



# 1885 Coalition Newsletter



*Volume 1 / Issue 1 / August 2007*

The Northwest Resistance took place in 1885 and its story is told in pieces everywhere from Winnipeg, Manitoba to Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

However, it is a compelling and unique story in Western Canada, where Métis and Plains Indians people fought side by side to secure recognition of their rights as Canadians.

The need to conserve the heritage resources associated with the events and stories from 1885 has long been understood, and the necessary designation and varying degrees of ‘protection’ have been put in place. This has been followed in various locations, by the construction of facilities which are used to reveal and interpret these events and stories, to a number of different audiences. These audiences range from regional school groups and area residents, to descendants of the people directly involved, and to a wider range of visitors interested in learning about the history of the prairies and the evolution of the people who live here.

The scattered heritage resources of 1885 have thus become significant ‘travel generators’ – ‘attractions’ from a tourism perspective. All three prairie provinces, and the Federal Government, have demonstrated an interest in these attractions by making substantial investments in their conservation and development for several decades. Opportunities to significantly enhance the tourism revenues generated by these attractions need to be identified. A draft action plan is being prepared by a team of representatives from attractions, tourism organizations, governments, Métis, First Nations, and the general public. Participants in the planning process have so far come from Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Inclusion of representatives from Manitoba is also anticipated. The plan is being designed to help us build upon our combined tourism related strengths and address our common concerns.

### **Purpose of the “Events of 1885 Heritage Tourism Project” (1885 HTP)**

The purpose of the 1885 HTP is to provide a comprehensive and coordinated action plan to deal with opportunities to increase heritage tourism expenditures based on the Northwest Rebellion, within the prairie provinces.

As indicated at the outset, each province possesses parts of the story, and the ultimate intent is to link the ‘chapters’ together. Dean Bauche, CEO of the Allen Sapp Gallery, has drafted an assets inventory sheet that will help in identifying the artifacts, individuals and stories related to the 1885 Resistance. Please pass the asset sheet on to any individuals or organizations that may have connections to the 1885 Resistance.

The purpose of this newsletter is to raise the awareness of the 1885 Resistance story and bring the sites, people and stories together. If you have photos, stories or individuals we can recognize or updates on the activities in your area related to the 1885 Resistance, please forward them to:

[tthompson@tourismsaskatoon.com](mailto:tthompson@tourismsaskatoon.com)

# Caron Home Reopens

Michelle Martin

*Saskatchewan News Network; CanWest News Service  
Saturday July 21, 2007*

The reopening of the historic Caron home at the Batoche National Historic Site was a symbolic moment for Ronald Caron, a descendent of the Métis family that built the home in the 1890s after their original home was burnt to the ground in the Riel Rebellion of 1885.

“Coming back here today, it was just perfect,” said Caron, 59, who lived in the house until the age of 17. “There’s a lot of history around here and so many stories and memories.”

After the reopening ceremony Friday, he said he was “ecstatic” about the \$53,100 boost the house received from Parks Canada and the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

“It’s history, so it means a lot,” he said from the national historic site, which was once a thriving Métis community. The house is pretty much how he remembers it, he said.

The funding enabled the main floor to be refurbished, giving the site’s 19,000 annual visitors a chance to turn back the hands of time and glimpse into the daily life of a Métis family in the 19th century. The original structure was furnished with washboards, oil lamps, a table and rocking chairs. Meanwhile, the kitchen, which was an add-on in the 1950s, was furnished to suit the era it was added. Additional renovations also thimproved safety inside the house.

The Caron home, which has a federal heritage designation, is the third building restored on the site on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River.



*Photo: Parks Canada - Batoche National Historic Site of Canada*

“It went from basically being nothing to being a premier part of our visitor experience,” said Calette. “It’ll be a place where our elders will sit and tell stories and will cook bannock on a stick.”

The funds left over after the restorations are slated for ongoing programming and activities including traditional fiddling, dancing and storytelling, which will take place throughout the summer.

Métis Nation-Saskatchewan president Robert Doucette says the house represents the survival of Métis culture.

“The Caron house is a symbol of the vibrant Métis community that existed then and exists now,” he said. “It’s an example of how Métis people put their roots into this part of the world, had their families here and contributed to the development of this province.”

