February 1997 / Vol. 10, No. 5

The Native Canadian

Newsletter of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

16 Spadina Rd., Toronto, ON, M5R 2S7 *Tel 416-964-9087 / Fax 416-964-2111*

The *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*: What About Urban People?

On November 21 1996, the **Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP)** released its final report. The report represents a comprehensive body of knowledge on the current condition of Aboriginal people in Canada. The Commission's work included 210 separate research studies, 177 public hearings, 60,000 pages of verbatim transcripts, 1,000 written submissions, and heard from 3,500 witnesses.

The result is five volumes which add up to 4,000 pages and over 1.5 million words. 142 organizations received funding through work on the report and the total cost of the Commission was 58 million dollars. This works out to $1,263.28 per hour -- it is the most expensive commission in history. Yet, a long road remains ahead as we try and figure out how the report's recommendations can be implemented. As one popular commentator recently responded in jest, "The Report tells us that Aboriginal communities need 58 million dollars."

Those of us who live in urban areas were particularly anxious to see what the Commission would report on this issue. Representatives of the **NCCT** attended the official launch of the **RCAP** report at a reception in Ottawa as well as a press conference organized by the **National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)** held at the **Odawa Friendship Centre**.

For one thing, the Commission rightfully criticized the media for not paying attention to Aboriginal issues, for providing misleading coverage, for sensationalizing issues and for maintaining and reinforcing stereotypes. Last Spring, the **NCCT** participated with Commissioners Georges Erasmus, and Rene Dussault in a meeting with **Canadian Press** to lobby this particular issue.

In specific regard to the concerns of urban Aboriginal people, the report contains 100 pages which provides a cursory examination of the urban context. In Volume Four *Perspectives and Realities*, Chapter Seven entitled *Urban Perspectives* cites 26 separate areas of recommendations with several sub-categories. These include cultural identity, financing social programs, youth services, urban cultural education programs, Aboriginal women in urban areas, and the representation of urban Aboriginal people, to name a few of the broad areas.

The report affirms the importance of some of the issues urban people have been long struggling for in terms of financing social programs. Recommendations include making the "federal government responsible for the costs associated with developing, implementing and operating Aboriginal self-government initiatives on and off a land base, (and ...) treaty entitlements or agreed upon social programs such as financial assistance for post-secondary education and uninsured health benefits for Indian people living off-reserve."

The report further recommends in relation to the *National Friendship Centre Movement*, that administration of the Aboriginal Friendship Centre program be devolved to the **NAFC**.

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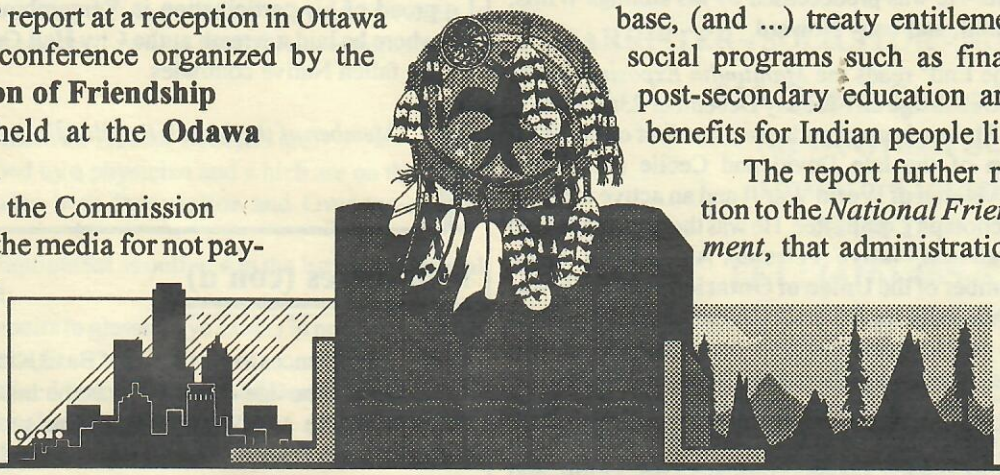


The Native Canadian Centre is wheelchair-accessible with elevator service at the rear. Call 964-9087

Milestones

Happy Birthday Celebrations

- Our very best birthday wishes to our President of the *Native Canadian Centre Board of Directors*, **Joe Johnson**, who celebrated on January 18th. And, speaking of teen-agers, a very happy 13th to our member **Teevi Mackay** (January 20th), and very warm birthday regards too, to our member and regular contributor to *the Native Canadian*, **Barbara Gajic** (December 29th).

