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Friends of the Prince George Public Library is pleased to present Gardening Guru

DES KENNEDY

Author of The Passionate Gardener

April 20, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
The Prince George Playhouse

Tickets available at Books & Company and at the Library.

Tickets: \$20 general public, \$15 for members of the Friends of the Library and the David Douglas Botanical Garden Society.



Careless death no accident

The Canadian Press

TORONTO — J.M.S. Careless, one of Canada's most distinguished historians and two-time winner of the Governor General's Award, has died. He was 90.

Careless died earlier this week, said Jane Abray, chair of the history department at University of Toronto.

His teaching career at the university began in 1945 and included a stint as chairman of the history department from 1959 to '67. A former president of the Canadian Historical Association, he was professor emeritus at U of T since retiring in 1984.

Careless's work "Canada, A Story of Challenge," long a standard one-volume history of Canada, won the Governor General's Award for non-fiction in 1953.

His two-volume biography "Brown of the Globe," about the Upper Canadian politician and journalist George Brown, won the award in 1963.

Careless was made an officer of the Order of Canada in 1981.

Born in Toronto, Careless studied at U of T and Harvard University.



Native elders meet to help community

All Nations Elders Counsel

Aboriginal elders in Prince George have been coming together for almost a year now to discuss establishing an Elders Council. They have been healing together and discussing ways that they can work together for the betterment of the entire Prince George community.

Jim Roberts had a heartfelt desire to see change. He wanted to see unity and strength between the elders as well as much-needed healing. About a year ago he approached the Aboriginal Business Development Centre and asked if they might help him to bring all of the urban aboriginal elders together. This project may have had humble roots, but it's getting to be pretty amazing.

The first step was to bring elders together in a safe environment where they could participate in a facilitated healing process. A three-day healing camp took place last October and it was a very powerful weekend filled with healing and cultural reconnection. Winston Wuttunee and five volunteer facilitators helped the elders to communicate and three main themes came out of the discussions: communication, unity and the idea of forming an Urban Elders Council.

All three ideas were discussed at length, all being equally important. However, without unity and communication, forming an Elders Council would be impossible. The elders agreed to work at communicating and being united. It was decided that the elders at the camp would comprise the core elders to facilitate the next steps.

Not wanting to lose the valuable insight that they left camp with, the elders agreed to meet on a regular basis at the Native Friendship Centre.

These meetings were open for all elders to attend. The elders also created a newsletter, "Elder's Rock," to share with all elders and their families. Everyone was invited (and is still invited) to submit articles about upcoming events and activities in the community.

On Feb. 18 to 19 the elders held a community meeting at the Civic Centre. The purpose of the gathering was to garner community input and to identify common objectives that elders could work together on.

The first day of the gathering was open to all members of the community. It was a great success -

about 190 people participated. They brought an Open Space facilitator, Chris Robertson, to guide the discussion. During this portion of the session, 33 discussion groups were proposed and three themes emerged: "Elders in the Community", "Elders' Health" and "Elders and Youth Working Together."

The second day of the gathering was for the elders only. They reviewed the previous day's discussion and decided how to proceed from there. The elders agreed to change the name of the group from "Urban Aboriginal Elders Group" to "All Nations Elders Counsel," as this group is inclusive to everybody. The elders also agreed to continue publishing their newsletter "Elders Rock," have formed a Facebook group with the same name, and have expanded on their monthly meetings. Some of you may have noticed the spelling; we have gone with counsel as opposed to council. Counsel by definition means to provide advice, guidance and direction, and that is exactly what the elders are doing.

The new meeting format is as follows:

9 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. – Talking Circle.

9:30 to 10:30 – Guest speakers share knowledge with the elders.

10:30 to 11:30 – Open for community members wishing to seek guidance from the elders.

11:30 to noon – Elders share information and network with each other.

Noon – lunch.

The elders now meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Friendship Centre, and whoever attends is a part of the "All Nations Elders Counsel" for that day. This counsel is meant to be inclusive to any elder in Prince George, Aboriginal or not.

The elders are very excited about this group and strongly feel that this is just the beginning of great things to come.

We would like to extend an invitation to any elders who would like to participate, you are more than welcome to attend the meetings.

It does not matter if you are not originally from Prince George, are Aboriginal or not, do or don't belong to other groups. If you are an elder or even a junior elder, we would love to have you participate in the Counsel.

If you have a topic of interest you would like to see in Aboriginal Voices, contact the Aboriginal Business Development Centre at 562-6325 or e-mail an article to abdc@bc-group.net.

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Passport Canada



Passeport Canada

The Passport Canada Mobile Passport Unit in Prince George

Passport Canada officials will be in Prince George next week with the Mobile Passport Unit. They will review and accept completed passport applications.

Date: April 16, 2009
Location: Prince George
Connaught Youth Centre (Gymnasium)
1491 17th Avenue
Time: Noon to 8:00 p.m.

The only methods of fee payment accepted at this clinic are: certified cheque, money order (postal or bank) made payable to the "Receiver General for Canada", VISA, MasterCard and American Express. Payment by cash or debit will **NOT** be accepted.

Passport application forms can be downloaded from the Passport Canada website and completed by typing in the information. The form can also be obtained at any Passport Canada office, Service Canada Centre or Canada Post office.

For more information, visit www.passportcanada.gc.ca or call 1-800-567-6868.

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