



# The Sault Star

Tuesday, August 7, 2012

Sault Ste. Marie, Canada



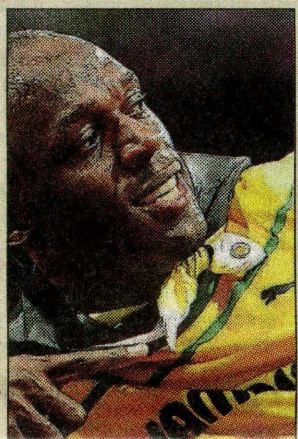
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## INSIDE



## ECHOES DRUM INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



RACHELE LABRECQUE Sault Star

The 10th Annual Echoes Drum International Festival took place this weekend at Algoma University. Despite the 35 C temperatures, many drummers, including young ones, participated in the event. Andrea Young, poses for a photo with her niece Mariah Altman, 6. The two from Chippewa of the Thames First Nations (near London, Ont), made the trip for the weekend.

## THEFT

# Stolen vehicle shows up at seniors' building

BRIAN KELLY  
The Sault Star

A vehicle stolen from near Peterborough turned up at a downtown seniors' building on Saturday night.

A man recently took a Toyota Highlander from a woman he knew in Port Perry, said Sgt. Ken Hruska of Sault Ste. Marie Police Service.

"He was just going to take the vehicle for a ride," he said.

Instead, he kept the crossover SUV. After he left, the woman noticed "a bunch of things" were missing from her residence.

The man stopped in the Sault where he met a male he knew. The city man was told the driver was taking a bus to western Canada. He told his acquaintance he could have the vehicle, said Hruska.

Police found the Highlander at the Senior Citizens Drop-In Centre on Bay Street. The man was visiting someone in a nearby apartment building.

The accused was wanted on several warrants.

Darin Layden, 44, of no fixed address, was charged with possession of stolen property, break and enter, failing to attend court and two counts each of failing to appear for prints and theft.

Durham Regional Police Service has issued warrants for the arrest of the man who took the Highlander. Port Perry is about 65 kilometres west of Peterborough.

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# School survivor forgives assailant

**BRIAN KELLY**  
The Sault Star

A major obstacle faced Garnet Angeconeb when he wanted to forgive the man who sexually abused him at a residential school.

In 2002, the Lac Seul First Nation member learned his assailant died two years earlier at a halfway house in Winnipeg.

Former Anglican priest Leonard Hands was sentenced to four years in prison in 1996 after pleading guilty to 19 counts of sexual assault against young boys. The assaults happened at Pelican Indian Residential School between 1966 and 1971.

"I wanted to have dialogue with him, at least shake his hand," said Angeconeb during the Shingwauk 2012 Gathering and Conference. "That gave a bit of a barrier to move forward with being able to forgive."

The University of Western Ontario journalism graduate chose a second path. At a gathering in Sioux Lookout, Ont., similar to the one that drew several hundred residential school survivors to Algoma University this past weekend, Angeconeb publicly forgave Hands, a dormitory supervisor, for what he did to him in Pelican Falls in northwestern Ontario.



**BRIAN KELLY** Sault Star

**Garnet Angeconeb talks to other conference attendees before he speaks Saturday morning at the George Leach Centre.**

His wife and two children, residential school students, clergy, traditional spiritual leaders and the general public were present.

"With all kinds of people around, I spoke words of forgiveness," said Angeconeb.

"I spoke out loud. People heard me. It was a tremendous release. I felt really good."

Angeconeb hoped members of Hands' family would attend, but they were not present at that event 10 years ago.

"Nevertheless, I spoke those words and that's the important thing," he said.

Angeconeb's *Speaking My Truth: The Journey to Reconciliation* is the first chapter in *Speaking My Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation and Residential Schools*.

The readings are taken from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's three-volume series, *Truth and Reconciliation*. It be can downloaded at no charge.

Angeconeb, who attended Pelican for six years, shared an excerpt from his writing Saturday morning at George Leach Centre.