Métis family history is often a story that goes untold, he said.

“You always hear about the battles but not about how the Métis people lived.”

## *West Side Stories: The Métis of Northwest Saskatchewan*

Featuring maps, photographs, scale models, audio-visual modules and examples of material culture, this exhibit explores Métis identity while challenging stereotypes.

**Dates:** Through September 9, 2007

**Hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9:30am – 4:30pm





# RCMP Heritage Centre

5907 Dewdney Avenue  
Regina, SK

The RCMP Heritage Centre opened to the public on May 24, 2007 to tell the story of the RCMP through the use of state of the art exhibits, multimedia technologies and engaging educational programming.

The RCMP Heritage Centre is owned and operated by the Mounted Police Heritage Centre, a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to telling the RCMP story to the world. Visitors to the Centre will learn about the history of the RCMP as well as modern workings of the Force.

	Toddler	Kinder	Child	Youth/Student	Adult	Family	Senior
<b>General Admission</b>	Free	3.00	6.00	10.00	12.00	-10%	10.00

\*All prices are subject to tax; Group rates are available

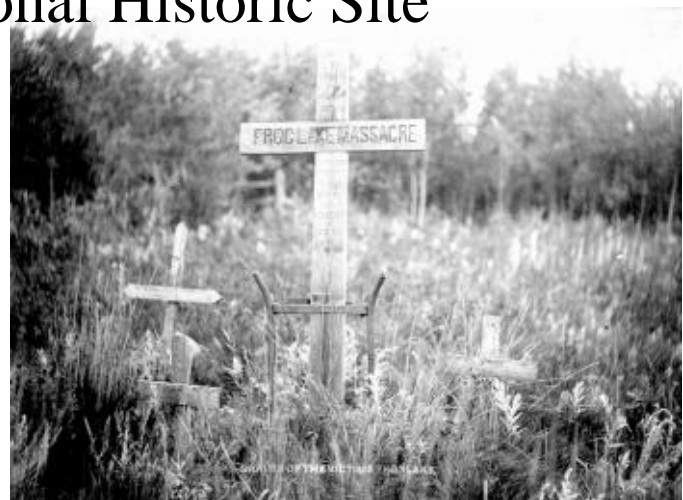
Please contact the RCMP Heritage Centre at 1-866-567-7267 for additional information

## Hours of Operation

Summer Public Hours: effective May 24 - September 3, 2007, hours are 10:00am to 6:00pm (Note: Tuesday late night openings until 8:00pm July 3 – August 14, 2007 while Sunset Retreat Ceremonies are held)

## Frog Lake National Historic Site

Alberta Tourism, Parks Recreation and Culture are in the process of developing revised display panels for the Frog Lake National Historic Site. This project involves input from many heritage-minded groups including Frog Lake First Nation, Alberta Tourism, Parks Recreation and Culture, and Parks Canada. Discussions will also be conducted with the Fishing Lake Métis Settlement and Elizabeth Métis Settlement representatives. The existing interpretive panels which were removed in the Spring of 2007 due to their poor condition will be replaced with new text and images in the Spring of 2008. It is anticipated that the text will also be translated into French and potentially Cree syllabics. The design for the new panels has not yet been determined, but they will be built to ensure limited potential for future deterioration.



Burial site of the victims of the 1885 Frog Lake battle; names are inscribed on the large cross in the middle, which is surrounded by smaller unmarked wooden crosses. *Geraldine Moodie (RCMP Museum, Regina) 941.9.52*

This Frog Lake National Historic site commemorates an historic event that requires recognition in a way that is sensitive to the occurrences of this time period. In order to ensure an accurate and respectful portrayal of these events is depicted at this site we are open to and seeking out the views of the Aboriginal groups that still reside in the area.

