Zach Samborski, Interlake Publishing

Lord Selkirk Regional Comprehensive Secondary School (LSRCSS) celebrated the achievements of its Aboriginal graduates with its 15th annual Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (PASS) event May 27.

The ceremony took place on the school grounds, and the festivities commenced with a pow wow. The event, which took place on the school grounds May 27, acknowledged the achievements of the Comp’s Aboriginal grads. (Zach Samborski/Interlake Publishing/Postmedia Network)

The Lord Selkirk Comp Promoting Aboriginal Student Success (PASS) event kicked off with a pow wow. The event, which took place on the school grounds May 27, acknowledged the achievements of the Comp’s Aboriginal grads. (Zach Samborski/Interlake Publishing/Postmedia Network)

The ceremony featured two valedictorians: Stephanie Lowrie and Taylor Kent. Lowrie acknowledged her Métis roots, while Kent, who hails from Brokenhead Ojibway Nation near Scantebury, talked about the challenges she encountered on the road to graduation.

“It was a good two weeks into Grade 10 when I was in an accident caused by a drunk driver,” Kent said. “I spent eight days in hospital and five months out of school. By the creator, everyone survived and everyone made a somewhat full recovery. With the help of my family and my teachers, I will be graduating on time with the rest of my peer class, and I am very thankful for that.”

Walter Whyte students pay visit
Walter Whyte School Kindergarten teacher Melodie Tully bussed with her nine students from Grand Marais to Selkirk to watch the ceremony. She said it was a chance for young Aboriginal students to catch a glimpse of the high school experience.

“They get to be outside and enjoy the fresh outdoors as well as see the great cultural entertainment and inspirational messages. They have a very close-knit family school here. Because they’re close to all the teachers and the students here, they have that family feeling, and as they go through, they transition very easily into the middle years and transition easily into the older grades.”

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The Manito Ahbee Festival

September 9 - 13, 2015 • Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

By Jacquie Black

Indigenous culture thrives across the nation and each year you can be at the center of the celebration in the Heart of the Canada at the Manito Ahbee Festival. Music, art and culture are bursting at each and every festival event and we welcome the global community to connect and join the circle.

Going strong for a decade, the Manito Ahbee Festival reaches its 10-year milestone anniversary in 2015 and is recognized as a leader in tradition, tourism and as a travel/event destination.

The Manito Ahbee Festival is known as a premier event in the Heart of Turtle Island (North America) attracting champion singers, dancers, recording artists, artisans, thousands of participants and festival lovers from around the world.

What you can expect – absolutely something for everyone! A gathering like no other, the festival components will ignite your spirit and draw you into a historical legacy that is both traditional and contemporary. The Manito Ahbee Festival boasts the 2nd largest pow wow in north America featuring drum groups and dancers that represent hundreds of Indigenous nations. Exquisite beaded regalia, songs passed down a thousand years, and the thunder of the drum – the heartbeat of mother earth, are just a few amazing things you will experience.

Pair this with attendance at the Indigenous Music Awards, a festival signature event, and you will be astounded at the level of creativity and talent that is rippling from coast to coast to coast. One of Canada’s live televised award shows, the Indigenous Music Awards is a star-studded event, complete with a prestigious Red Carpet walk, award presentations and performances that you don’t want to miss.

Of course shopping is always top of the line at the Manito Ahbee Festival. The Indigenous Marketplace and Tradeshow is packed with artisans and designers with beautiful treasures, jewelry, clothing and art that enhance your memorable experience.

Throughout the festival we honour the spirit of the Manito Ahbee sacred site, which the festival was named after. Located in Manitoba’s Whiteshell Provincial Park, the sacred site has been a ceremonial gathering place since time immemorial and in its spirit of sharing and unity; we invite people of all nations, and community to the Manito Ahbee Festival!