In his 26-page remembrance, Angeconeb described how

former residential school students would only talk about their "negative" experiences in a "drunken stupor."

He finds much has changed in the last 10 to 20 years. Survivors who were abused are much more open to sharing their personal history.

"The doors of silence have been opened. The doors are now open," said Angeconeb.

"It's up to us to be able to find the strength and the courage to communicate what it is that we're living with and to be able to dialogue with our families, our communities, Canadians at large to talk about relations. The key here is communication."

*Speaking My Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation and Residential Schools* encourages Canadians to meet in groups and discuss questions such as "What does reconciliation mean to you?" "Is apology an important part of healing and reconciliation?" and "Are the events of the past (the mistakes of our parents or grandparents) the responsibility of present generations? Do the readings in this volume challenge this idea?"

"Dialogue is very important ... We want to create awareness and awareness leads to understanding and that's the basis of reconciliation. Talking is very key to healing and reconciling," said

**“I wanted to have dialogue with him, at least shake his hand. That gave a bit of a barrier to move forward with being able to forgive.”**

*Garnet Angeconeb,  
on man who sexually abused him*

Angeconeb.

The impact of residential schools doesn't just affect First Nations people, said the recent Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal recipient.

"I think it's really important that, as a country, as Canada, we talk about our shared history," he said.

"It's just not history about aboriginal people. It is Canadian history."

His decision to forgive Hands wasn't a cure-all, but a starting point.

"I know that was one milestone in an overall lifetime healing process," he said.

"It's a very important step. I felt good, but I also know that I have to keep working at it every day."

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■ THE BEAT GOES ON



RACHELE LABRECQUE Sault Star

Sault boy Christopher Gravelle Jr., 6, sticks his tongue out while he bangs on a drum at the 10th Annual Echoes Drum International Festival this weekend at Algoma University.

# localnews

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■ **FIRST NATIONS:** Photos, kits explore residential school experience

## Projects focus on education

**BRIAN KELLY**  
The Sault Star

Three education projects about Indian residential schools are designed to deepen Canadians' knowledge about their impact and get First Nations people to share their experiences with each other.

*Where are the Children?* and *100 Years of Loss: The Residential School System in Canada* were both installed at Algoma University's George Leach Centre during Shingwauk 2012 Gathering and Conference over the long weekend.

"There is a general level of awareness that a residential school system existed at some point in history, but many people don't realize the magnitude of that," said Trina Cooper-Boram, director of legacy projects for Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

More than 150,000 aboriginal children were sent to residential schools from the mid 1800s to the late 1990s.

The *100 Years of Loss* education kit, meant for students in grades 9 to 12, was piloted in Halifax in 2011 before its launch last winter.

It includes six lesson plans, teacher's guide, DVD and a wall-mounted timeline. The kit is free for secondary educators who teach related subjects such as history and law.

It contains 12 to 25 hours of teaching material and a 200-page book.

"There is a lot of information there," said Cooper-Boram.

Members of the general public who want their own copy may be asked to make a

donation. Each contribution of \$250 covers the cost of a new kit.

Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre staff were trained by Aboriginal Healing Foundation during the reunion. They will be able to prepare high school teachers in the Sault Ste. Marie area to use the education kit.

Several hundred teachers across Canada have already been trained and 1,100 kits distributed to schools. To see so many kits in circulation is encouraging for Cooper-Boram. It's a welcome change from a status quo she sees as disturbing.

"It's astonishing that someone can go through high school having learned nothing about this history (of residential schools) especially considering the fact that it has had such an impact on the lives of aboriginal peoples and is one of the causes of so many issues that aboriginal peoples are faced with today," she said.

The *100 Years of Loss* exhibition has toured about 10 communities, including Halifax, Fredericton, Victoria and Saskatoon, since its launch in 2011. The display, which Cooper-Boram says gives residential school survivors "an opportunity to share their story," heads to University of Manitoba next, followed by stops in Iqaluit, Yellowknife and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The exhibition is designed for events at high schools that focus on residential schools and aboriginal awareness.