If you would like to know more information about this project please contact Laren Bill, Aboriginal Consultation Officer, Alberta Tourism, Parks Recreation and Culture (780) 431-2352 or by email: [laren.bill@gov.ab.ca](mailto:laren.bill@gov.ab.ca)

# The Trial of Louis Riel

July 18, 19, 20

July 25, 26, 27

August 1, 2, 3

Adults \$12—Seniors \$10—Students \$10—Youth \$9

Showtime 7:30pm

Shumiatcher Theatre, Mackenzie Art Gallery—Call (306) 728-5728

*Presented by Rielco Productions*

A historical re-enactment of the dramatic events and courtroom trial surrounding Louis Riel, Metis leader in the North West Resistance of 1885. Portrayed in period set and costumes, "The Trial" is also available for conventions and special event bookings.

## Fort Battleford National Historic Site

*Submitted by Lisa Krebs, Fort Battleford National Historic Site*

We've been having a great summer so far this year! Our night weapons demonstrations, where visitors are able to experience the Fort during the 'siege' of 1885, have become so successful that we have had to implement an additional tour to accommodate the increased interest.

In addition, we have begun offering our 'Series of Curious Events' which is a storytelling tour through the Fort at night, where visitors will hear about many of the strange occurrences experienced by staff over the years. We are currently preparing for an Old Fashioned Picnic

day on August 12th, where visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch, dress in period clothes, play games, enter the chili cook-off or the pie baking contest. Also that day, visitors will be able to make their own kite and watch a blacksmithing demonstration.

## 2010: A YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

The year 2010 should be an important year for our group to develop a strategic plan for marketing and site redevelopment. It is the year of Winter Olympics with the Olympic Torch passing through our province and the 125th Anniversary of the 1885 Resistance, 125th Anniversary of Parcs Canada, 200th Anniversary of Fort Carlton, and the David Thompson Bicentennial. Our group needs to work with local, provincial and federal governments in cooperation with our tourism agencies to develop a strategy for 2010. Please find attached to this email an invitation that was the beginning of the 1885 Coalition to remind earlier participants and inform new participants how we came to this point in our organization.

# 1885 Coalition Participants

Christa Watson—Regional Economic & Corporate Development

Laurie Russell—Prairie to Pine REDA

Bob Collian—Prairie to Pine REDA

Ian McGilp—Tourism Saskatchewan (Saskatoon office)

Bob Wilson—Parks Services, South East Meadow Lake

Lucille Bullerwell—Clayton McLain Memorial Museum, Cut Knife

Noreen Foisy—Clayton McLain Memorial Museum, Cut Knife

Craig Olmstead—Alberta Tourism—Parks, Recreation and Culture

Laren Bill—Alberta Tourism—Parks, Recreation and Culture

Mark Calette—Parks Canada

Susan McKenzie—BNHS

Vic Huard—RCMP Heritage Centre

Randy Fernets—Tourism Saskatoon

Wayne Brown—Frenchman Butte

Royce Pettyjohn—Fort Battleford NHSC

Vera Kasokeo—Poundmaker Interpretive Centre, Paynton, SK

Mark England—West Central Tourism Region

Janette Hamilton—SK Environment Parks Service

Lisa Krebs—Fort Battleford National Historic Site, Parks Canada

Owen Einsleider—Battleford Tourism

Darcee Baliski—West Central Tourism

Lorne Carrier—Atasi

Janice Crawford—Sask Environment

Sheila Gamble—Wanuskewin Heritage Park

Susan Lamb—Meewasin Valley Authority

Peter Kingsmill—Shearwater Tours

Ray Fidler—Batoche National Heritage Site

Celine Perillat—Duck Lake Interpretive Centre

Dean Bauche—Allen Sapp Gallery



*1885 Coalition Group members at Frenchman Butte Monument*

Maurice Postnikoff—Independent Researcher

Wally Kabaroff—RM of Blaine Lake

Glen Ebert—Fort Battleford National Historic Site

Yvonne Michnik—Friends of Fort Battleford

Leah Milton—Battlefords Tribal Council

Ross Stromberg—Alberta Historic Sites, Victoria Settlement

Irene Lagatt—Parks Canada



*Photo by Laren Bill*

*Our hats off to Wayne Brown and the people of Frenchman Butte for hosting our meeting on July 17, 2007. We had a great tour of the 1885 Resistance Battlefield and encountered first hand the degradation of the sites and the threat of oil and gas development to our history.*



*Photo by Laren Bill*