



Back to Batoche ...2015

Presentation and Photographs By Jocelyn Gosselin





SISTERS...

The first day of the Festival I found the CUPE 's Aboriginals Councils Booth.

Batoche felt like home; I quickly became close with my fellow CUPE Sisters Heather Acroose & Cheryl Redstar (Left to Right).

Showcasing CUPE's "Water Connects Us All" Campaign...

... We managed to obtain hundreds of signatures in support of our Petition to pressure the government to ensure funding to First Nations and Communities to renew or expand water systems.

... We also Raised \$260.00 to donate to communities affected by the North Saskatchewan Fires.





THE HEART OF THE METIS PEOPLE

The Fiddle could be heard from the campsite as early as 9AM until the Midnight hours.

Melodies such as the Red River Jig, Heel Toe Polka, and 7 Step were all familiar to my Father; reminding him of younger years.

Some of the Featured Fiddlers included: Jason Lepine, Blaine Constant, Gary Lepine, Taylor Fleming, Alex Kusturok, Daryl Sanderson, Ivan Chantrand, Christopher and Dylan Pinette.





GARY LEPINE
BLAINE CONSTANT





CAN YOU JIG IT?

In the mornings there was jig lessons under the big top to help people learn how to keep up with their dance partners while on the floor.

Everyone was tapping their heels whether they were on the dance floor or in the stands.

My Father really enjoyed sitting under the big top listening to all the musicians and having a dance or two or three several different partners.

... I think he thought he was at least 20 years younger by the end!





JIGGING & SQUARE
DANCING





CANADA'S NEXT KING TRAPPER?

One of the demonstrations at the Festival was put on by the King Trappers.

There were 6 Events... Because some were so dangerous participants could only participate in a few!

So we had our own mini competition... Log Throwing, Axe Tossing, and Log Crosscut Sawing!

... I tossed my log the farthest out of the female participants... 19.3ft total! With a flip making it count!





HITTING THE MARK

... I didn't do so well in the Axe throwing event.

... Then again only a few people managed to get the axe to stick into the target!

... Except the King Trappers; they hit the mark every time!

Other events included trap setting, where the trappers set 6 traps in 30 seconds. As well as the log chop... both Trappers were fast, and I still am not sure who finished their log first.





KING TRAPPER GAMES





CAMPFIRE BANNOCK BAKING COMPETITION

One of the more popular competitions!

Spectators gathered around to watch entrants kneed and bake their way over open coals for the chance to be named the best bannock maker!

I cheered for my newly made friends Shalome Hope and her jigging daughter Savannah.

... It was their first time competing. Unfortunately they didn't win; but they had lot's of family fun together.





BANNOCK BAKING





BATOCHÉ HISTORICAL SITE

An afternoon at Parks Canada's Heritage Site taught me so much more about Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont.

We walked about the area taking in the historical learning experiences.

When we stopped at the Cemetery we found one relative named Helene Gosselin; she was listed as in an unmarked grave.

It was also interesting to learn that the Metis people themselves bought and paid for the church to be built.





BATOCHÉ
LEARNING
CENTRE



ois
Gervais
Gervais
Gervais
Godin
Gosselin
Gossey
Grenier
Grosjean
H
Jean Baptiste
Marie Alea
Pierre
Robert
Angelique
Helene
Theodore
Virg



BATOCHÉ HERITAGE SITE





CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Over the course of the 4 days my Father and I had were able to reconnect with our culture.

Everyone at the Festival was eager to learn more about their past; and to share it with future generations.

Our neighbor campers stayed in a tipi, Daryl was teaching his nephew about how to build one.

Metis artist Dennis Weber taught us about the meaning behind his art piece that can be found on the Veterans War Memorial Monument.







ONE ARROW POW WOW

On the Saturday evening we took a drive down the road to One Arrow First Nations Reservation.

They were having a competitive Pow Wow. There was hundreds of dancers; all danced beautifully.

One of Cheryl's little relatives was dancing in the Pow Wow too! With her new cape that she had made for her.

There was also close to 10 drumming groups that were performing; it seemed like there was always a new group singing and playing that I eventually I lost count.





ONE ARROW POW WOW





MIIGWICH

PISHHAPMISHKO

TAKE CARE

THANK YOU

... Another adventure ended; I can't wait to share my experiences...