A second photo exhibition, *Where are the Children?*, is



**BRIAN KELLY** Sault Star

Lucy Sutherland Johnston, a Sault Ste. Marie resident who attended Bishop Horden Indian residential school in Moose Factory for nine years, views the exhibit *Where are the Children?* at Algoma University's George Leach Centre on Saturday.

available for aboriginal communities. It features archival photos of residential schools taken from more than a dozen collections across Canada.

The exhibition began in 2003 following a youth conference organized by Aboriginal Healing Foundation two years earlier.

Students thought "the story of residential schools needed to

be shared," said Cooper-Boram. "There wasn't enough dialogue happening in their own communities about what had happened."

They decided such a collection of images "would be a good way to start a conversation."

The exhibition, curated by Jeff Thomas of Six Nations Reserve, "is really a place

where people can share their experiences in a safe setting," said Cooper-Boram.

She encourages Canadians to support programs that help residential school survivors heal from an education system designed to strip their identity as First Nations people.

"Communities have a capacity to heal themselves if they have the resources to heal

themselves," said Cooper-Boram.

"I think there's a lot of hope in that."

Anyone interested in hosting either photo exhibition can contact Legacy of Hope Foundation at 877-553-7177 or go online at [www.legacy-offhope.ca](http://www.legacy-offhope.ca).

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# localnews

■ **BLAZE:** Several people have been coming and going from property

## Vacant downtown house visited by numerous people prior to recent fire

**BRIAN KELLY**  
The Sault Star

A vacant downtown home damaged in a recent fire was frequented by people in the weeks it sat empty, police say.

Firefighters were called to 167 John St., the night of July 27. Damage was heaviest on the property's main floor.

Insp. Dan Fraser, of Sault Ste. Marie Fire Services, probed the fire scene on July 28. He described the blaze as suspicious and said city police would be the lead agency in its investigation.

The property, near Albert Street West, was vacant for several weeks, said Const. Sonny Spina in an email.

"Officers have found that several people have been seen coming and going from the property at different times of day over the past few weeks while it has been vacant," he said.

Where the fire began is still being investigated.

It's not known if the property was insured or how much it will cost to repair damage done to the home's three floors.

Convicted sex offender Karl Crack used to live at the resi-



Sault Star

A downtown home that was damaged extensively by a fire was frequented by people in the weeks before the blaze.

dence. A home, when he lived in Thessalon, burned down when he was in custody in 2010.

"Officers with our criminal investigations division are aware of that information," said Spina.

"We are following up on several leads with regards to this fire. However, at this point, a specific intent has not been determined."

The home, which contains

several apartments, is nearly a century old. The address first appears in the city directory for 1917-18.

Past residents have included workers for Abitibi Paper and Algoma Steel, a stenographer for a law firm, a housekeeper at Plummer Memorial Hospital and a shoe repairman.

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■ **SHINWAUK REUNION:** 'It's about survivors supporting survivors'

## Shingwauk reunion welcomes all students

The Sault Star

A gathering for Shingwauk residential school students has evolved into an event that welcomes all aboriginal peoples who attended similar institutions.

Shingwauk 2012 Gathering and Conference drew 328 pre-registrants. More were expected during the three-day event that ended Sunday at Algoma University.

Most attendees were from

northeastern Ontario, said Jonathan Dewar, director of Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre. Others came from Thunder Bay, the Sioux Lookout area and Montreal.

The majority of participants were residential school survivors, joined by family and friends.

The Shingwauk School opened in 1894 and ran until 1970. The first Shingwauk gathering was in 1981. "Now when there is an event that's about

residential schools — even if it's a specific residential school that's being remembered or students being celebrated — everybody who is connected to the issue comes together. If they can make it, they come," said Dewar.

It's about survivors supporting survivors, regardless of whether they went to the same school. It's the big issue."

More than 150,000 aboriginal children attended residential schools from the mid-1880s to the late 1990s.

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