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Residential school memories basis of upcoming book

Ashes to Embers

By Miguel Fenrich
Staff Reporter

Hundreds of Indigenous children were sent to Delmas's former Thunderchild/St. Henri Residential School between 1901 and 1945, and in that time, at least 44 children passed away, and their remains were never found.

The school is now gone, destroyed by fire in 1948 by former students, and in its place, poplars grow. All that remains are the survivors and their stories, and Floyd Favel decided to capture those stories in his new book, *Ashes to Embers*, set to be released Oct. 30.



Floyd Favel's new book, *Ashes to Embers*, is set to be released Oct. 30. | Photo courtesy Floyd Favel

Kenny and Leo Tootoosis, Theresa Sapp and Gavin Baptiste are among those who shared their memories of the Delmas Residential School and its subsequent destruction one cold January almost 75 years ago.

Lena Tootoosis recalls that when the building fell, students let out cries and shouts of victory.

An excerpt from the book reads:

"On January 13, 1948 the Delmas Indian Residential School was burned down by a group of boys who had warned most of the students of their plan so they could all escape. These are the stories of some of the survivors who were present that night. There are many stories that haven't been told."

Floyd Favel, theatre theorist, director, essayist, museum curator for Poundmaker Historical Centre and Cree cultural leader, spent the last few years recording and chronicling the stories of the Delmas Residential School survivors, starting with interviews in January 2021.

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A Wedding Story



The Battlefords Community Players kickstarted their 2022-23 season Tuesday with *Maggie's Getting Married*, running from Oct. 18 to 29. The cast: Crystal Gilbert (Cas); Fraser Glen (Tom); Rebekka Landon (Maggie); Gregory Kwong (Russell); Maurie Gagon (Axel); and Amanda Gies (Wanda). | Photo by Miguel Fenrich



In a photo from 2021, project lead and Battlefords Agency Tribal Chiefs administration member Karen Whitecalf, right, listens as a member of the crew doing ground penetrating radar indicates the area they have already scanned and mapped. | Photo by Jon Perez/SASKTODAY.ca

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