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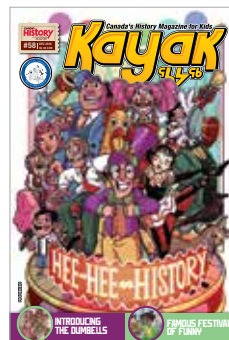
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Psst! These symbols spell "Kayak" in Inuktitut.



Cover illustration: Hannah Teakle

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FROM-THE-EDITOR



Who do you think is the greatest woman in our history? Maybe you're thinking of a suffragist who helped win women the right to vote. Or maybe an athlete or singer comes to mind. And then there are all those great scientists and teachers and writers and adventurers, too!

There are so many amazing women who have helped shape our country. Often their stories have been ignored, or more importance has been given to the men they may have worked alongside. But

this issue of *Kayak* is all about these women who made Canada what it is today.

Well, some of them. The hardest part about producing this issue is that we couldn't possibly fit all of the notable women from the past into these pages. We had to leave many fabulous females out of this issue, but never fear! You can always search them out yourself, and we'll continue to include women and their achievements in every magazine we put together.

Who do you think we've overlooked? Visit us at kayakmag.ca to tell us about any wonderful women you feel are missing from this issue.

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HUDSON'S BAY

GET TO KNOW SOME FASCINATING FEMALES

SHE DID IT



Quebec-born **Esther Pariseau**, who became a nun known as **Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart**, designed and supervised construction of more than **30** buildings in the far west of Canada and the United States in the late 1800s.

\$125 The amount **Laure Gaudreault** earned in 1906 as a young school teacher in rural Quebec. She persuaded others like her to form a union that brought them better wages and more respect.



- 1916** WOMEN WIN THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN MANITOBA
- 1918** THE FIRST YEAR WOMEN CAN VOTE IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS
- 1940** QUEBEC WOMEN ARE ABLE TO VOTE IN THEIR PROVINCE
- 1960** THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ALLOWS INDIGENOUS WOMEN TO VOTE

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY WORKER JOHN FUBBISTER SHOCKED EVERYONE WHEN "HE" GAVE BIRTH TO A BABY IN 1807. TURNS OUT THE TOUGH, STRONG FUR TRADER WAS ACTUALLY A WOMAN NAMED **ISOBEL GUNN**.



At the first ever Calgary Stampede in 1912, Alberta's Flores La Due (real name Grace Bensell) won the title of World Champion Trick and Fancy Roper. She did it again — twice!

“I HAVE NO MONEY TO LEAVE FOR MY GRANDCHILDREN. MY STORIES ARE MY WEALTH”

—ANGELA SIDNEY, THE LAST PERSON TO SPEAK THE TAGISH LANGUAGE AND FOUNDER OF THE YUKON INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

COST TO STAY ONE NIGHT IN 1933 IN NORTH AMERICA'S FIRST OFFICIAL HOSTEL, RUN BY SISTERS MARY AND CATHERINE BARCLAY NEAR BRAGG CREEK, ALTA: 25 CENTS. (IT WAS A TENT WITH STRAW MATTRESSES.)



1 in 10 of the young women known as filles du roi (daughters of the king) did not survive the voyage to New France. 2 in 3 French-Canadians are related to the 800 filles du roi who arrived safely.



50 THE NUMBER OF NEW TYPES OF LILACS NAMED AFTER SHAKESPEARE HEROINES DEVELOPED IN THE 1920S BY ONTARIO'S ISABELLA PRESTON. SHE ALSO CREATED 33 TYPES OF FLOWERING CRABAPPLE TREES NAMED FOR CANADIAN LAKES, AS WELL AS HUNDREDS OF KINDS OF LILIES.

74

WOMEN WHO
MADE A
DIFFERENCE

MEET SOME EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE WHO SHAPED OUR COUNTRY

Illustrations by Michelle Simpson



Everywhere the legendary explorer David Thompson went, his half-Cree wife **Charlotte Small** went, too, travelling tens of thousands of kilometres in the early 1800s through bush, swamp and mountain with their three children.

Phyllis James Munday helped map and photograph many mountains near her B.C. home and in 1924, became the first woman to climb Mount Robson, the highest peak in Canada's Rockies.



I'm **Mina Hubbard**. When my husband died exploring northern Labrador, I decided to complete his journey in 1905. The expedition turned into a race, but my First Nations team and I beat the competition by six full weeks, making top-quality maps along the way.

IN SEARCH OF ADVENTURE



In 1939, New Brunswick's **Molly Kool** became the first woman sea captain in North America, and the second in the entire world.



The Royal Canadian Air Force wouldn't let the experienced Vancouver flyer **Helen Harrison** be a Second World War pilot, so she served with the Air Transport Auxiliary, a group of mostly women who moved planes while men flew in battle.

I'm **Idola Saint-Jean**. From the 1910s into the 1940s, I tirelessly demanded rights for Quebec women, especially the right to vote and to hold any job. I also worked to help children and the elderly.

FIGHTING FOR RIGHTS



Passionate about rights for all workers, especially women, **Helen Armstrong** was the only female leader of the Winnipeg General Strike in 1919.



In the 1950s, **Jean Lumb** pushed the Canadian government to make its immigration laws fairer so that Chinese people could bring family members to be together. She was also a busy store-owner and volunteer who helped save Chinatown areas in Toronto, Vancouver and Calgary.



Marie Lacoste Gérin-Lajoie didn't think it was fair that wives had to give their property and any money they earned to their husbands. She devoted her life to educating Quebec women about their rights and working to change the law.

I'm **Nahnebahwequay**. (My English name was Catherine Sutton.) The government tried to sell my family's land while my husband and I were away doing church work. Because I was Ojibwa, I wasn't allowed to buy it back. I went to England in 1860 to ask Queen Victoria for First Nations land rights.



In 1946, **Viola Desmond** was arrested when she wouldn't move from her seat in the section of a New Glasgow, N.S., movie theatre that was for white people only. Now recognized for her courageous fight against racism, Desmond is featured on the most recent \$10 bill.



Alberta's **Famous Five** were **Emily Murphy, Nellie McClung, Irene Parlbly, Louise McKinney** and **Henrietta Edwards**. They didn't stop until Britain forced the government of Canada to declare in 1929 that women actually were persons.



Edith Archibald was a firm believer in the power of women gathering in small groups over tea. This Newfoundlander who moved to Nova Scotia pushed for a ban on alcohol and for women's right to vote.

