OCCC NEWS

OUR CULTURE, OUR TRADITIONS, OUR LANGUAGES SHALL SURVIVE



Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre

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www.occc.ca

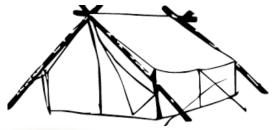
info@occc.ca





Honouring Michen Wabano









Michen (Mike) Wabano passed away on May 22, 2018 at the age of 94 years old at the Timmins Golden Manor. He was a member of the Peawanuck First Nation. Mike lived off the land and respected the land. He shared many stories and jokes with us. His favorite treat was KFC with an orange pop. He always enjoyed visiting us during the years. We will miss his beautiful smile and bright eyes. We will never forget you!









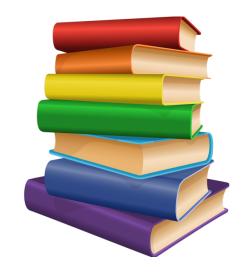


ATTENTION All Native Language Teachers!!!!

We have many resources for your classrooms. They are available in the Cree, Oji-Cree and Ojibway languages.

A complimentary copy is available for request.

Contact the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre to obtain a list of resources or visit our website. www.occc.ca (705) 267-7911







Books are magic! Books are powerful

Books allow our brain and our imagination to be utilized to create images, sight, sound and smell to the power of our imagination in our brain which creates neuron pathways even faster than physical of our eyes.











CONGRATULATIONS

Deanna Carly Hartley

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural is pleased to announce the winners of its annual OCCC Scholarship awards.

Congratulations to **DEANNA CARLY HARTLEY** from Aglace Chapman Education Centre in Big Trout Lake, recipient of the *Gilbert and Barbara Memorial Award 2018*.

These scholarships are provided in recognition of the students' efforts in promoting language and culture within the NAN area. Consequently, the purpose of these scholarships is to honor those Grade 8 students who are actively involved with language and culture activities in the schools or communities, and show good attendance, attitude, and achievement in school.

Deanna received a plaque and \$200.00 presented to her during her schools graduating ceremonies, surrounded by friends and family. In addition, her name will go on a plaque displayed at the OCCC in Timmins.

Special thanks to Mr. Don Ghaney for nominating the student.











OJIBWAY AND CREE CULTURAL CENTRE

Grade 8 Scholarship





The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring its 15th annual OCCC scholarship for two Grade 8 First Nation students in the Nishnawbe Aski Nation. These scholarships are provided in memory of Willie Wesley (for the east) and Gilbert and Barbara Baxter (for the west) for their efforts in promoting language and culture within Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Consequently, one student from the east and one student from the west will be chosen as recipients of these awards. To be eligible these students must be members of one of the 49 NAN communities and returning to Grade 9 in the new school year.

The purpose of these scholarships is to honour those students that exemplify the following qualities: (a) actively involved with language and culture activities in the school or community, and (b) show good attendance, attitude, and achievement in school. If you feel a student in your school is worthy of such an award then please submit a one page essay describing why you feel that this student should be honoured with this scholarship. Entries should be submitted on or before **May 3, 2019.**

Two students will be selected from the entries received by the staff of the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre. These winning students will receive a plaque, \$200.00, and mention in the OCCC Newsletter or Wawatay News. In addition their names will be placed on a plaque located at Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre in Timmins.

Please fax submissions to KIM PICHE at (705) 267-7911 or kpiche@occc.ca



SUMMER STUDENT 2018





This summer, we had the pleasure to work with Monica Kataquapit, member of the Attawapiskat First Nation. Her summer employment started on July 3, as the administrative assistant, which ended on August 24, 2018. During these fabulous 8 weeks, the staff was very fortunate to work with such a hard working and committed young woman. She would walk in every morning with the brightest smile and be ready for the next challenge or task that she had to accomplish. She informs us that she gained an immense amount of knowledge, learning experience and growing opportunity that she will forever appreciate. Monica is attending the nursing program at the Northern College Campus in South Porcupine. We wish her the very best and we hope that she will stop by and visit with us in the near future. Monica, we cherished our time with you. Thank you for all the hard work and dedication. We would also like to thank Mushkegowuk Employment and Training and Service Canada for funding the summer student position.





