

Local news

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Local 503

Son discovers native heritage

by MARILYN STORIE
Citizen Staff

Patrick Stubbington, 24, discovered his native Indian heritage and over 100 people who cared about him in a celebration held Sunday at Stoney Creek to welcome him home.

"We weren't expecting as many people as there were. It was great," said Ken Vandelaar, brother-in-law to Stubbington.

The family reclaimed Stubbington in an emotional meeting Saturday at the Prince George Airport. They call him by his birth name, Albert George.

George, who lives in Halifax, was taken from his mother by Human Resources, now the Ministry of Social Services and Housing, as a baby.

Cheryl Vandelaar, 27, his natural sister, began a search for her brother and a sister who was also adopted out.

"Social services will not release information unless the person involved is willing," Ken Vandelaar said today.

"It turned out he was looking for Cheryl at the same time she was looking for him, so the information was released."

A letter showed up for Cheryl. She learned the brother she had never seen was adopted by a Surrey family who later moved to Nova Scotia. He was raised as Patrick Stubbington.

The family first talked with their missing relative by telephone Oct. 6, 1992.

George's return was made financially possible by the Stoney Creek Recreation Committee and Native Family Services.

Cheryl had never seen her brother. His mother, Virginia George, hadn't seen him since he was a baby.

"It was a very emotional moment," said Ken Vandelaar. "He met his mother, his 86-year-old grandfather, his father, three sisters and a brother — who up to now had figured he was the only boy in the family."

"The thing that came to my mind was 'Boy, does he ever look like Albert (his natural brother).'"

The family thanked the tribal elders and chief at the celebration. The band council had agreed to donate money raised at recreational bingos to bring George, his wife Janet and three-month-old daughter Alexandra for a week-long visit.

New family and friends performed native dances for the family Sunday. It was George's first introduction to his native Indian heritage as well as to his blood relatives.

The missing sister has also been located. She was adopted and raised by a Mennonite family in the Lower Mainland. She currently lives in Vancouver.

"She's happy with her life the way it is now. At present we're just hoping it will all work out and she'll want to visit at some point."



Patrick Stubbington, 24, his wife Janet and three-month-old daughter Alexandra were greeted at the Prince George Airport by his natural mother Virginia George, the first time he had seen her since he was a baby.

Citizen photo by Chuck Nisbett

Tory ministers in 'bearpit' session

by KEN BERNSOHN
Citizen Staff

Kim Campbell, considered by some as the front-runner to be the next prime minister, refused Saturday to be stamped into announcing her candidacy.

"I'll make a decision within a couple weeks," she said Saturday while in Prince George with three other Progressive Conservative federal cabinet ministers for meetings with the public.

Later in the day, after the announcement that the Progressive Conservative leadership convention was slated for Ottawa from June 9 to 13 and that each candidate would have a spending limit of \$900,000 plus polling, staff costs and travel, she was asked if she could run a campaign on that budget.

Campbell, recovering from the flu, said she was sick of being asked about her campaign. She jokingly quoted former American president Calvin Coolidge, saying, "If nominated I will not run; if elected I will not serve."

"I haven't even decided whether I'm going to run yet."

Campbell; Tom Siddon, Indian Affairs Minister; Mary Collins, Western Economic Diversification and Status of Women Minister; and Frank Oberle, federal Forestry Minister, attracted 125 people for a luncheon after meeting with mayors and municipal district representatives in the morning.

After the luncheon, 88 people showed up for "bearpit" sessions with the ministers, the chance for the public to ask questions about their concerns. By the end of the day, only 45 people — mostly party members — were left at the meeting at the Coast Inn of the North.

The MPs heard variations on a handful of themes throughout the day.

"We want to be sitting at the table as a third level of government during aboriginal discussions," Mayor Charles Lasser of Chetwynd said in the morning.

One of the last questions Siddon got during the day was, "Will Indian land claims be resolved in my lifetime?"

"Until 1990 or 1991 the B.C.

government wouldn't take its place at the table," he replied.

"In three years we've got a draft (of a system setting up a referee to consider land claims). I think we've made great progress."

He added that in years to come aboriginal people will get a better education, have a land base more suited to their needs, and have more ability to make decisions about their own futures.

Another theme from the morning that continued throughout the day was value for government money spent. At each of three sessions, Campbell had to defend the purchase of new helicopters for the Canadian Forces.

"Tanks, trucks, ships and helicopters are not cheap," she replied.

"In the early 1980s the government decided to equip the navy with frigates. When we became government we looked at this and decided to continue the program."

"They're being built and coming on line. These ships have helicopters aboard. They both extend the range of the ships, acting as far-seeing eyes, and protecting the

ships. There's no other way to protect ships (from sophisticated missiles) today.

"The Sea King helicopters we're now using are 30 years old and have 40-year-old technology. Without these new helicopters, how do we monitor illegal fishing along our coasts?"

