

Area Métis sash weaver featured in native studies textbook

By Rod Andrews

Educational textbooks publisher Pearson Canada is in the process of publishing a Native Studies 10 textbook that will feature Métis weaver Pat Adams, who lives in the historic Fish Creek area on the east side of the Saskatchewan River.

Adams has been well-known in the province for decades as a weaver, but only started making Métis sashes when he moved to this area a decade or so ago.

While a well-known supporter of the arts and Métis causes, Adams gained national and provincial recognition last November when one of his sashes was invested into the Legislative Assembly in Regina and placed on the clerk's table for all time in recognition of 2010 being The Year of the Métis.

At around the same time, Pearson Canada was working on the Native Studies textbook and came across a photograph of Adams on the internet, one of him standing by his loom this reporter had taken for a story we published last year.

Terri Rothman, who was coordinating the project, recently sent *The Saskatchewan Valley News* a copy of the page that Adams is featured on, and said the textbook will be printed shortly, perhaps as soon as this week.

The photograph of Adams is featured in Unit 1 of the textbook, which is entitled "Identities and Cultures", in the section about Passing on Knowledge, along with the importance of elders and symbols.

The textbook paraphrases his comments about the Métis sash being an expression of identity which he made in the Legislature and in more detail to the *Valley News* when he said "when I was working on the sash I was thinking about the identity



The Saskatchewan Valley News photograph of Pat Adams that is printed in the Pearson Canada Native Studies 10 text book.

it has to the Métis and how we used to express our Métis identity. Basically I said those who wear the sash say 'here I am – a Métis person and I am okay with that'."