and my own eagerness to learn would have made a great deal of difference to my present academic standing of Grade 4."

He goes on to say that today Indian education opportunities, facilities, and standards, on and off the reserves, are better than they ever were. He says, "... no Indian need ever wish for an education, as long as he shows an honest desire for it. He can get help all the way.

He asks:

"Why then are the results so poor? I believe one problem is the lack of interest for education shown

by the parents. Absenteeism has always been the greatest handicap in our schools. As a school committee member I frequently visit the homes when non-attendance in the classroom is reported to me. In spite of the fact that family allowances and relief cheques are received by most of the families each month, lack of lunches and clothing are the usual excuses. One has to only see the beverage rooms of our towns a few times to realize why this condition exists.

I was urged in my comments to emphasize the strong and weak points of Indian education. To me there is only one weak point. That is the failure of the Department to enforce the regulations regarding truancy and absenteeism as provided by the Indian Act."

Another Indian, father of 16 children writes:

"I am not too enthusiastic about the Reserve Schools. They are holding back our children. I can see the difference between those attending public schools and those attending Indian Schools. Parents of pupils attending Public School do not leave all responsibility to the teachers as do those in the case of the Indian Schools."

Mother of 12 children, an Indian Lady writes:

"I feel right when I see Indian and white children going to school together. This is a wonderful thing. There have been many improvements in my lifetime but, in 10 years time, with all that is being done for our children, things will be even better than they are now. I wish I had had the chance. If what we are doing now would have started when I was young, my children might have become engineers, lawyers and teachers. My younger children will have a much better chance than the older ones."

MicMac News \$100.00 Winner

John D. Johnson was the lucky winner of the draw sponsored by the

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Indian Services

(Continued from Page One)

per cent of Indian children are already attending provincial schools. Many Indians in Canada are also receiving some other services from provincial governments.

Dealing now with the proposed agreements in respect of extension of some further provincial services to Ontario Indians, two draft agreements were discussed with the Ontario Indian Advisory Council, elected by the various Bands in that Province. One agreement relates to the extension of a broad range of provincial welfare services, the other to the provision of community development programs.

On November 25, 1965, my predecessor, the Honourable J. R. Nicholson, sent to all provinces copies of these agreements asking if they would be prepared to enter into them. At this point the Ontario Indian Advisory Council had already agreed with the principle of the Ontario agreements on the basis that they would apply only to such Bands as specifically endorsed them.

On January 6, 1966, the office of the Ontario Minister of Welfare issued a release without notice to the federal government. This release mistakes the facts. It states in part that the agreement would take effect immediately, and 'under it the major responsibility for Indians will be taken over by the provincial government.' The statement implies further that the agreement covers a far wider field than had actually been discussed.

On January 7, 1966, a number of press accounts based on this erroneous statement appeared. The most widely circulated report began: 'Responsibility for the welfare of Indians in Ontario shifted dramatically Thursday to the Province from the Federal Government.' That evening the Ontario Minister appeared on national television with a similar message.

On January 8, 1966, I began to receive representations in respect of this Ontario announcement. On January 10, I met with the National Indian Advisory Board. At this meeting several Indian leaders expressed great concern over the possibility that Ontario may seek to substitute itself for Canada in the latter's duties towards the Indian people. They asked, and I thought it proper to agree that Canada should not sign the agreement in question until the Indian representatives once again had an opportunity to acquaint their people of the facts. They also asked that a statement of clarification be



Planning Committee members include: Noel Doucette of Chapel Island, Grand Chief Donald Marshall and Chief Ben Christmas of Sydney, Charles Bernard of Whycomomagh and Chief Charles Francis of Eskasoni.

issued by me, for the same purpose. The Indian leaders' alarm is understandable. They had not been consulted on what they took to be a complete abdication by the federal government of its responsibilities as reflected by the message issued by the Ontario Minister. I told them that the government of Canada cannot, and is not, considering transferring its exclusive constitutional responsibility in respect of Indians, and that the draft agreements were not different from what they had been told by my predecessor and generally agreed to by them. This seemed satisfactory to the Indian leaders but impressions of this unfortunate sort, once formed, are hard to dispel. The Indian leaders asked that the Federal Government withhold signing the agreement with Ontario until they could review the matter.

The 200,000 Indians of Canada have some reason, out of our history, to be cautious in their commitments. We are working very closely with them now in policy development. Consultation and increased management of Indian affairs is central to this progress.

I hope that when the facts are known it will be possible to proceed again with Ontario in the extension of ordinary provincial services."

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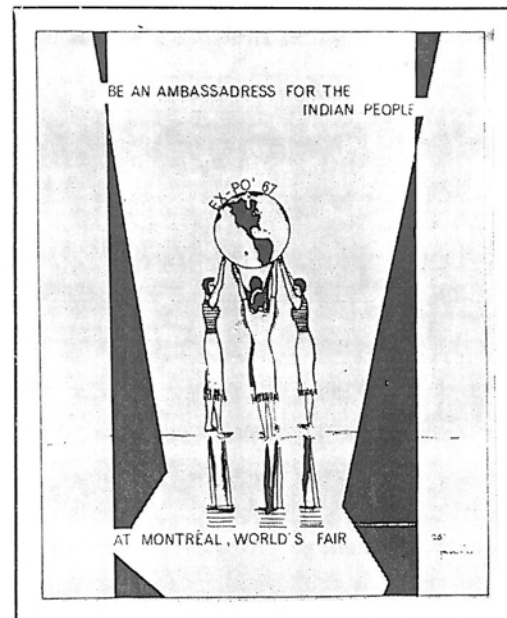
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Best of Luck

RAYTEL

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All Indian girls 18 years or over contact your Superintendent,