"The first time we rescue someone off our coasts beyond the range our helicopters now have, people will stop asking questions about cost."

Similarly, Collins repeatedly had to explain the role of the Department of Western Economic Diversification, more specifically what it would not do.

It would not put communities in competition with each other to attract existing companies, she said. Instead, "It has to be something new."

One example she gave was the B.C. Salmon Marketing Council.

"Who would imagine natives, non-natives, seiners and trollers all together? They're getting support."

Collins repeatedly emphasized that WED doesn't tell companies

where to locate in the province. She also explained strategies to improve trade with Mexico, the Orient, and Eastern Europe.

All the ministers had to deal with questions about the deficit and the Goods and Services Tax.

Despite government cutbacks, Ottawa hasn't been able to actually start paying off the deficit yet, Collins said.

And the GST in 1991-1992 brought in \$15 billion to government after administrative expenses, she said, less than the manufacturers sales tax it replaced.

Other common issues raised were the complexity of federal and provincial environmental regulations and individual issues relating to the business of the person asking the question, whether mining, forestry or education.

In the evening Campbell addressed 181 party faithful at a dinner at the Log House Restaurant, telling humorous stories about her career in politics.

Break-in suspects nabbed

One of three city men in custody today after a break-and-enter at a Buckhorn Road home is also facing a charge of sexual assault.

Police were called out Sunday to investigate a complaint by the female owner of the Buckhorn property.

Three suspects were arrested in a vehicle a short distance from the home.

The value of the property taken was under \$1,000.

Gregory Moyou, 26, has been charged with break-and-enter, possession of stolen property and sexual assault. Andrew Cowie, 48, and Clarence Poitras, 42, both face charges of break-and-enter and possession of stolen property.

All three men were expected to appear in provincial court today.

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A city driver who failed to stop for a stop sign plowed into a parked car at Village Avenue and Norwood Street at 11 p.m. Saturday, RCMP said today.

Police said the 31-year-old man and his passenger did not suffer any injuries, but the collision with the car parked in front of its owner's home caused \$10,000 damage.

The driver is expected to face a charge of impaired driving and attempting to obstruct a police officer.

He also faces a charge of failing to stop under the Motor Vehicle Act.

DISTRICT SPECIALISTS' DAY

Fitness hurdles tackled

Like deer caught in the headlights of a car, an audience of about 700 school district staff waited for a health and fitness consultant to tell them what they were doing wrong.

But instead, the audience was given permission to throw away the rules and get in touch with their body, mind, heart and spirit.

Gail Johnston, health and fitness specialist from California, said the health and fitness industry has begun to realize the do's and don'ts of diet and exercise hasn't motivated people to change.

"The evidence is clear most people do not exercise. Most people struggle with food. Most people struggle with their weight or are dissatisfied with their weight. Many people feel stagnant in their lives."

"Many people are having a difficult time balancing their professional lives with their leisure life or their professional life with their family."

Johnston's goal in speaking to people is to "tear down the walls that are preventing people from getting healthy," she says. She has 13 years of experience in the health and fitness industry, including working with Richard Simmons on his Sweating to the Oldies exercise video.

"When it comes to personal

change, none of us are going to take the same route to reach the same goal. And some of us can take the same route and end up in different places.

"We need to focus on lasting change," she said, adding change takes time.

Johnston was in Prince George Friday as part of the District Specialists' Day, which was sponsored by School District 57, Prince George District Teachers' Association and the Prince George Administrators' Association.

About 1,300 school district staff and people from nearby school districts took part in the day which included workshops ranging from classroom instruction techniques, computer programs, and lifestyle issues like diet, exercise and self-esteem.

"It's not unusual to look out into the audience, and the topic is

health and fitness, and I feel like I'm looking at a room full of Bam-bis who got stuck in my car headlights, waiting for me to run them over," Johnston said.

Trying to fix what's inside a person by changing the outside is the wrong focus, she said, adding we need to work from the inside out. The rules of low fat, high fibre eating may be beneficial but "it is possible to carry rules too far," she said.

It's important to end the battle with food, she said.

The same goes for exercise.

Instead of trying to discipline ourselves to go to the gym three times a week or get in shape before we set foot into the gym for fear of what others will think, Johnston encourages people to put more emphasis on the play and pleasure for exercise.



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BARTON INSURANCE BROKERS

Free trade foes to speak

Ken Georgetti, president of the B.C. Federation of Labor, will head a panel of speakers March 21 here who object to the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement.

Margaret Green of the Christian Task Force on Central America; MP Dan Heap, an Anglican cler-

gymen; and Dick Martin, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Labor Congress, will also attend.

It begins at 1 p.m. at the Holiday Inn and is sponsored by the Prince George and District Labor Council and the local chapter of Ten Days for World Development.

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