ARTFUL LIVES



Starting in the late 1880s, **Hannah Maynard** — the first female photographer in B.C. — gained worldwide admiration for her creative approach to taking pictures. Notice how she put five images of herself in this photo.



Prudence Heward was one of several women in Montreal's Beaver Hall Group of artists in the 1920s and 1930s. Her powerful, bold paintings are in the National Gallery and have been featured on stamps.



Her quiet, majestic paintings of B.C.'s forests and First Nations totem poles were not popular in her lifetime, but **Emily Carr** is now seen as one of Canada's greatest painters.



Shaped from clay or marble, sculptures by Toronto's Frances Loring stand in war memorials and public places all over Canada, including Parliament Hill.



I'm Kenojuak Ashevak. My creation The Enchanted Owl is one of the most famous Canadian artworks ever. I was among the first Inuit involved in the Cape Dorset art printmaking project.



I'm **Bonnie Baker**. When the men who played pro baseball went off to the Second World War, team owners started the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League, using lots of Canadian players. I left Saskatchewan to be a catcher in the league and became one of its biggest stars.

Hilda Ranscombe may be the best female hockey player ever. In the 1920s and 1930s, she led her southern Ontario team, the Preston Rivulettes, to 10 Ontario championships and six national titles.

FIT, FAST FEMALES



Before she was 24 years old, B.C. skier **Nancy Greene** won gold and silver at the 1968 Olympics as well as World Cup titles in 1967 and 1968. She still holds the Canadian record for the most World Cup skiing wins.



Toronto's **Alexandrine Gibb** loved sports, especially basketball, and devoted her life to making sure girls and women had a chance both to be athletes and to have women coaches.



Fanny Rosenfeld, nicknamed **Bobbie** because of her short hairstyle, excelled at basketball, tennis, hockey and softball. She won silver and gold at the 1928 Olympics, the first where women were allowed to compete in track and field.



Nurse Myra Bennett was so dedicated to helping people that she worked for free for more than 10 years in the 1920s and 1930s after the Newfoundland government ran out of money to pay her.

Leonora King was born in eastern Ontario but became the first Canadian doctor in China when she started working there in 1877. She started hospitals and clinics, and never asked her patients for money.



I'm **Georgina Pope**. I was born in Prince Edward Island but travelled far and wide, leading the first group of Canadian nurses to help soldiers in the South African War in 1899, and oversaw all Canadian nurses serving in the First World War.

HEALING HANDS

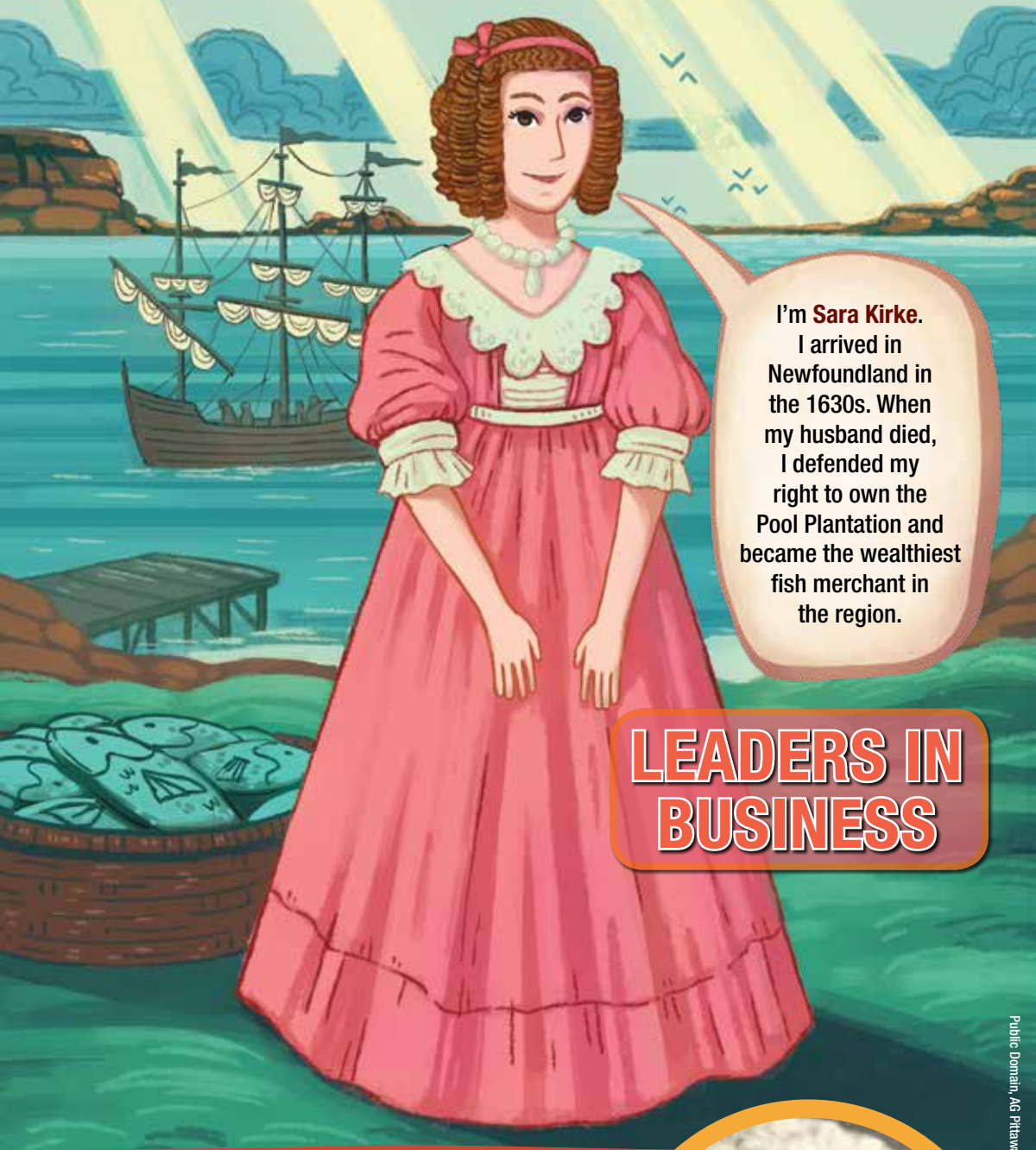
Marie-Henriette LeJeune-Ross travelled all around Cape Breton Island starting around 1800, using special plants and other knowledge to nurse people and help to birth babies.



