

**'HAIRCUTS BY CHILDREN'**



TROY FLEECE/Leader-Post

Madisyn Ripplinger (left) and Kieran Petty, both Grade 5 students at Davin School, stencil the hair of Regina Mayor Pat Fiacco on Saturday at The Room hair salon as part of a production called *Haircuts By Children*. It was conceived and created by Mammalian Diving Reflex artistic director Darren O'Donnell for the Centre of Social Intervention in Toronto, and presented in Regina by The Curtain Razors theatre group. Fiacco is one of several local celebrities involved in the production.

**AHTAHKAKOOP FIRST NATION**

**Ahenakew called 'great leader'**

By CHARLENE TEBBUTT  
for Saskatchewan News Network

PRINCE ALBERT — Those who knew the late David Ahenakew are remembering him as an intelligent and likable man who served his country and his people throughout his life.

Family and friends gathered on Sunday for Ahenakew's wake on the Ahtahkakoop First Nation. His funeral is later this week.

"I think he was one of the greatest men who lived on this reserve," said Russell Ahenakew, David's brother and a band councillor. "He was a great leader."

Ahenakew, a veteran of the Korean War, began work with the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations in 1988 after a short stint with the Saskatchewan government. He was elected chief of the same year and served for a decade.

Ahenakew helped to create the Saskatchewan Indian Cultural College (Centre) in 1972 and was one of the first board members of the Saskatchewan Indian Federated

College, now known as the First Nations University of Canada, when it was established in 1976.

In 1978, he received both the John Stratchuk Memorial Award from the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission and the Order of Canada medal.

Ahenakew was elected chief of the Assembly of First Nations in 1982, a position he held for three years.

In 2002, in a speech at an FSIN health conference, Ahenakew was quoted as saying Jews were a disease, adding that they caused the Second World War. He also said that Hitler "was trying to clean up the world."

The comments outraged many and led to a criminal charge of inciting hatred.

Ahenakew was convicted of inciting hatred in 2005, but the conviction was overturned on appeal. A new

trial was ordered and Ahenakew was found not guilty in March 2009.

Doug Christie, who represented Ahenakew at trial, said he will remember his client as an intelligent man who worked hard to improve the lives of aboriginal people.

Ahenakew should be remembered for more than "one comment in a lifetime," Christie said. "His life should be measured by the tremendous amount of dedication he's shown to his people."

"I will remember him as a courageous and intelligent native leader ... his career was a major achievement for Indian people."

FSIN spokesman Mervin Brass said no one from the organization would comment on Ahenakew's death until a news release had been approved. Brass did not know when the news release would be finalized.

Canwest News Service

**MICHELLE LANG**

**Plaque unveiled for slain reporter**

By MATTHEW FISHER  
Canwest News Service

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Michelle Lang of the *Calgary Herald* (and formerly of the *Leader-Post*) was fondly remembered Saturday by some of the troops, diplomats and journalists whose lives she touched before she was killed in December along with four Canadian soldiers when their armoured patrol struck a huge homemade bomb on the outskirts of Kandahar City.

"Michelle wasn't a civilian or a reporter; she was a Canadian," said Col. Simon Hetherington, the acting commander of Task Force Kandahar, who helped unveil a plaque commemorating Lang on Saturday in front of the camouflage tent that had been her office in Afghanistan.

The plaque, which was mounted on a wooden plinth, included a photo of Lang with the journalist's characteristic broad grin.

"Vivacious, dedicated, full of life," was how Hetherington described the 34-year-old British Columbian, who was to have married Calgary Michael Louie this summer. "She was telling our stories and informing Canadians about our mission."

"In Memory of Michelle Lang, Journalist, *Calgary Herald* & *Canwest*, KIA 4:00 PM 30 Dec 2009 Kandahar City" are the words inscribed on the all-weather plaque, which was made by army engineers.

A square slate of black marble etched with Lang's image has also been placed on the Canadian war memorial at Kandahar Airfield with images of 140 soldiers and a diplomat killed in Afghanistan.

It was fitting that Lang, who was the first Canadian journalist to die while embedded with the troops, be remembered in the same place as "the soldiers on our memorial because they all died in the service of peace," Hetherington said.

The colonel and others attending Saturday's unveiling all said that Lang struck them as a journalist who wanted "to get out and get at deeper stories" about Canadian soldiers and civilians who were not involved in combat but worked on programs to improve the lives of

Afghans.

As a medical reporter in Alberta, Lang was particularly interested in the welfare of Afghan women and children.

The fatal patrol that Lang was part of had set out from the camp where Canada's Provincial Reconstruction Team is based. They were to meet with elders in a village near the provincial capital to find new ways that Canada might assist them.

Several soldiers and a young diplomat were seriously injured in the same explosion that killed Lang and Pte. Garrett Chidley of Cambridge, Ont., and Langley, B.C., and the 2 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry of Shilo, Man.; Cpl. Zachery McCormack of the Royal Edmonton Regiment; Sgt. George Miok of Edmonton's 41 Combat Engineer Regiment; and Sgt. Kirk Taylor of Yarmouth, N.S. and the 84th Independent Field Battery, Royal Canadian Artillery.

"May Michelle's spirit not be forgotten by those who work in this space; may they remember the example she set in being committed to finding the truth and sharing stories of hope with the pain and suffering we often see here in Afghanistan," said Padre Yvonne Mills in a prayer that followed a brief, personal reminiscence of her.

"I was honoured to be interviewed by her, as were other chaplains here in Afghanistan," the padre, who is a major, said. "Her kind demeanour and inquisitiveness helped her to get to the heart of any story she was after. Her love for and dedication for others was evident in how she spoke of her fiancé and family."

On what was a day of remembrances, Jess Dutton, who heads the civilian component of the PRT, recalled that Lang emerged from washing "soaking wet" on Christmas morning because she had forgotten her towel. The diplomat loaned her his towel and it became a standing joke between them.

Later, when Lang interviewed Dutton, "she was asking some very difficult questions," he said. "So I was kind of like, 'Whoa, boy. She really is a hard-nosed professional journalist.'"

**NORTHWEST:** Dewdney Avenue (west of Condie Road): Construction adjacent to roadway. Slow down in construction zone.

**SOUTHWEST:** Lewvan Drive (Intersection at Trans-Canada Highway): Southbound traffic restricted from making left-hand turns at the Trans-Canada Highway intersection. Traffic should use Gordon Road detour. Heavy trucks not permitted on Gordon Road.

**NORTHEAST:** Lorne Street (12th Avenue to 11th Avenue): Starting Sunday, no on-street parking; watch for orange bags on parking meters.

This information represents work on major arterial and some collector streets. The weather or other circumstances might cause changes to the schedule.

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