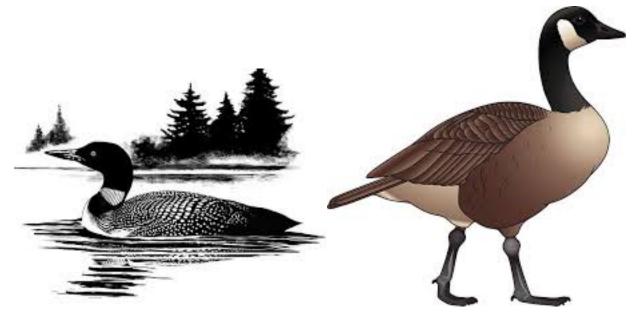


LEGENDS CORNER Wiisakejaak and the Geese

A First Nations Legend

(Permission from Kwaycaciiwin Education Resource Centre)

One day Wiisakejaak was walking by the lakeshore. Wiisakejaak saw some geese feeding beside the lake. "I'm hungry for a goose supper," he thought. So, Wiisakejaak made a plan to catch the geese. He wrapped a bit of leather around some moss, and tied it so that it looked like a bag. Then he tied the bundle of moss to a stick. "Wiisakejaak, what are you carrying?" the geese shouted to him. "I'm carrying my song-bag," replied Wiisakejaak."Let's hear you sing, then." Said the geese. Wiisakejaak asked the geese to come to his tipi where he would sing for them. As he sang, the geese danced. A loon came and danced near the doorway to the tipi. When Wissakejaak began to run out of words, he made up the 'Shut-Eye' dance. "Shut your eyes and dance with your heads together," Wiisakejaak said. He hummed as the geese danced, then tied each goose by its neck. The loon saw what Wiisakejaak was doing. "Wiisakejaak is killing us all!" the loon yelled. Some of the geese flew away, but before the loon could escape, Wiisakejaak kicked it in the rear end! To this day, the loon has a flat hip, and cannot walk very well on land.



ONTARIO PROFESSIONAL FORESTERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In May, we had the opportunity to host a workshop at Miken Otaski for some participants of the annual Forestry Conference. The participants had the pleasure to listen to cultural teachings on plants and their uses. They had the chance to try some delicious smoked geese and bannock on a stick, in the great outdoors. Everyone had a great time.













Look who dropped in for a visit. All the way from Sioux Lookout, on his motorcycle we were happy when Chris Duval dropped by and came to visit the Cultural Centre. Chris used to work in the Resource Centre many many years ago. It was real nice Thank you Chris for your visit.



Kim Piche, Chris Duval and AngelaShisheesh

MEDICAL STUDENTS





Kaitlyn Quinlan and Rebecca Maillous were 2 beautiful students from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine had the opportunity to spend time with the staff of OCCC and learn more about the culture. A day trip to Miken Otaski. We really enjoyed our time with them. Best of luck girls!

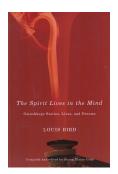


2018 Matawa Education Conference



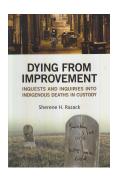
Debra Hookimaw and Kim Piché, had the pleasure to travel to Thunder Bay and set up the OCCC display at the Matawa Education Conference on November 6-8, 2018. During our 3 days at the display, we had the chance to meet with native language teachers, teachers , principals, support staff, other organizations, etc. We feel this a great way to stay connected with the schools, teachers and staff. We are looking forward to setting up again at the next conference on March 5-7, 2019 in Thunder Bay. Drop by and come and say hi!!

NEW RESOURCES IN LIBRARY



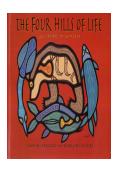
The Spirit Lives in the Mind - Omushkego Stories, Lives, and Dreams

Louis Bird has spent the last three decades documenting Cree oral traditions and sharing his stories with audiences in Canada, the United States, and Europe. In The Spirit Lives in the Mind the renowned storyteller and historian of the Omushkego shares teachings and stories of the Swampy Cree people that have been passed down from generation to generation as part of a rich oral tradition.



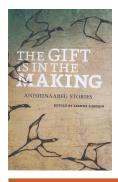
Dying From Improvement – Inquests And Inquiries Into Indigenous Deaths In Custody

This is sociology at its finest, theorized and argued in a robust, relentlessly accessible, and yet sophisticated way. Dying from Improvement is a major contribution to the issues of Indigenous disposability, suffering, and struggles for justice within a settler state that is dedicated to their disappearance.



The Four Hills Of Life

Tells the wise and beautiful Ojibwe story about the path we walk through the seasons of life, from the springtime of youth through the winter of old age. The hills we climb along the way are the challenges we face and the responsibilities we accept. The path is not always easy; some of us lose our way. We question the meaning of life. But when we walk the Good Path when we commit to values and fulfill our goals the meaning of life finds us.



