



Opening Ceremonies

Northern Saskatchewan Cultural Gathering



Montreal Lake

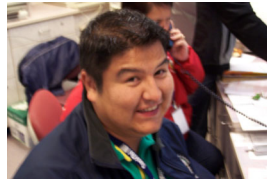
October 5—9, 2006



MONTREAL LAKE CREE NATION - Host

For the Cultural Gathering to happen, the host community of Montreal Lake relied on many organizers and volunteers. The main community coordinator is Roger “Ungo” Bird. Roger and many others have worked for months in preparation for this gathering. Some of the key individuals include: Chief Lionel Bird; Councillor Shirley Henderson (Food Services), Devin Naytowhow (Security), Eli Roberts & Delia Naytowhow (Cultural Events). We didn’t have space to thank everyone individual but all of your time & commitment was appreciated!

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR— DEREK SYLVESTRE (Northern Sport, Cul- ture and Rec- reation Dis- trict)



What a great and exciting weekend!! With over 200 participants registered for the gathering and many events and sessions planned for the participants Montreal Lake was surely the place to be on the long weekend. What a great community! Volunteers, security food services and many other staff and community members have put more than their share of work in for the gathering. Thank you all your hard work and dedication. It has been a pleasure working with your community and the north. Thank you.

DAY 1 - THURSDAY— TRAVEL, OPENING CEREMONIES, FIREWORKS & DERIC STARLIGHT

Participants from all over northern Saskatchewan traveled to Montreal Lake on a beautiful fall day from as far away as Fond du Lac, Cumberland House, & La Loche.



The Gathering started with the **Opening Ceremonies** held at the Christopher & Desmond Memorial Arena. They were postponed to accommodate travel from the far north, Athabasca traveled over 12 hours to be here and arrived shortly after the ceremonies began.

The Opening Ceremonies included welcoming remarks from Chief Lionel Bird, Montreal Lake Cree Nation, the Honorable Joan Beatty Minister of Northern Affairs and MLA for Cumberland, Bobby Woods on behalf of the Northern Sport, Culture and Recreation District and New North, and others. The crowd of approximately 200 were treated to the sound of the drummers from Little Red.

Following the opening ceremonies, were the fireworks which were awesome! Then Deric Star-



DAY 2—FRIDAY

Day 2 started off with a healthy breakfast and a Pipe Ceremony at the lakeside. It was a beautiful day outside and everyone made the most of it.

Cultural events for the day included: dry



meat and fish preparation, duck/geese preparation, Dene hand games, bannock making, traditional medicine, storytelling, moose tanning,

The Athabasca area did a Dene Hand Games demonstration in the gym which was a very popular activity at the gathering. Our thanks to elders Josephine & John Ecodh.

The evening finale was Voices of the North! Everyone had a great time.



DAY 2—SATURDAY

The day started once again with breakfast and a pipe ceremony. The weather today was a bit challenging with rain most of the day. However, some events were changed and a good day was had by all.

The cultural events today included: dry meat and fish preparation, Dene hand games, bannock making, storytelling, traditional medicine, language education, arts & crafts,

There was also some active events, with volleyball games in the gym and archery outside.

The afternoon included King & Queen Trapper events, tipi making by the lake, and a Pow Wow demonstration in the arena.

Last but definitely not least was a Cultural Fashion Show MC'd by M.P Gary Merasty in the arena that did not disappoint. Local models and our very own Joaleen Szeles dazzled the crowd in the clothing!



DAY 3—SUNDAY

Today was definitely a day to be thankful for. Although several communities departed today, we were thankful for their participation throughout the weekend. Through the rain and shine participants took part in a variety of cultural events:

- Pow wow demo
- Archery demo
- Traditional Food Preparation
- King & Queen Trapper

The cooking crew did not disappoint for supper. They served a full Thanksgiving Dinner with all the fixings, including pumpkin pie and ice cream for dessert. Yummy! What a wonderful job they did feeding hungry mouths all weekend!!!

Closing ceremonies took place in the evening....

- Closing Ceremonies
- Cree Singers
- Round Dance

DAY 4 - MONDAY - TRAVEL HOME

This morning the remaining participants had breakfast and hit the road!

Thank you to all of the participants, chaperones, Northern Sport, Culture & Recreation District staff and volunteers, and especially to the volunteers at Montreal Lake—thank you for hosting the first Northern Saskatchewan Cultural Gathering in your community!