Join us at the Manito Ahbee Festival and Ignite your Spirit!

www.manitoahbee.com
www.indigenousmusicawards.com
Very nice reception, friendly atmosphere and people. Walked in but left driving a new car. Thanks for the good service.
- Thomas Owende

Very responsive, informative, outgoing & helpful. Had a great buying experience.
- Shawn Giesbrecht

Very good service, did everything to the best of their ability & enabled me to get a new vehicle.
- Leah Andre

The service was awesome & Diego was very quick to find me the perfect car. Thanks for everything.
- Wendy Lebrun

AWESOMNESS.
- Joanne & John Beardy
DOTC hosts a Youth Gathering

By Anupam Sharma and Robert Daniels

“If you are Aboriginal and living in North-end Winnipeg, (as Aboriginal), you are more likely to go jail than graduate” so remarked Michael Champagne- the keynote speaker. It is a telling comment on our society; this observation speaks to the moral, social and economic dilemma facing all of us as Canadians. This is clearly not an Aboriginal issue but; a Canadian issue- sooner or later affecting us all. Clearly, this situation cannot continue.

On April 20, 2015, the Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council convened a Youth Gathering on “Tradition, Culture and Identity”. This was done in partnership with the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Centre. Supported mainly by the First Nations Confederacy of Cultural and Education Programs, the event drew about 150 participants from the schools in the DOTC Communities. Elder Dave Daniels opened the proceedings with the prayer. The Gathering took place at the Keesheeemakuaq Conference and Gaming Centre, in Long Plain/Portage.

Chief Francine Meeches/Swan Lake First Nation was the main driver for this event and, continues to be a champion for the need to focus on youth. For her, the youth face immense challenges. Culture and identity are an important means of strengthening the First Nations at all levels- self, family and the community. She offered that we cannot continue to use this “crisis” as an excuse and, that there is a need to listen to the youth and take action. We all need to work together and bring out the conditions to allow the youth to excel themselves. Here, she saw the school and community working together. Education is a critical priority that will result in employment and economic development.

As Chief of the host community, Chief Dennis Meeches welcomed the participants. He spoke to the importance of culture to help provide the youth with a sense of belonging and strength to deal and cope with the challenges. To make the point, he empathetically said that culture, language and teachings have at a personal level helped him develop and cope with challenges. Of interest, Long Plain First Nation was among the first—if not first- to convene Pow Wow celebrations upon their legalization by the Government of Canada. Robert Daniels/Chief Executive Officer echoed the two Chiefs and, informed that the Tribal Council is committed to working for the benefit of youth so that they too can avail themselves of the economic and other opportunities so that they too can experience a quality of health and life at levels experienced by other citizens living elsewhere across Canada.

Continuing with the previously stated thought, Michael Champagne said we all need to take responsibility and take charge. We should not be waiting for others to help us out. We need to help ourselves. He emphasized the need to focus on a holistic approach—body, mind and soul- to deal with the challenges we all have to face and endure. At the societal level, there is the need to deal with the “systems”—education, justice, health and governance. However, we all need to take charge and help ourselves. He cited his ongoing initiative which began three and half years ago. “Meet at the Bell Tower”, on Selkirk Avenue, is a gathering point on Friday evenings for the Aboriginal youth to discuss issues and challenges. This has become a highly successful vehicle. He also emphasized the need to focus on education as gripping priority.

The afternoon consisted of break-out sessions focused on the topics, followed by facilitators. Culture is in the Language (Dennis Chatrand), Mental, Emotional & Spiritual Health- (Chuck Marshall), Experience (Paula Cameron), Community (Michael Champagne). Important observations arising- cultural protocols are intrinsically tied to your native language. As a source of inners strength, culture and tradition can help to a meaningful and productive life and a greater sense of identity. Culture and tradition shapes the inner sense and identity. Last, but not least, being an active member of the community is about belonging and contributing to the overall strength of community.
The Winnipeg Sun • Thursday June 18, 2015

Aboriginal Focus

Dragon’s Quest Business Plan Competition is a partnership between the Aboriginal Business Service Network and Vision Quest Conferences Inc. and has just wrapped up its third year.