In the late 1890s, when women doctors were mocked, Quebec's Maude Abbott became one of the world's most important and respected researchers into heart disease.



Ontario's Jenny Trout became the first Canadian woman to earn a licence to practice medicine, in 1875.



I'm **Sara Kirke**. I arrived in Newfoundland in the 1630s. When my husband died, I defended my right to own the Pool Plantation and became the wealthiest fish merchant in the region.

LEADERS IN BUSINESS

Public Domain, AG Pittawa



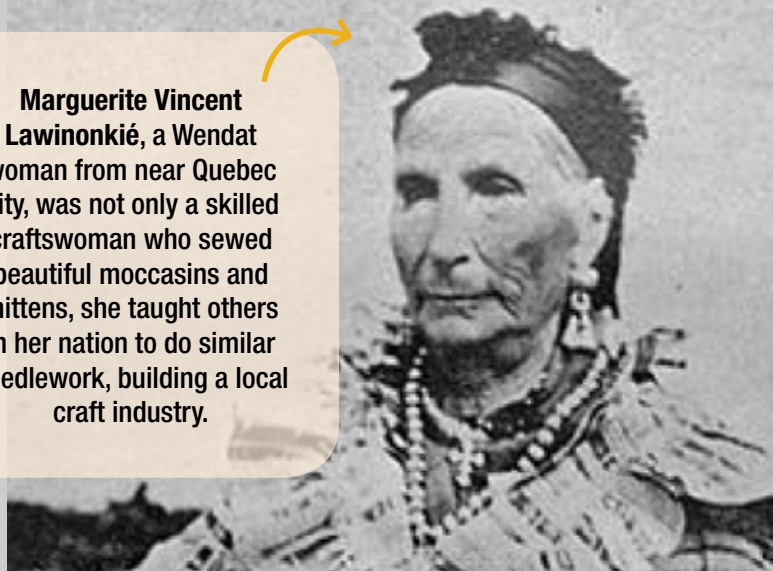
The first *caisse populaire* — a bank owned by its members — was started in 1900 by Alphonse Desjardins and his wife Dorimène Desjardins. She ran the Caisse Desjardins while her husband was away at another job, and helped build it into a whole movement after he died.





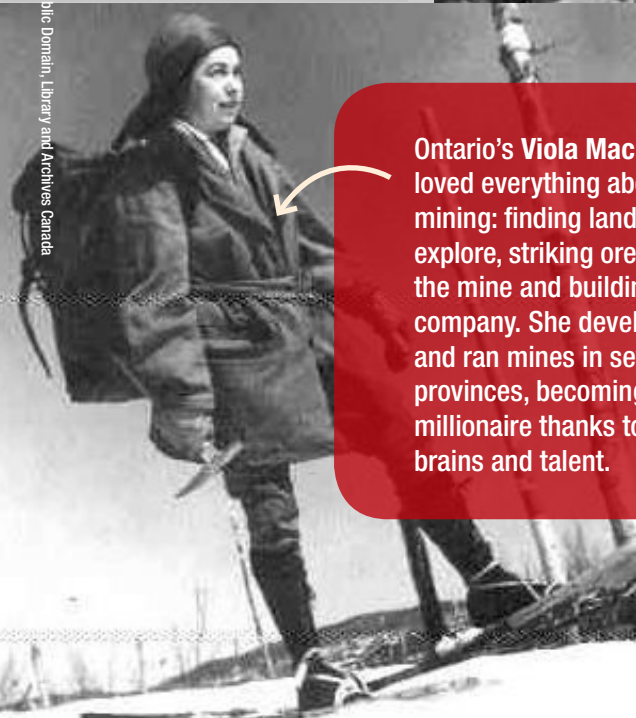
Nellie Cashman didn't stop after making a small fortune mining gold in B.C. in the late 1870s. When the Klondike gold rush started 20 years later, she headed to the Yukon where she was a miner and owned restaurants.

Marguerite Vincent Lawinonkié, a Wendat woman from near Quebec City, was not only a skilled craftswoman who sewed beautiful moccasins and mittens, she taught others in her nation to do similar needlework, building a local craft industry.



Ontario's **Viola MacMillan** loved everything about mining: finding land to explore, striking ore, starting the mine and building the company. She developed and ran mines in several provinces, becoming a millionaire thanks to her brains and talent.

After **Lucie Blackburn** and her husband escaped slavery in the U.S., they ended up in Toronto where in 1837 they started the first cab company in what is now Ontario.



I'm **Molly Brant**. I was a Mohawk loyal to Britain during the American Revolutionary War. I was highly respected in my home near Kingston, Ont., for my lifetime of helping build connections between the British and First Nations.



Rosemary Brown of Vancouver was the first Black woman elected to a provincial government, in 1972, and the first woman to run to be leader of a national political party, in 1975.



POLITICAL WOMEN



Annie Gale became the first woman city councillor in Canada when she was elected in Calgary in 1917.



Ontario's **Agnes MacPhail** was the first woman to win a seat in the House of Commons, where she served from 1921 to 1940.

“Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily it’s not difficult.” –Charlotte Whitton, Canada’s first female mayor, who led the city of Ottawa for nine years.

ON STAGE AND SCREEN

Toronto's **Mary Pickford** was the highest-paid film star of the early 1900s. She started a movie company with her husband and was one of the first women to be a producer.



Calgary's **Kathleen Parlow** gave her first violin concert at six years old, and went on to perform all over the world to enraptured audiences starting in 1907.



I'm **Emma Albani**. I sang on the world's greatest stages as one of the biggest opera stars of the late 1800s. I was one of Queen Victoria's favourite performers and spent a year as a lead singer with New York's famous Metropolitan Opera.

Celia Franca founded the National Ballet of Canada in 1951, after being invited by Toronto ballet-lovers to move from England for the job.

Public Domain, Library and Archives Canada

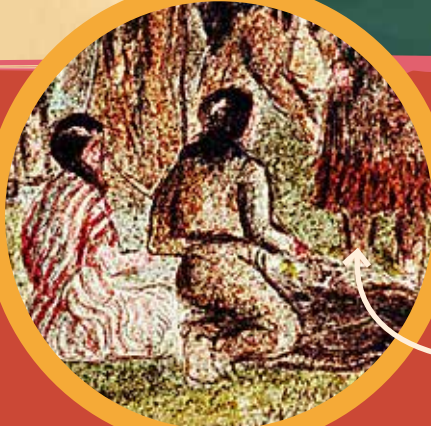


Known as **La Bolduc**, **Mary Travers-Bolduc** was a folksinger in the 1930s beloved by French-speaking audiences for her performances and records of her own songs and traditional ones.



