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## A MESSAGE TO OUR READER

Anticipation is building for the next **Rupert's Land Colloquium, 26-30 May 2004**, in Kenora, Ontario, an ancient crossroads both for Aboriginal people and for the fur trade. Your forms enclosed, along with information on the preliminary program and on the various events scheduled, to facilitate planning, and to ensure success in signing up for certain events for which numbers are limited, please register soon! Also, please make your hotel reservation early to secure your conference rate at the Lakeside Inn on the shore of Lake of the Woods (see enclosed brochure). David Malaher and an active planning committee based both in Kenora and Winnipeg have been working hard to lay out a rich and diverse program for this memorable occasion. Our gathering promises to be a very special event both for us and for the people of the Kenora area who are preparing a warm welcome.

**Last call for papers.** The final date for receipt of proposals for papers and sessions is **Monday, November 3, 2003**. The call for papers is reprinted in this Newsletter. Session times and spaces are limited, so please respond

to our current program

- Frederik Schodt on Ranald MacLeod in Japan
- Donna Sutherland on
- *Reading beyond Words*, a new edition

proceedings into a volume to be produced expeditiously at a reasonable price; his guidelines for paper submissions will be circulated to those whose papers are accepted for presentation. The pre-registration form offers you an opportunity to order this volume at a special pre-arrangement price.

On September 26, the Centre and the University of Winnipeg were host to an exciting event, the launch of the web site, [www.ourvoices.ca](http://www.ourvoices.ca), bringing forward about 80 of the stories that Cree elder and storyteller Louis Bird, of Peawanuck, Ontario, has collected over the last 30 years. From January to April 2003, an intensive project funded by Canadian Heritage under its Canadian Culture On-Line program and directed by Mr. Bird and co-directed by George Fulford (Anthropology, UW) and assisted by Mink Kuniti (Religious Studies) and myself and by numerous hard-working technical and office staff, students, and others, carried out the transcription, so and computer, and digitizing on CD-Roms, and editing of several hundred hours of cassette tapes in English and Cree. Unfortunately, the tight time frame and a shortage of people both skilled and available to transcribe the Cree-language tapes into Cree syllabics meant that the Cree work could not be completed; but funding prospects are being pursued to complete that phase, of such critical importance to Louis Bird and to all who care about the survival of indigenous languages and literatures.

we have had some excellent discussions with interested members and supporters and with the new University of Winnipeg Foundation about means of