The Dragon’s Quest Process:

The Dragon’s Quest Business Plan Competition is open to all First Nations, Inuit and Metis entrepreneurs in Manitoba! The competition requires that applicants be 18 years of age or older, submit a business plan, and complete the application form.

Step 1: Enter the Competition!

Submit your entry form and your Business Plan. You can find an Entry form at our website at http://www.cfmanitoba.ca/absn/

Step 2: First round of judging!

Remember, your business plan will be judged by a group of volunteers from various business service providers and lenders such as Community Futures offices, Futurpreneur, and Entrepreneurship Manitoba. Judges will be judging the viability of your business plan. The top three scores in each of the Rural and Urban (City of Winnipeg) Categories will be invited to come to Vision Quest in May 2016 to pitch their business ideas to a panel of business professionals.

Step 3: Dragon’s Quest Pitches at the Vision Quest Conference 2016

You will pitch to the panel of live judges at Vision Quest and they will score you on your ability to “pitch” your business in a clear, concise and confident way. Prior to the actual live pitch you will meet with the ABSN Coordinator to prepare your pitch and help focus your pitch to the 6 minute time limit.

Step 4:

All three scores are tallied and the winners will be declared at the gala banquet at the Vision Quest Conference and will receive $5000.00.

Keep your eyes open for the 4th Annual Dragon’s Quest Competition

The 4th Annual Dragon’s Quest Competition will open October 21, 2015 and contest will close March 11, 2016. So if you started a business after January 1, 2015 or will launch your business prior to May 1, 2016 you will be eligible to enter. Visit our website at http://www.cfmanitoba.ca/absn/ to download an entry form that includes competition rules.

URBAN CATEGORY WINNER

LYNDON & DERRICK JAMESON
JAMESON SALTWATER ECOSYSTEMS INC., WPG, MB

The real passion behind Into the Blue resides in the Jameson brothers, Lyndon and Derrick. The identical twins started young, real young. At five years old they had their first freshwater tank. Lyndon and Derrick completed their Bachelor’s in Science degrees with an emphasis in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Manitoba. They continue to have an unprecedented survival rate for all the organisms they buy and sell due to their continued zest in and quest for an environmentally friendly future in aquaculture.

TORI CORDELL
CANINE CABIN, THOMPSON, MB

My name is Tori Cordell, the owner of Canine Cabin in Thompson, Manitoba. Owning a business has been a lifetime dream after watching my Grandmother own various businesses. Because of my love for animals, I always assumed I would own a pet store & grooming salon. After seeing the long term local pet store close and a new pet store opening to fill the void, I knew there was no room for two pet stores. After working in a few offices I felt confident enough with my knowledge of bookkeeping to pursue my dream of owning my own business. Today Canine Cabin is happy to serve Thompson with grooming, boarding, and day camp services. We hope to continue offering these services for years to come.

RURAL CATEGORY WINNER

BRIAN ZDANCEWICZ
QUANTUM LEAP ARTIST PRODUCTS
WINNIPEG, MB

JOE LANCELEY
TIPI JOE CREATIONS
RED WILLOW TIPI WINNIPEG, MB

DANA WOOD
SPIRIT OF THE BOREAL BOTANICALS

SHAWN COTE
BLUE RAVEN DESIGN AND PRINT, ASHERN, MB
Our group carries over 28 million dollars in new inventory and over 3 million dollars in used inventory.

We have the biggest selection in Trucks, SUVs, Crossovers, Mini Vans and Vehicles.

We are a Legal Representative of all Major Banks in Canada

Our experts deal with all financing institutions such as auto manufacturers, major banks, and leasing companies.

We also have sources available to handle credit which may not meet the lending standards of the major banks and/or auto manufacturers.

All our loan applications are personally reviewed by a member from our team, ensuring all factors have been considered before your loan is submitted to any lender giving us the ability to match your needs with the right lender.