



[Subscribe](#) | [Login](#)



December 14, 2016
Prince Albert

-21°C

[Complete weather forecast](#)

PRINCE ALBERT DAILY HERALD

[LOGIN OR
SUBSCRIBE](#)

Click here to log in or to subscribe!

[Contact Us](#)

[Home](#) [News](#) [Sports](#) [Business](#) [Living](#) [Opinion](#) [Community](#) [Videos](#)

[Obituaries](#) [Classifieds](#) [Jobs](#) [Autos](#) [Flyers](#)

[Local](#) | [Election 2015](#) | [Regional](#) | [Canada - World](#)



[Standing on two feet](#)



[The gift of love](#)



[Catching fire](#)



[Open for business](#)



[New! Comic Videos](#)
Joke of the Day with Dana Carvey

The Prince Albert Daily Herald > News > Local

Advertising

Former residential school student reflects on the TRC



Jason Kerr

Published on June 03, 2015

[Share](#) 0

[0 Comment](#)

[Send to a friend](#)

[Print](#)

Roy Sanderson doesn't remember learning much at St. Michael's Indian Residential School.

Instead, the 66-year-old Prince Albert resident remembers a lot of hunger, a lot of cold nights, and a lot of whacks to the head.

Sanderson was one of many students to attend St. Michael's, which was located near Duck Lake. He said it was like a jail there, and with the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's findings, he's happy to hear experiences like his aren't being dismissed any longer.

"I think it's about time things have happened and people are starting to wake up about residential schools," he said on Tuesday.

Sanderson was one of millions of people listening as reports and recommendations from the commission spread across the county.

He said he needed to examine the recommendations



© Herald photo by Jason Kerr.
Prince Albert resident and St. Michael's Indian Residential School survivor Roy Sanderson poses with the plaque he received for the work he did helping other survivors gain reparations.

Other news

[Triathlon, walk-a-thon to send kids to camp](#)

[Kinsmen Water Park set to open this week](#)

[Familiar faces on top](#)

[Honorary chair affirms SPCA support](#)

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

Advertising

E-Edition

Do not miss your latest complete newspaper

further before he's sure what to think about them, but for now, he's just happy to see people taking the whole thing seriously.

"I'm glad they're looking at it, what happened years and years ago.... All these Prime Ministers, they didn't really look at it all along. They kind of put it away. I think they were worried they'd be found guilty about it."

Sanderson describes some unpleasant conditions during his eight years at St. Michael's. He talks about being sent to work in the barns instead of educated. He didn't eat well. He didn't sleep well. He said some supervisors there would whack him on the head with a rubber hammer for failing to do well in school. Worse, they enjoyed it.

"I don't know how many years they did that, hit me across the head, and they'd make a big joke out of it. I used to see them laughing."

Those blows to the head continue to haunt him today. As he got older he began to suffer from dizzy spells. He went to see a specialist who told him his skull had a faint crack in it.

"It was in a bad spot, right on top of my head," Sanderson explained. "(The specialist) took a lot of x-rays and he was scared that (surgery) would kill me."

Physical abuse wasn't the only pain he carried into his adult life. Sanderson said residential schools robbed him of a meaningful relationship with his parents. He only began to get close to them again just before they died.

It was a long eight years for me," he said. "I forgot about my parents."

Today, Sanderson lives in Prince Albert after working for years as a farm hand and forest fire fighter in Alberta. He has plans to head to the Truth and Reconciliation events in Saskatoon on Wednesday, where he's supposed to give a speech.

For him, it's another chance to help people understand exactly what happened.

"It's very strange to think about how I got there. I always think about it," he said. "I still think about it today."

SPCA staffers come forward

Hitting the mat

The bell tolls for reconciliation

Blatter resigns and other sports briefs



edition.
[Read it today >](#)



Most popular

Most read

Most commented



Open for business



The gift of love



Catching fire



Standing on two feet



Alleged threat against St. Mary High School blown out of proportion

More

Special Sections Supplements

All VIDEOS

Subscriptions

Citizen Reporter

Prince Albert Daily Herald Archive

The Flyer Zone

Ad Content

Sponsored Links by Taboola

Do This Everyday Before You Turn Off Your Computer
SmarterWebLife by ScanGuard

This Article Will Change The Way You Buy Glasses Forever
GlassesUSA.com

The new way to learning languages in 2017!
Babbel

ForeverSpin World Famous Cast-Iron Spinning Top
ForeverSpin

The Gmail Trick That Google Doesn't Talk About
Boomerang

Overpriced Razors? This Simple Idea Starts at Just \$3/Month
Dollar Shave Club

Recommended for you



A musical offering



Workers at endangered Indiana plant feel forgotten by Trump

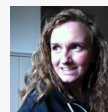


Celebrated entertainer Les Pavelick, aka "Metro," dies at 71

by Taboola

Advertising
Rural ROOTS

Expert Bloggers



Meghan MacFarlane
Meghan MacFarlane

107

Blog: [A Lesson in Food History](#)