I'm **Mrs. Kwong Lee**. I was the first Chinese woman to live in Canada, but little is known about me, including my own name. I arrived in Victoria, B.C., in 1860 with my husband.

PIONEERING PEOPLE



A successful fur trader and businesswoman in the mid-1700s, **Sally Ainse**, a First Nations (likely Oneida) woman still couldn't win the right to keep the land she had bought near Chatham, Ontario.



Born in Ontario, **Kathleen Rice** became an expert on wilderness living and made a small fortune when she discovered copper, nickel and zinc in northern Manitoba.



Gudridur Thorbjarnardottir sailed to Vinland — probably the island of Newfoundland — more than a thousand years ago. She and her family settled there for three years, meaning she was likely the first European woman to visit Canada.

Jeanne Mance left France in 1641 to set up a hospital in what is now Quebec, L'Hôtel Dieu, and ended up working with Paul de Chomedey de Maisonneuve to found the city of Montreal.





In 1854, when a ship ran aground on Lake Erie, **Abigail Becker** plunged into the icy waters to rescue eight men, earning her the nickname **The Angel of Long Point**.

Françoise-Marie Jacquelin, better known as **Marie de la Tour**, came to what is now New Brunswick in 1640. With her husband away, a rival attacked Fort la Tour. Marie took command of the 45 men inside and courageously defended the fort, which eventually fell to the attackers.

BOLD AND BRAVE

I'm **Joan Fletcher**. I'm from Regina originally, and served in the Second World War. I made 20 trips through dangerous jungles and over mountains to get 2,000 Dutch women and children out of a military prison in Indonesia. I even commanded Japanese soldiers to help out.

When rebels marched into Toronto in 1837, the young sisters **Charlotte and Cornelia De Grassi** spied on their movements and carried messages to the military, often as bullets flew.

She was known as **Cougar Annie**. **Ada Annie Rae-Arthur** and her family settled on a lonely part of Vancouver Island's west coast in 1915. She became an expert shot as she defended their farm against bears and, yes, cougars.



SCIENCE STANDOUTS

I'm **Maud Watt**. In the 1930s, my husband and I were shocked to see how few beavers were left in northern Quebec, and the suffering that meant for the Cree people. I set out by dogsled to meet with the provincial government, which agreed to turn over a huge piece of land as a reserve where we helped the beaver population recover.

“If you were a man, I'd say that was a fine lecture.” –said to Allie Vibert Douglas, who became Canada's first female astrophysicist in the late 1920s.



Sylvia Fedoruk was part of a team at the University of Saskatchewan that first used cobalt radiation to treat cancer patients in 1951. The treatment ultimately helped tens of millions of people.



Polio was a terrifying, crippling disease until a vaccine was found in 1952. Toronto's **Leone Farrell** perfected a way of making large amounts of the vaccine, helping millions all over the world.



Elsie MacGill from Vancouver was the first Canadian woman to earn degrees in electrical engineering and aeronautical engineering. She was also the first woman in the world to design and test an airplane.

THE POWER OF WORDS

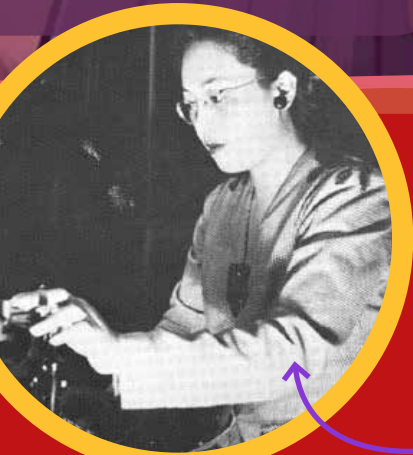
I'm **Mary Ann Shadd Cary**. I left the U.S. and settled in southern Ontario in 1850 where I became the first Canadian woman to start a newspaper. I published and edited the *Provincial Freeman* to help and inspire other Black people.



Kit Coleman wasn't satisfied at being made one of Canada's first female newspaper editors, in 1889. The Toronto woman went on to be North America's first female war correspondent and went undercover on all kinds of big stories in Canada and the U.S.



Pauline Johnson drew on her Mohawk heritage for her hugely popular poetry and stage performances between 1892 and 1910. She published several collections of poems and a novel.



B.C.'s **Muriel Kitagawa** used her writing in magazines and newspapers to fight discrimination against Canadians like her who came from Japanese backgrounds, especially during the Second World War.



Using the name **Françoise, Robertine Barry** wrote fierce articles in the Quebec newspaper *La Patrie* in the early 1890s arguing for education and rights for women.



In the 1920s, Helen Creighton realized the old songs and stories of the Maritimes were about to disappear, so she travelled thousands of kilometres and spent countless hours recording them.

Onésime Dorval was the first licensed schoolteacher in what is now Saskatchewan. She taught in both French and English there and in Manitoba from 1877 to 1921.



Captured by English settlers in Newfoundland in 1819, Demasduit taught them that her people, the Beothuk, were not dangerous. Her efforts came too late, and the Beothuk were soon wiped out.



I'm **Marguerite Bourgeoys**. I set up some of the first schools in New France, and started a group of women who travelled by canoe and horseback to educate children wherever they were.

LOVE OF LEARNING



After Adelaide Hoodless's young son died from drinking unsafe milk, she set up training programs in Ontario to teach proper food handling and other skills. She also established the Women's Institute, which spread across Canada and around the world.



Breaking Down Barriers

Many great Canadian women faced objections and obstacles but made things happen anyway. Which of these stories do you think might be real and which made up?

Emily Stowe

had to study in the U.S. because Canadian universities wouldn't let women study medicine. Ontario still wouldn't give her a licence to practice so in 1867 she just started treating patients anyway.



Eileen Vollick,

the young Ontario woman who in 1928 became the first Canadian woman to earn her pilot's licence, had to do an extra test flight with the examiner that none of the men she studied with had to undergo.



