

Riel and Northwest Rebellion remembered

One hundred years ago in the Northwest Rebellion in Saskatchewan, the Métis, who are of French-Indian ancestry, took up arms under Louis Riel to gain recognition for their land claims from the government in Ottawa. The battle which ensued lasted 51 days and ended at Batoche with about 100 dead and the execution of Riel, the visionary leader of the Métis.



Louis Riel

Over the past hundred years, while Louis Riel has become a romantic hero of plays, songs, films, an opera and a ballet, the Métis virtually became a forgotten people. Not until 1982 were they legally acknowledged as an aboriginal people in the Canadian Constitution.

This year, the Métis in western Canada, with funding from the federal and provincial governments, organized a number of



The Glenbow exhibition includes many special Métis items like smoked-hide mitts with elaborate floral beadwork and a powder horn which at one time was a most valued item to Métis hunters.

Glenbow Museum

events to mark the centenary of the rebellion. Some of the events were centred in Batoche National Park where record numbers of visitors toured the battlefield, the carefully preserved rifle pits, the battle-scarred church and the graveyard.

In Calgary, the Glenbow Museum organized an exhibition on Métis culture and history featuring 300 objects including fragments of the rope used to hang Louis Riel. The Glenbow, under the sponsorship of Gulf Canada Limited, was the first Canadian museum to attempt to systematically document the lives of the Métis in western Canada from their origin, through their development as a nation, to their situation today. A touring component of the exhibition is currently on view in Saskatoon from where it will travel to Winnipeg, Montreal and Edmonton.

Governor general's legacy



The second Lord Tweedsmuir (left), son of John Buchan, the first Lord Tweedsmuir, attended the opening of an exhibition at the National Library of Canada in Ottawa to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the appointment of his father as governor general of Canada. The exhibition, Glimpses of John Buchan: His Life and Legacy, centred on his achievements as Canada's thirty-fifth governor general from 1935 to 1940, his work as an author of history and fiction and his role in fostering the Governor General's Literary Awards. With Lord Tweedsmuir at the opening were Minister of Communications Marcel Masse and Governor General Jeanne Sauvé.

National Library

Sailors celebrate seventy-fifth anniversary

The Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary this year with a number of events across the country to mark the occasion.

One major project commemorating the anniversary was the January launching of an exhibition called *The Naval Service of Canada* at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary.

The exhibition reflects naval development and changes in Canada, in 50 works selected by the Canadian War Museum from Canada's collection of more than 7 800 war paintings and sculptures. Recently on view in Moncton, New Brunswick, the exhibition will also travel to Montreal, Quebec, and Thunder Bay, Ontario.



The above watercolour, Aircraft Carrier, Atlantic Convoy by Frank Leonard Brooks, is one of the 50 works selected for the naval exhibit by the Canadian War Museum.

National Gallery of Canada