Joanne Panas
Panas Cartoons

1

Blog: [Panas Cartoons](#)

[More bloggers here](#) >

Promotions

Twitter

Organizations: [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), [Prince Albert](#)

Geographic location: [Duck Lake](#), [Alberta](#), [Saskatoon](#)



[Top of page](#) ^

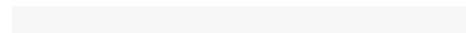
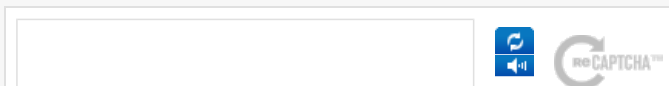
Comments

Your name*

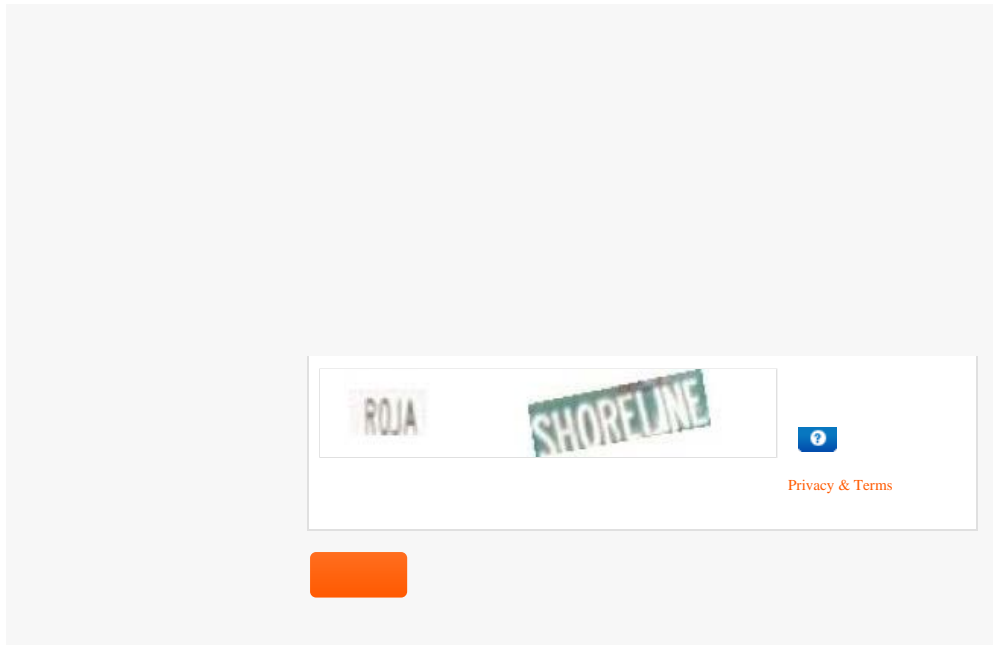
Email*

Comment*

↵



Facebook



Prince Albert Daily Herald
3,254 likes

Like Page Share

Be the first of your friends to like this

Prince Albert Daily Herald
December 12 at 4:42pm

The food bank was the recipient of a big donation this week:
<http://www.paherald.sk.ca/.../Traditional-meat-for-a-busy-C.../1>

Advertising

Rural ROOTS

Ads

- Obituaries
- Jobs
- Cars

Powered by AutoGo.ca

maan Chevrolet Orlando 2012
78005 km \$ 12890 + tx
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
1-888-804-0167

maan Chrysler 200 2013
37574 km \$ 17900 + tx
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
1-888-804-0167

maan GMC Sierra 1500 2015
50892 km \$ 44790 + tx
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
1-888-804-0167

[All ads >](#)

Follow us on   

 [Get our newsletter](#) | [Contact us](#)

Powered by Transcontinental

The Prince Albert Daily Herald
30 10th St. E.
Prince Albert, S6V 0Y5
(306)764-4276

Copyright Star News Publishing © 2016

[Privacy Policy](#)