Rose Fortune,

who had once been enslaved in the U.S., moved to Annapolis Royal, N.S., in 1783. She became North America's first female police officer, a position she created for herself.



Fern Blodgett

wasn't allowed to be a radio operator on Canadian Navy ships during the Second World War, so the Ontario woman jumped at the chance to be Sparks, as operators are known, on a Norwegian vessel.



Noreen Frobisson

of Lacombe, Alta., balked when curling officials insisted that if she and her team wanted to compete in the 1958 provincial championships, they had to wear short skirts that blew around and left their legs cold. Frobisson turned up wearing the skirt . . . with warm wool trousers underneath!

Esther Hill

of Edmonton graduated as Canada's first female architect in 1920. The chairman of the architecture school protested by refusing to attend, and the Alberta Association of Architects changed its rules so she couldn't join.



Mary Southcott

knew her family thought nursing was not a suitable job, but after her parents died, she started nursing studies in England at age 37. She returned to St. John's, Nfld., in 1901, where she trained nurses, treated patients and built a hospital.

Answer on page 50

DOUBLE DISCRIMINATION

First Nations women
continue to fight
for equality

An Act of Unfairness

The Canadian government created the *Indian Act* in 1876. The Act decided who qualified as an “Indian,” and could receive tax and education rights, among other things. This is known as having status.

When a status First Nations man married a non-First Nations woman, all of his rights applied to her. But a First Nations woman who married a non-First Nations man lost all her status rights, and her children were not considered to be First Nations. She could not live on a reserve (which we now call a First Nations community) or even be buried there. If she married a man from a different First Nation, she became part of his nation. If he died or they got divorced, she lost all her rights.

Mary Two-Axe Earley, a Mohawk from Quebec, lost her First Nations status when she married an American man. But she didn't accept the unfairness of the *Indian Act*. In 1968, she made her case to the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. After her husband died, she moved back to her home in the Kahnawake First Nations community, but no longer had the right to own property or vote because of her marriage. In 1975, the community said it was going to kick her out of her house. She took her story to an international women's conference and then to the Canadian government.



CP Images



In 1971, two Ontario women — **Jeannette Corbiere Lavell**, an Anishinaabe from Manitoulin Island, and **Yvonne Bedard**, an Onondaga from Six Nations — went to court to fight for their rights in separate cases. Both lost.

In July 1979, a group of Maliseet women from Tobique, N.B., marched 110 miles (about 175 kilometres) to Ottawa to protest 110 years of the Indian Act's unfairness to women. Later that year, one of the women, **Sandra Lovelace**, shown at right, went to the Human Rights Committee of the United Nations. The committee told the Canadian government the act broke international human rights agreements.



CP Images, Senate of Canada



The Canadian government passed **Bill C-31 in 1985**. It gave First Nations women back their status rights, which they could now pass on to their children.



A LIFE FULL OF FIRSTS

Written by Allyson Gulliver Illustrated by Tamará Campeau

1963, PRINCE OF WALES SECONDARY SCHOOL, VANCOUVER, B.C.

“I still can’t believe it,” the teenager said to his friend. “How did we end up with a *girl* as student council president?”

His friend shook his head in disbelief. “I know! The school has been around for 42 years, and a boy has been president for 42 years. Why change now?”

The first boy grinned. “At least she’s pretty!”

“What she looks like doesn’t matter in the least, gentlemen.” The boys looked around guiltily — they hadn’t noticed the gym teacher, Mrs. Currie, behind them. “Kim is as smart as both of you put together. Why should she settle for being secretary of student council when she can be president?”

1964, UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

“I still can’t believe it,” John Kelsey said to no one in particular in the University of British Columbia’s student newspaper office. “I’m going to write an article for the *Ubysey*

about it. How did we end up with a *girl* as frosh president?”

Barbara Wilson looked up from her desk and glared at him. “Kim seems really smart and well-organized. Why shouldn’t the first-year students vote for her?”

Kelsey shook his head. “There’s nothing more appalling than a woman who gets out of her place.”

“Actually, I’d say there is — and I’m looking at him,” Wilson shot back. “She beat two guys, fair and square. What’s your beef?”

“I just think a girl can’t handle a man’s job,” said Kelsey, rolling a sheet of paper into his typewriter. “Gee — that would be a good headline. Kim Campbell Can’t Handle a Man’s Job.”

Wilson rolled her eyes. “Go ahead and write your story, John, but times are changing fast. Good luck keeping up!”

JUNE 25, 1993, PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY LEADERSHIP CONVENTION, OTTAWA

The Ottawa Civic Centre hockey arena had seemed like the noisiest place on Earth for a few days, but



now it was completely hushed. Sweat trickled down red faces as everyone waited for the announcement. The building was packed with supporters of the leadership candidates, reporters and plenty of people who wanted a little glimpse of history in the making.

“Ladies and gentlemen, mesdames et messieurs, here are the final results of voting. Madame Kim Campbell: 1,817. Monsieur Jean Charest: 1,630.”

The crowd roared. Hundreds of people jumped up and down, screaming and cheering, knocking pink “Kim” hats off and waving pink “Kim” scarves.

“You did it!” An overjoyed supporter hugged Kim Campbell. “You’re the leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada! And that automatically makes you the Prime Minister of Canada.”

And now it was time for the woman at the centre of it all to adjust the big gold K pin on her jacket and make her way to the stage. She edged along slowly as photographers, TV camera operators and security guards struggled to stay close to her. Campbell stopped to hug and shake hands with her fans along the way.