The Gift Is In The Making

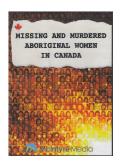
Anishinaabe Stories Readers are immersed in a world where all genders are respected, the tiniest being has influence in the world, and unconditional love binds families and communities to each other and to their homeland. Sprinkled with gentle humour and the Anishinaabe language, this collection of timelessness of stories that touch the heart.





In Our Own Words: The Cancer Journey

"Now when I look back, maybe it was a good thing I was diagnosed when I was because I changed my life around"



Missing And Murdered Aboriginal Women In Canada

This informative video gives an overview of the history of trauma and abuse experience by Aboriginal women in Canada. We trace its roots from early colonialism in Canada to recent actions by the Canadian government, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the release of the RCMP Report on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada.



More Than Just The Fur Trade

Students learn not only about the history of the fur trade in Canada, but also about the importance of language, culture, drumming, elders and regalia in the lives of indigenous peoples in Canada. Interviews with Mike Gauthier, member of Mattawa North Bay Algonquin's; historian Mike Whelan; and Trapper and Canoe Builder Roger Labelle provide interesting insight into indigenous lives drawing the connections between contemporary and traditional aboriginal cultural.



Ring Of Fire

The Ring of Fire is a six part documentary series that follow the First nations communities of Marten Falls and Webequi as they try to deal with the complex issues surrounding a very large mining project-called The Ring of Fire-proposed to be built on their traditional territory and in close proximity to their reserves.

DOWNLOAD BOTH APPS TODAY!

OMUSHKEGO CREE

Learn the Omushkego
Cree Language
anytime, anywhere! Go
to the APP store or
Google Play and just
type "Omushkeg
Cree".

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Categories include:

Actions, Animals, Body
Parts, Clothing, Colours,
Days of the Week,
Directions, Family,
Emotions, Food, Holidays,
Household Items, Months,
Numbers, Positions,
Professions, Questions,
Seasons, Shapes, Time of
the Clock, Trees and
Greetings.



Funded by the Government of Canada







The Resource Centre currently has an APP available for patrons to have access to our library anytime! Just type "Insignia ILS", and search for the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre.









VARIOUS DISPLAYS

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"Indigenous Culture Awareness Week" at Northern College

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Welcome to Timmins Evening at the MacIntyre Arena





National Indigenous Day in Timmins at Participark

FRIENDLY REMINDER ON OVERDUE BOOKS!











LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Hello to everyone from the language corner! I am still here working at the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre as an interpreter and translator. I am happy to say that I deal with the language everyday meanning, I provide translation of documents from whoever wants them to be translated. I translate the resources materials that staff at O.C.C.C develop for the language teachers, for the schools in the Nishnawbe- Aski area. I also provide interpretations at various chiefs assembly. Or if someone needs help I do it. Here in the office, three of us can speak Cree. I have been so lucky to have worked with Margaret Scott, our interpretor/translator trainee for the last 12 months, unfortunately, her training program will be done and she will be leaving us after the New Years to follow her dream. Her dream is to become a qualified Native language teacher and to continue working for her language. We wish all the best !!!

Language is very important to me. Language is our unique relationship to the Creator, our attitudes, beliefs, values and fundamental notions of what is truth. Our languages are the cornerstone of who we are as a people. Without our language our cultures cannot survive. As the original people of this country First Nations languages must be protected as a fundamental element of Canadian heritage. The right to use our Aboriginal languages, and the right to educate our children in our languages, is an inherent Aboriginal and treaty rights.





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Language is a community resource to be planned and developed at the community level. Elders are the cornerstone of traditional education therefore must be accorded proper and fitting consideration for their expertise. All languages are to be accorded equal dignity and respect.

I want to encourage everybody to keep and respect their language because it is a reward feeling when you can have conversation in your own language with elders that are still around. A few kokums and moshoums around yet. I am one of them.

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DID YOU KNOW.....



Many years ago, Crees had no written language until the earlier missionaries invented a phonetic system for them, and put their words into writing. We realize the difficulty of those who compiled the first writing system who had to trust to their ears in deciding the spelling of words. They were the ones that came up using those triangles symbols which is known as syllabics. Way before that, our great great ancestors, if they wanted to tell their families and friends that they had came across to their old camping grounds, they would make a

mark on the tree to say spot, at this time there place yet, but they they seen a bark of a more than once. They relatives were there 3 many ways that the notified their friends there was a death that reaching their relatives ground, they would



they were there at that was no writing system in knew what it meant when tree slashed in once or knew that their friends or days ago. There were so indigenous people that they were fine. If happened before or friends camping shoot their guns up in the

air at least three times and those who were at the camp knew right away there was sad news coming their way.

