

## IGR President and CEO Message

On behalf of the IGR Board of Directors, management and staff I wish each and every one of our Gaming Rules readers, a happy and safe holiday season. As the year 2010 draws to a close, we at IGR have much to be proud of in the past year and look forward to a busy 2011.

We maintain 71 'designation' BCRs from First Nations. We are 9 months through the fiscal year and IGR Communication and Licensing staff have made over 100 community visits including display booth attendance at First Nation events. Currently 71% of Bingos from the Grandfather list are licensed or in the process of doing so. 88% of on-reserve charitable gaming is licensed by IGR

A Bingo symposium will be conducted in

Saskatoon, January 20, 2011 to explain the IGR reporting process in detail. A Panel of experts from licensed IGR operations will be on hand to offer advice to the newly formed charities and exchange best practices. Please plan to attend this informative session.

We are ready to embark on the challenge of phase II as envisioned in the *SIGL Regulatory Agreement* and begin registering on-reserve gaming employees. This advances First Nations in our evolution towards full jurisdiction over gaming.

In closing, thank you to all of the volunteers out there that contribute so greatly to First Nations and non-First Nations alike. You are appreciated here at IGR as well as in your communities.



IGR President and CEO  
Gregory Ahenakew

### December 15/2010 Update on Licensing Charitable Gaming On-Reserve

Chief Norman Whitehawk  
Yorkton Tribal Council

Type	Licensed in this fiscal year	In-Progress	Totals
Class A Bingo	2	1	3
Class B Bingo	25	3	28
Class C Bingo including media	40	13	53
Breakopens	33	7	40
Texas Hold'em Poker	5	3	8
Raffle	5	3	8
Table Games	5	0	5



IGR is pleased to welcome Yorkton Tribal Council Representative Chief Norman Whitehawk of Cote First Nation. In 1874, Chief Cote signed Treaty No. 4 on behalf of four headmen and 254 band members. Today, Chief Whitehawk serves as Chief of about 2,500 registered members, with almost 700 residing on-reserve. The official spoken language of Cote First Nation is Saulteaux.



# Gaming Rules!

## St. John School Hosts IGR 2010 Christmas Card Contest

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This year IGR partnered with St. John's School located in Saskatoon for our Christmas Card Contest. The elementary school accommodates families from Riversdale, King George and Holiday Park neighborhoods.

The entries were judged by our independent panel of judges and mailed out to our contacts here at IGR. Entries included some very creative works with a First Nations theme. We were treated to Aboriginal nativity scenes, Santas and elves along with Christmas decorated tee pees and buffalo driven sleighs. The judges chose the artwork of Courtney, Lian, Brianna and Oceanna for the Christmas cards this year.



jects, gift cards for the winners and participation gifts for all of the children. St. John's students and teachers alike will be sporting stylish IGR toques.

On a related note, IGR staff members once again donated food items as well as small gifts for children. The donations went to the Saskatoon Friendship Inn.

Next year the IGR Christmas Card contest will be hosted by an on-reserve school. Host First Nations communities in the past include Kawacatoose, Kinistin and Wahpeton. Other inner-city schools that served as past hosts were St. Mary's and St. Goretti. IGR thanks all past participants for their contribution and looks forward to future partnerships with host schools that serve to strengthen our corporate image while helping the communities.

The four pieces of the original artwork were framed at Scoles Fine Art and Framing and presented to the school for keepsakes. IGR also presented the school with a donation for special pro-

# First Nations Elders Remember Christmas

## Christmas at Mistawasis

Cree Elder Darlene Ledoux remembers the jars of Pudding warming in the reservoir of the old wood stove on Christmas day. It was one of the Christmas traditions she grew up with at Mistawasis First Nation. They always had turkey or the chickens they raised themselves and they always had lots of vegetables from their big garden either canned or from the root cellar. She still remembers the smell of the wood stove burning as her mom cooked for days to get ready for the big meal. Her mom always made pies and mincemeat tarts.

The most important thing in their family was having dinner around the table for everyone. Her mom made sure that there was a chair for everyone even if she had to make some benches with pails and boards and blankets. It was important that the whole family made it home. It was a priority for everyone.

Christmas was treated as a special day for Darlene's family. She stated, "We all had to wash up and put our Sunday best on for the meal. When my grandma was alive she was at the head. My dad at the other head and the baby next to him and my mom on the other side and the rest of us kids all around."

Darlene remembers, "We had our little Christmas tree and the house was always decorated with those crepe paper streamers. We always had our Dad's woolen socks hanging and they would be filled with nuts and candies when we woke up Christmas morning."

For gifts Darlene and her siblings got " Little stuffed toys or bottles of cologne. When we got older and our parents had more money (she laughed) we would get more bottles of cologne. When we got dolls we would make clothes for them. We also made cutout dolls from the catalogue. I remember playing under my Mom's



sewing machine with my dolls and clothes I cut out of the catalogue."

Sometimes the family had a game of Bingo on Christmas day and the prize would be an orange. Oranges were not easy to come by in those days. They mostly stayed home and kept the fire going and kept warm as they didn't have the means to travel around in those days. But she had to add "Those were the good old days!"

## Christmas at Whitecap

During the 1950's to late 1970's, a small community like Whitecap Dakota Nation with limited financial resources for most of the families, would open their homes and kitchen to feeding all their relatives and families during the Christmas week and up to New Year's day.

Dakota Elder Melvina Eagle from Whitecap reminisces about the 'good old days' when she and her family would travel by horse team and wagon on reserve to relatives' homes to have good old fash-

ion Christmas meals.

One of the Dakota Christmas traditions for the families of Whitecap Dakota First Nation has been the serving of boulette soup prior to the main meal of turkey and all the fixings. The gathering of family members to eat and share memories is one of the most festive times that families can share.

During the early times on Whitecap, the community was close-knit with several families and during the Christmas season families would go to each home and part take in a Christmas meal with the serving of boulette soup along with the chance to visit with relatives and family members.

Elder Melvina Eagle said that the small Metis community of Round Prairie that lived few kilometers south of Whitecap had introduced boulette soup to the community during the late 1950's. Boulette soup is made up of hamburger meat, a bit of diced onions, a sprinkle of flour, made into small meatballs and boiled in water to make a delicious soup. Boulette soup can be served with lots of crackers and ketchup and always tastes good because it's only made during the Christmas season.

Sometimes during the late 1980's, this practice of going to visit and share a Christmas meal with relatives on Whitecap was no longer practiced. But the serving of Boulette soup is still practiced in several of the homes on Whitecap and will likely continue along with the traditional turkey meal.

IGR thanks Elders Darlene Ledoux and Melvina Eagle for sharing their stories. It is through the stories of the elders that the next generation keeps the culture alive. May each and every one of us appreciate the gifts of tradition that have been passed down to us and in turn pass this gift on to the next generation.