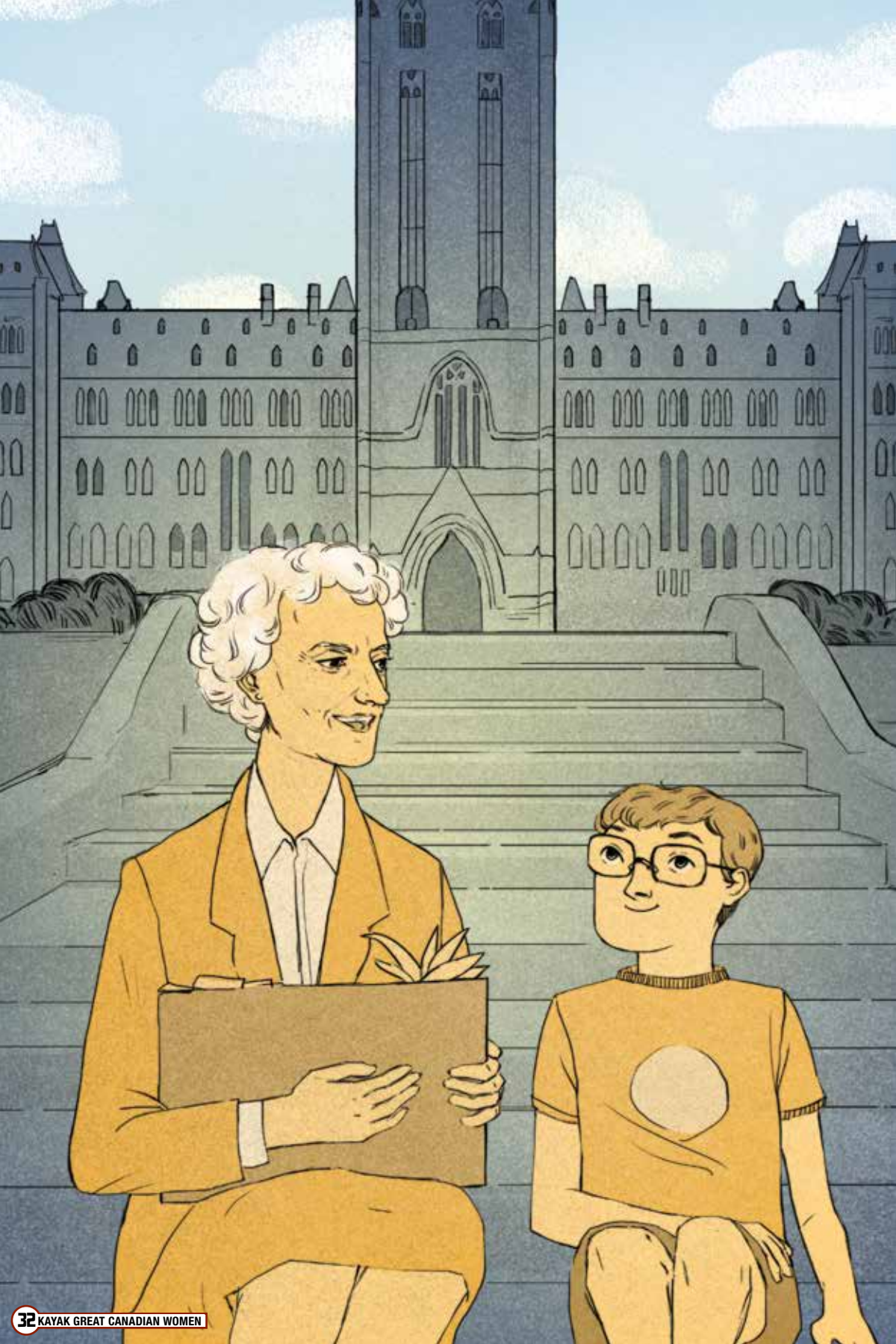
Just as she was about to step on stage, a teenaged girl grabbed her hand. “Ms. Campbell, I —” the girl’s eyes filled with tears. “I’m just so happy we have a woman Prime Minister. I still can’t believe it!”

Campbell’s face split into a huge grin. “Of all the times someone has said that to me, that’s definitely the best.” Then she stepped onto the stage to greet the crowd. **K**

Kim Campbell's name when she was born was Avril Phaedra, but after her mother left the family when Campbell was 12, she changed her name to Kim. She was smart and sure of herself from an early age, winning a role as a student host on CBC-TV when she was just 10. She worked extra-hard and was very popular in high school and at university. She started programs to earn higher degrees, but never finished. When she was in her 30s, she did finally finish a law degree, winning a Vancouver school board election in 1980 while she attended university. Six years later, she won a seat in the B.C. government, and in 1988, became the Member of Parliament for Vancouver Centre. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney first gave her a less important cabinet position, but soon made her Canada's first female minister



of justice, then a few years later, minister of national defence and veterans affairs. When Mulroney resigned as leader, the Progressive Conservative Party was still in power, so whoever was elected to follow him at the head of the party would automatically become Prime Minister. Campbell called an election soon after her leadership victory, and the Conservatives were destroyed, going from 156 seats to two. She was defeated in her own riding, too. After her short time as Prime Minister from June to November of 1993 — she never actually sat in the House of Commons as PM or moved into the official residence at 24 Sussex Drive — she taught at Harvard University. In 1996, she was named Canada's representative in Los Angeles, called the consul general.



EQUALITY FOR ALL

Written by Allyson Gulliver

Illustrated by Taryn Gee

JULY 1971, PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA

The summer sun was so hot that Charlie Leduc could feel it, even see it, shimmering up from the pavement in front of the Peace Tower. And still his mother was taking photos!

“I’ll just be a minute or two, mon beau,” his mother called. “The flowers are so pretty!”

Charlie climbed up the steps toward the beautiful old stone buildings. There was a bit more of a breeze at the top. He leaned back, back . . . there! He could see the flag at the top of the tower, but on such a hot, humid day, it was flopping more than flapping.

All of a sudden he lost his balance and fell backward, right into a grey-haired woman in a trim suit. She hadn’t seen him because of the box of books and papers she held out in front of her.

“I’m sorry! Excusez-moi!” Charlie was so used to speaking both languages at home that he apologized in French and English without realizing it.

“De rien. It’s nothing,” said the woman with a friendly grin. “It’s a long way to the top of the Peace Tower, isn’t it? If you’re feeling dizzy, let’s sit down for a moment.”

The elegant woman folded her skirt and sat down on the top step, Charlie beside her. “I’m Charlie Leduc,” he said, holding out his hand. “My mum and I are visiting from Sherbrooke.”

“That’s a lovely part of Quebec,” the woman said with a nod and smile. “I’m Madame Casgrain,” she added as she shook his hand.

“Why do you have that box?”

The woman sighed. “I have to clean everything out of my office today. They say I’m too old for my job. I don’t think 75 is that old, do you?”

Charlie didn’t want to be rude. “Well, it is a *bit* old,” he said, trying to be kind.

Mme Casgrain burst into laughter. “You’re right, Monsieur Charlie. It is a *bit* old. But I don’t usually let the rules stop me from doing what needs to be done. I think everyone should be treated equally, don’t you?”

“Of course!” Charlie answered. “But everybody’s pretty much equal nowadays.”