That is why there's no history books ever written by us, even the legends we know, it was passed down to us everything was done orally and listening skills and observations. It was the missionaries that made the syllabics system for us the cree people to be able to read and write and able to read the prayer books and bibles.

May the Great Spirit cover His wings around you all.

Angela Shisheesh







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Hello, My name is Margaret Scott. I am from Fort Albany First Nations. I am currently living in Timmins.

Since January 2018, I've been working as a trainee with Angela Shisheesh here at the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Center in the Language Department. I want to say thank-you! to Angela for taking the time for teaching me the right ways in reading, writing and translating in the Cree Language.

It is very important that we hear the language everyday and anywhere at home, school and out in the land. The Creator gave us our own culture and Language and we must maintain it and to be proud of our Language.

Also, thank-you to Dianne Riopel (Executive Director) and to the O.C.C.C staff. It was a pleasure to work with you all. A big Meegwetch! to Mushkegowuk Employment and Training for their assistance and support with the language program.

My training ended in January 2019.

Margaret Scott LbS' ^.b'



Nelcome!

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre is always happy to welcome researchers to our Centre.



Researcher Manuel Menrath, Historian, spent over 2 months to do research on Treaty #9. He is from Switzerland. He gathering his research to write his book on Treaty #9. He also spent time in Muskrat Dam and other NAN communities to further his research.



Researcher Antje Babendererde from Poland spent time in our library. We were honored that she came to visit our Centre.

NEW HORIZON FOR SENIORS

The OCCC received funding from the Government of Canada, to host workshops with the elders from Golden Manor and Extendicare in Timmins. These workshops consists of traditional games, bannock making, Legends and Sing-a-long, Storytelling, Reminiscing About the Past, Show and Tell. These workshops were completed by March 2018.













CANADA 150th

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre received funding through the Community Foundations Canada to host various workshops for the students sharing the culture. This is in connection with Canada's 150th Celebration. Workshops on traditional cooking, Dreamcatchers, Medicine Wheel, Teepee Set up, Traditional Games and Legends, Traditional Ceremonies and 7 Grandfather teachings. These workshops were completed by March 2018

















MILESTONE.....

Staff members, Kathy Perreault – Resource Centre Coordinator and Kim Piché – Executive Secretary were honored with a little celebration. They have committed many Years of Service at the Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre. Kathy Perreault has 20 years of service and Kim Piché has 30 years of service. They both received a beautiful plaque, with beautiful gifts to honor them. Thank you girls for all your hard work and dedication and congratulations! Looking forward to another 20 to 30 years!!!!!!



















WICÉMIN CLUB AT ECST

On numerous occasions, we were invited to come and make presentations for the Wicémin Club at Ecole Catholique Secondaire Theriault. This club meets every Wednesday from 3:00 – 4:00. Various guest speakers are invited to come and share with the students the different aspects of the indigenous traditional culture. We are very honored for the visit and looking forward to many more. Teacher, MJ Arseneault is coordinating this activity. We want to let her know that she is doing a great job and the students are really enjoying the sessions. Keep up the great work.

Students made medicine wheels



MJ Arseneault Teacher





OCCC FUNDRAISER



The Ojibway and Cree Cultural host a biweekly bingo on Thursday afternoons from 1:45 p.m. -4:00 p.m. The bingo funds are used for cultural activities of the

Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre, such as outings, elders gatherings, traditional teachings and various workshops. Also, we assist

with making various donations to our communities. Funds are also used to maintain cost of our internet and website

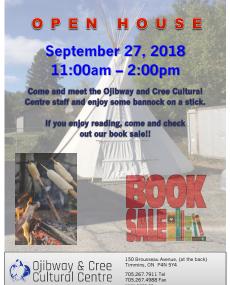
OPEN HOUSE





















A LITTLE HISTORY

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre has been located in Timmins since 1974. It all began in 1974 as one of seven programs of the Grand Council Treaty #9. Now known as Nishnawbe Aski Nation. Incorporated since October 1975. Our role is to serve the educational cultural and language and traditional interest of the people of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

The Ojibway and Cree Cultural Centre has received numerous requests from many cities in the USA, European countries, including Sweden, Germany, Poland, Japan, New Zealand. Travellers from Spain, Philippines, Turkey, and Italy have visited the Cultural Centre.

One of the major accomplishment has been the establishment of the native oriented library.

Previous Executive Director's

- Carol Nadjiwon
- Alex Spence
- Abe Joly
- Esther Wesley
- Bert Morrison
- Dianne Riopel Present





2018-2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Back left: Gary Naveau, Bill Louttit, Frank McKay, Cathy Therriault

Front left: Geordi Kakepetum, Irene Ross and Ballena Anderson