- Congratulations to **Edna Cozry** who was the recipient of a five-year **Volunteer Service Award** from the *Province of Ontario*. The award recognizes "service to the province of Ontario and all the people who have benefited from her contributions." Edna was nominated by the *Native Canadian Centre* based particularly on her special commitment to the people she has worked with over the years. A few years ago, Mary Jane Young started a leather-working class, and when she left, Edna took it over. She kept the craftspeople attending the class very busy making items that Edna would then take to fairs and pow wows to sell. Money raised from the crafts was donated to the **Native Centre's Seniors' Program**, and last year the money was donated to the **NCCT's Building and Renovations Fund**. Over $3,000 has been raised over the last few years. Edna loved the many challenges of her volunteer work and she says she had a lot of fun working with her friends on the crafts.

- Our members **Gail King** and **Jim Seegais** along with their three year-old son **Luke** enjoyed a fabulous ten-day holiday in Bermuda. The trip was a Christmas gift from Jim's Mom. Gee, thanks Mom!

- We were saddened to hear of the passing of **Howard Pelletier** on Saturday January 11, 1997 at *St. Joseph's Hospital* in Elliot Lake. He was predeceased by his wife Emily and daughter Heather, as well as brothers Victor and Morris and sisters Mabel and Evelyn. His children are Howard Jr. Harold, Kimberly, Suzanne, Christopher, and Nicole. Howard also leaves behind 14 grand-children, a brother Isadore and his wife Martha, and a sister, Lillian and her husband Ernie Nadjiwan. Howard was a member of the *Legion*, and an original member of the *Toronto Indian Club* and the *Native Canadian Centre*.

- Our sincere sympathies to the family of **Howard Cheechock** of Wausauksing who died on Saturday, January 4th, 1997. Howard was the son of the late Medford and Philomena Cheechock, and brother to Alice Gerard of Toronto. He was predeceased by his siblings Willis, Florence, George, Wilfred, and baby Howard.

- "A Warrior to the End" reads the *Manitoulin Expositor* notice of the passing of **Ernie Debassige** on Monday December 23rd, 1996 in West Bay. Ernie, aged 71, was born at and was a resident of the **West Bay First Nation**, son of the late David and Cecile (Wabonga) Debassige. Ernie was a veteran of World War II and an active member of the *Legion*, and the Cenotaph Committee. He was the impetus behind the founding of the **National Native Veterans Association**, and a founding and active member of the **Union of Ontario Indians**. He was known and respected nationally for his involvement in Native politics for the betterment of his people. Ernie was predeceased by his son Brian and brother James. He is survived by his wife Theresa A. Debassige, and children, Terry, Cecile (Cheyenne Migwans), Wayne, Keith, Michael, Lisa (Mike Peletier) all of West Bay, Howard of Halifax, and Donald of Sudbury. He also leaves behind brothers Gus, Philip, and Frances, and sister Mary Louise, as well as 16 grand-children, and one great-grandson.

Member of the Month

Robert Pasquatch

Robert Pasquatch was born in Moose Factory in 1923. His three sisters and one older brother died at a very young age. Speaking only Cree, Robert became good friends with the sons of the mission Minister even though they only spoke English. This way, Robert learned to speak English and his friends, in turn, learned Cree from him.

Robert was always a hard worker even when he was attending school; he worked half days for the Hudson's Bay Company stocking shelves. He then left school at the age of sixteen, and after working at different jobs, he joined the army in 1942. Even though Robert had always had trouble with his lungs, he passed his basic training despite being quite ill. Determination kept him going and he headed overseas to fight in the War. He spent one year in England and then went to the battle front in Italy where he remained for seventeen months. Robert was not the first in his family to have seen the action of war-time; his father had been on the front in World War One.

When Robert returned to Moose Factory, he took care of his gravely ill mother who suffered from tuberculosis. He said he would often hitch the dog team up and take her out on the sled so that she could get the fresh air she badly needed. Robert was at her side when she died.