A brief look of sadness on Mme Casgrain’s face was chased by a warm smile. “Things are better now, Charlie, but that’s only because people fought

for everyone to have an equal voice. Like you, I am from Quebec. And I have only been able to vote in our province for 31 years.”

That sounded like forever to Charlie, but this time, he stayed quiet. Mme Casgrain seemed to read his mind.

“I know it’s an awfully long time at your age, but 1940 seems like yesterday to me. We started in 1928, and every year, we went to the government to ask for the right to vote. For 12 years, the answer was no.”

“Twelve years? That’s longer than I’ve been alive!” Charlie said. “That’s just silly. Why wouldn’t they let you vote?”

“It seemed silly to us, too,” Mme Casgrain said. “We even sent a petition to the King. Ten thousand people signed it, but still nothing.”

“Don’t you mean the Queen?” asked Charlie.

“It was in 1935, my friend,” she said. “It was still King George back then.” She started to say more, but turned

when she heard someone running up behind them. A worried-looking young man burst out, “Madame Casgrain — there you are! I would have helped you carry that box!”

Then he saw Charlie. “Is this kid bothering you?”

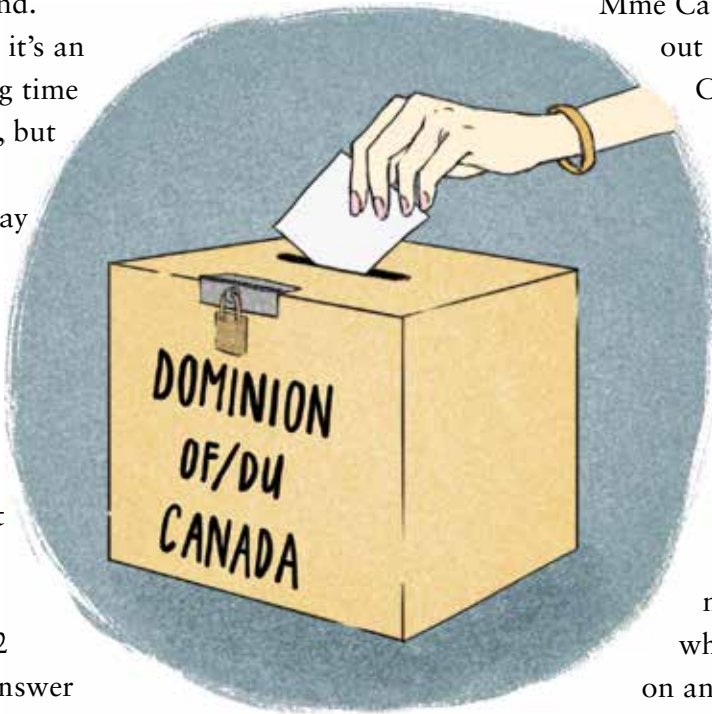
Mme Casgrain held out her hand to Charlie and they both stood up. “Quite the opposite. Our conversation has been the nicest part of my day.”

Just then, Charlie’s mother saw what was going on and rushed up the steps. “I’m so sorry! I — ” Her mouth fell open when she saw Charlie’s new friend.

“Mum, this is — ” His mother’s face was flushed from the heat and something more. “Madame Casgrain, it’s a great honour to meet you,” she said shyly.

Charlie had never seen his strong-minded mother so flustered. “Do you know her?” he asked.

“Everyone knows Mme Casgrain! Without her, women in Quebec might not have any rights at all.” Charlie’s



mother turned to the older woman. “I am so grateful for everything you’ve done. And I admire your work for peace and for native people so much.” She blushed again. “And now I’m babbling!”

She recovered with a smile. “I was

so sorry to hear you’ve been forced out of the Senate. Will you retire now?”

Mme Casgrain looked at the young man from her office and winked. “Well, I may no longer be a senator, but I don’t think I’ll be retiring any time soon!” **K**

Thérèse Forget Casgrain was born in 1896 and grew up in a rich family in Montreal. Casgrain enjoyed volunteering and being a mother to her four children, but was fiercely interested in politics at a time when women couldn’t vote in Quebec. When her husband, Pierre, a judge and Liberal Member of Parliament, fell sick during an election in 1921, she gave witty, exciting speeches in his place. Casgrain helped start the Provincial Franchise Committee, later the League for the Rights of Women. It pushed for women’s right to vote in the face of intense opposition from the powerful Roman Catholic church. She used her radio program *Fémina* to educate women all over Quebec. When women finally won the vote in 1940, Casgrain didn’t stop. It would take pages to list all the things



she did and the honours she won as she worked to improve health care, education and rights for Aboriginal people. She was the first woman in Canada to head a political party, the Quebec New Democrats, from 1951 to 1957.

She started a group called Voice of Women to work for peace, her greatest goal. In 1970, Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau made her a senator. She accepted, knowing the rules said she would have to retire when she turned 75 the next year. Naturally, when she left, she fought for an end to forced retirement while she continued to work for peace and fairness. Thérèse Casgrain died in 1981. In 1985, Canada Post honoured her with a stamp, and her image appeared on the \$50 bill between 2004 and 2012. She jokingly referred to herself as “public busybody number one,” but Thérèse Casgrain made life better for millions of people.

HERSTORIC SITES AND PEOPLE



Madeleine de Verchères

If someone has done a lot of important things for Canada, the government can name them a National Historic Person. More than 700 Canadians have received this honour. Nova Scotia's **Portia White** (1911-1968) was the first Black Canadian to be a singing star in North America. **Madeleine de Verchères** (1678-1747) defended her family's Montreal-area fort against attack when she was just 14 years old. Ontario's **Harriet Brooks** (1876-1933) was the first female nuclear physicist in Canada. She worked for a brief time with the only woman thought to have been above her in the field, Marie Curie. **Shawnadithit** was the last known member of the Beothuk nation on the island of Newfoundland. The information she



Portia White



Shawnadithit

provided, such as drawings, are nearly everything we know about the culture and history of her people. **Jeanne Dugas** (1731-1817) was an Acadian nurse and midwife who was taken prisoner or relocated 15 times while the French and English fought for control of the Maritimes. **Nellie Yip Quong** (1882-1949), a woman of European heritage, married a Chinese man in 1900 at a time when interracial marriages were almost unheard of. She devoted her life to helping Chinese-Canadians, especially women having babies, and fighting racism by bringing all kinds of people together.

