



Rev. Grafton Antone was installed as speaker.



Janet Sigurdson: good to see the Elders play a major part.

ANCC stresses education from Native view

Walking slowly, singing a journeying song, members of the Grand Council of the All Native Circle Conference (ANCC) began their annual meeting with a procession of 120 across a field to circle the sacred fire site. When the flames caught, participants were invited to place ashes from last year's fire in it, thus continuing the tradition begun at the first meeting in Goodfish Lake, Alta., in 1989.

The Council met in late June on the Samson Reserve in Muskwatchees (Bear Hills), Alta. Muskwatchees isn't on a map. A century ago a railroad executive changed the Cree name to Hobbema.

The four Presbyteries comprising the ANCC represent nine languages, including French and English. The theme, "Respecting Each Other in our own Journey" (1 Cor 12:1-13), was lived out as different languages and traditions were shared among delegates.

In the tradition of First Nations peoples, listening to one another is vital. Hymns in various languages, the rustle of the poplar leaves shading the meeting place, children playing nearby, the crackle of the sacred fire mingled with prayer, debate, stories and teachings from the Elders. The listening took place in a circle around the sacred bundle, in a circle around the sacred fire, or in wet weather, in Howard Buffalo Memorial Centre.

ANCC installs a man and a woman to serve as Leading Elders for two-year terms, positions similar to Conference presidents. Retiring Leading Elders

Lloyd McDougall of Wasagamach, Man., and Edith Memnook of Goodfish Lake, Alta., passed the flame to Moses Wood and Agnes Bull.

Wood, of Garden Hill Reserve in Manitoba, is known for his strong stand against alcohol. Bull, of Goodfish Lake, has fostered children for 25 years, is a

UCW member and community activist.

Rev. Grafton Antone was installed as Speaker, replacing acting co-Speakers, Peggy Monague and Rev. John Thompson. Antone was smudged by four local men. Rev. Sanday Scott presented him with an eagle wing. From Oneida-of-the-Thames, Ont., Antone is