

## Arnault-Pelletier honoured by U of S

Valerie Arnault-Pelletier, a Cree woman who is a member of Beardy's Okemasis First Nation, has served for the past 10 years as lead student advisor in the Native Access Program in the College of Nursing at the University of Saskatchewan.

Her work managing the program and expanding the vision of increased numbers of Aboriginal people in health care careers and balanced, healthy Aboriginal communities has earned Arnault-Pelletier the University's President's Service Award.

Arnault-Pelletier received the news of her award during a personal phone call from President Peter MacKinnon.

"When he told me I was to be recognized, I was immediately humbled and very honoured," said Arnault-Pelletier. "I am thrilled for our department because I do not see this as an individual thing. This reflects well on all of us."

When she was first hired, the number of Aboriginal students was low.

"We only had three or four students when I started 13 years ago. Now we have over 200 nursing students around Saskatchewan and nine in medicine with six more enrolling this year," said Arnault-Pelletier. "The biggest achievement for me all these years is seeing the end results – our people succeeding, graduating and the pride in their family's eyes. I love it."

"One of our 'boys' came to us right out of high school – needed support and I think he needed a sense of community too. We all pitched in and gave him a lot of support

and more of a sense of who he is in terms of a Métis person – he has now graduated with his Nursing degree and when the Elder wrapped the sash around him and blessed him – I couldn't help but feel so proud of him.

"I am a big baby when it comes to our students and communities. It strikes me right in the heart and I truly do care about our students and the program. Each and every student that makes that commitment to further education and walks through those doors is indeed very special and deserves the best – the best education, the best supports we can offer and the best life can give – that is what will make the difference and what will help that student be successful despite some obstacles and challenges."



Val Arnault Pelletier receives the President's Service Award from University Chancellor Tom Mulloy.

(Photo supplied)

## Order of Canada for John Arcand

Jean-Baptiste Arcand, also known as John Arcand, or the "Master of the Métis Fiddle," was recently named a member of the Order of Canada.

The Order of Canada is the centerpiece of Canada's honour system and recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society.

Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country. The Order of Canada's motto is DESIDERANTES MELIOREM PATRIAM (They desire a better country).

News of the honour came as a surprise to the renowned fiddler.

"The Governor General's Office telephoned me. They said they needed to know if I would accept and, well I just couldn't believe my ears," says Arcand. "I was shocked and

actually a little emotional. I just kept thinking this is unreal!"

Arcand joins other Saskatchewan Aboriginal luminaries including Freda Ahenakew, Ida Wasacase, Hilliard McNab and John B. and Gordon

feel that this is the highest award a Canadian citizen can receive and I feel extremely fortunate to have been nominated and to accept the honor.

Arcand is known nationally for the renowned John Arcand Fiddle Fest. He founded this festival in 1998 with a dream to promote and preserve the traditions of fiddle music and dance.

Widely recognized as the "Master of the Métis Fiddle", John embarked on his own musical journey thanks to the influence of his father, who started imparting his knowledge of the art on his son before John even started school.

Now he loves to share his knowledge and talent with youth, so they can continue the tradition.

The 10th Anniversary edition of the John Arcand Fiddle Fest takes place August 9-12, 2007 at Windy Acres on the Pike Lake Highway.

For complete details visit [www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com](http://www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com)



### Competitions Workshops Concerts & Dances

Over \$10,700 in prize money!

August 9-12, 2007 10th Anniversary

# JOHN ARCAND FIDDLE FEST

Just southwest of SASKATOON  
Windy Acres, Pike Lake Highway (#60)

GENERAL ADMISSION: Per Person, \$20/Day or \$40/Weekend / 12 & Under Free  
Rise to share / Bring your own chair / Free unattended camping / Concession / Activities for kids  
Please bring a non-perishable food donation for the Saskatchewan Food Bank.

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| <p><b>THURSDAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home &amp; Jagged Pickleups 10 am to 4:30 pm</li> <li>• Evening Concert</li> </ul> | <p><b>FRIDAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiddle, Singing, Guitar &amp; Piano Workshops 8 pm to 4 pm</li> <li>• Area, Districts, Country, Provinces</li> <li>• Concert Showcase 7:30 pm to 10:30 pm</li> <li>• One Time Dance</li> </ul> | <p><b>SATURDAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiddle Contest Preliminary</li> <li>• Canadian, New Year, Square, Chaperoning Preliminary</li> <li>• 12th Anniversary Concert</li> <li>• Old Time Dance</li> </ul> |
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Roof Over Our Festival Fund is a capital campaign to build a permanent roof over our main stage venue. Campaign details and donation methods available online. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Major Sponsors:

Funding Agencies:

[www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com](http://www.johnarcandfiddlefest.com)  
Phone 306.382.0111



### Saskatchewan Youth Awards

"Our young people are committed to building a prosperous and bright future for the people of Saskatchewan."

Premier Lorne Calvert

Enjoy the beauty and the excitement of our province – visit our Provincial Parks this summer.  
Batoche - a must to visit!

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