Wander the area around the childhood home of author **Lucy Maud Montgomery** near Cavendish, P.E.I., and visit the historic site nearby devoted to her most famous creation, Anne of Green Gables.



Library and Archives Canada, Ingeborg Marshall, iStockphoto



Learn about the life of **Asayo Murakami** and other Japanese-Canadians in B.C. at Murakami House, part of the Britannia Shipyard historic site in Steveston. When Murakami came to Vancouver to meet the man who was to be her husband, she knew she couldn't live with him. She broke off the contract and bravely built her own life in a new land.



The observatory at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology in Ottawa is named after astronomer **Helen Hogg**, whose research and photographs of star clusters starting in the 1930s are still used today.



Sometimes, women are forgotten who should be remembered. From 1898 to 1910, Winnipeg's **Margret Benedictsson** published an Icelandic-language magazine called *Freyja*. Her work with Icelandic-speaking women helped win all Manitoba women the right to vote.



In Ontario's Niagara region, you can visit the home of **Laura Secord**, the brave woman who walked through forest and swamp with the help of First Nations guides to warn the British of an attack during the War of 1812

THANADELTHUR THE PEACEMAKER

ILLUSTRATED BY
ALEX DIOCHON

SPRING 1713,
NORTHERN MANITOBA

CREE WARRIORS ATTACK A
VILLAGE OF THEIR ENEMIES,
THE CHIPEWYAN*

THEY DRAG AWAY YOUNG THANADELTHUR
AND OTHERS TO BE SLAVES.

FALL 1713

THANADELTHUR AND HER FRIEND
ESCAPE AND HEAD FOR HOME.

*THE CHIPEWYAN, NOW OFTEN KNOWN AS DENESULINE, ARE A GROUP OF DENE PEOPLE







I AM AMAZED AT HER BRAVERY AND SPIRIT. SHE SCOLDS THE WARRIORS FOR BEING COWARDLY IN KILLING HER PEOPLE. THEY ARE IN AWE OF HER.



BUT EVEN THANADELTHUR COULDN'T OVERCOME COLD AND HUNGER



WE ARE TOO MANY TO FEED. WE MUST DIVIDE INTO SMALLER GROUPS.



THEY PARTED WAYS, WITH THANADELTHUR LEADING THOSE WHO STAYED WITH HER.



MY PEOPLE!



IF YOUR PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE...



... BUT NO. THIS MUST END.



SOME ESCAPED. I CAN FOLLOW THEIR TRACKS.



CAMP HERE. I WILL FIND THE CHIPWEYAN VILLAGE AND MAKE SURE THEY DON'T TAKE REVENGE ON THE CREE.



WE CAN'T WAIT LONG.

TEN DAYS. IF I'M NOT BACK, RETURN TO THE FORT.



DAY 10



THANADELTHUR RETURNS WITH SOME OF HER CHIPEWYAN PEOPLE.



FINALLY, PEACE TALKS COULD BEGIN.



THANADELTHUR SIMPLY WOULD NOT HEAR ANY DISAGREEMENT.



SHE SPOKE UNTIL HER VOICE GAVE OUT, AND STILL SHE CROAKED AND WHISPERED, UNTIL AT LAST . . .



... PEACE! SEALED WITH THE CEREMONIAL PIPE.



MAY 16, 1716

THE OTHERS PERISHED OR CAME BACK IN SUCH TERRIBLE SHAPE—WE THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!



OVER THE WINTER THANADELTHUR SHOWED THE CHIPPEWYAN (INCLUDING HER NEW HUSBAND) HOW TO PREPARE FURS FOR TRADING.



KNIGHT CAME TO TRUST HER FOR ADVICE ON NEARLY EVERYTHING, INCLUDING A NEW MISSION THAT WAS TO START OFF IN THE SPRING.



BUT THANADELTHUR FELL SICK, AND ON FEB. 5, 1717, SHE DIED.



SHE WAS ONE OF A VERY HIGH SPIRIT AND OF GREAT COURAGE. I AM SURE THE DEATH OF HER WAS A VERY CONSIDERABLE LOSS TO ALL.



TODAY SEES THE FINEST WEATHER WE HAVE HAD THIS SEASON, BUT THE SADDEST IT IS BY THE LOSS OF HER.



IN JAMES KNIGHT'S JOURNALS, SHE IS KNOWN AS THE SLAVE WOMAN, BUT DENE STORIES PROVIDE THANADELTHUR'S TRUE NAME. DESPITE HER AMAZING ACHIEVEMENTS, THERE IS NO MONUMENT TO THANADELTHUR. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS NAMED HER A "PERSON OF NATIONAL HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE" AND PLANS TO PUT A PLAQUE IN CHURCHILL, MAN., NOT FAR FROM YORK FACTORY.



NO VOTES FOR MEN!

ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX DIOCHON





I NOW CALL ON THE MEMBER REPRESENTING THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF UGLINESS.



WE WISH TO MAKE IT LAW THAT NO MAN WEARING A SCARLET NECKTIE, A SIX-INCH COLLAR OR SQUEAKY SHOES MAY ENTER ANY PUBLIC BUILDING WHATSOEVER.



WE BELIEVE THAT MEN HAVE IT VERY HARD AND DESERVE HELP IN THEIR WORK. THAT IS WHY WE PROPOSE LABOUR-SAVING DEVICES FOR THEM.



MY DEAR LADY, IF THESE MEN START WORKING LESS, THEY WILL BEGIN EDUCATING THEMSELVES.

GENEVIEVE LIPSETT-SKINNER, POLITICAL JOURNALIST



AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, THEY'LL WANT THE VOTE!





VOTES
FOR
MEN
DEPUTATION OF MEN







WOMEN SCORE IN DRAMA AND DEBATE



THE MOCK PARLIAMENT WAS SUCH A HIT THAT MCLLUNG AND THE OTHERS PERFORMED IT AGAIN IN WINNIPEG AND THEN IN BRANDON.



AUDIENCES LOVED THE CLEVER SHOW, WHICH MADE IT CLEAR HOW RIDICULOUS IT WAS THAT WOMEN COULDN'T VOTE.



THE NEXT YEAR, THE LIBERALS UNDER LEADER TOBIAS NORRIS DEFEATED ROBLIN'S CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT, LARGELY THANKS TO THE SUFFRAGISTS.



IT WAS CLEAR THAT WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE COULDN'T BE STOPPED.

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