After his mother's death, Robert travelled around looking for work, even coming to Toronto. Plagued by ill health, he was hospitalized twice with tuberculosis. He ended up working at the Moose Factory General Hospital where he had been a patient. He was employed there until his retirement, 22 years later.

Robert had married his childhood sweetheart and they had two daughters. In his home, the proud grandfather's walls are covered with pictures of his several grand-children. Settled in his senior's apartment in Toronto now, Robert has often thought about writing an autobiography -- a legacy for his grand-children. He began keeping a diary at an early stage in his life, however, he regrets that the diary was lost.

Robert enjoys reading and is currently particularly interested in learning more about Native medicines. He is especially proud of his participation in Remembrance Day Ceremonies, where he laid a wreath at the City Hall Cenotaph in memory of his fallen Native comrades.

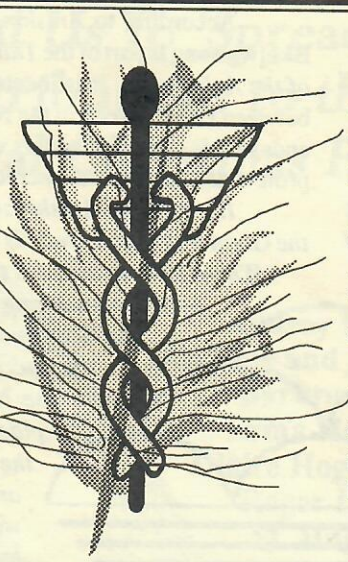
Member of the Month Profiles Collected by Helen Pak

Milestones (con'd)

- Condolences to the family of **Basil King**, who died on December 15th, 1996 at the age of 59. He was the husband of Emma King and father to Robin and Wendy. Basil was predeceased by his parents Elizabeth and Clarence King, and his brother Clarence, and sisters Gladys, Gwendolyn and Noreen. He is survived by his sister Diane, and brothers Conrad, Wilfred, Edward and Ernest.

Non-insured Health Benefits: Changes and Consultations

prepared by K. Gayle Mason-Stark



At the end of November, 1996, a consultation workshop was held by the *National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC)* in Winnipeg on **Non-insured Health Benefits (NIHB)**. Representatives from Friendship Centres and Provincial/Territorial Associations from across the country were invited, however, it is important to note that not all Centre's were able to attend because of financial restrictions. Funding provided by the *Medical Services Branch of Health Canada* to the *NAFC* was only enough to support the travel expenses of a small number of representatives.

The specific purpose of this urban consultation was to obtain views and suggestions, and to develop focused recommendations regarding the NIHB program for eligible recipients living in urban areas. The workshop was also intended to promote and establish linkages between individuals, Friendship Centres, and communities which will lead to greater understanding of how to tackle the serious concerns expressed by *NAFC* membership regarding health promotion and prevention programs offered by *Health Canada*.

Some of the changes to the NIHB program have already been implemented such as the **"best price" policy effective as of December 1st, 1996.** This policy means that your prescription and over-the-counter drugs will be replaced with a "best-price" alternative. NIHB will pay only for the lowest priced drug, as long as it is exactly the same active ingredient as the drug originally prescribed.

A second change will occur on March 1st, 1997 when an updated drug benefit list will be implemented and NIHB will stop paying for a number of drugs that are currently covered. *Health Canada* is assuring that no one will be denied a drug that is medically necessary, after the changes have taken place, but are admitting that while doctors and pharmacists decide on which new drugs will replace discontinued ones, there will be inconveniences to clients. If under the new plan, a doctor then decides that a drug that is no longer covered by NIHB is necessary, an "exception process" will be available to ensure that the drug is reviewed.

Right now, **Non-insured Health Benefits** are:

* Drugs that are prescribed by a physician and which are on the *NIHB* Formulary, which includes both Prescription and Over-the-counter Drugs;
* Medical Supplies and Equipment as outlined in the listing of Medical Supplies and Equipment;
* Vision Care (glasses, repairs to glasses, eye exams in provinces which have deinsured this service);
* Dental Services as outlined in the Schedule of Dental Services:
* Transportation to medical services;
* Mental Health Services (limited to crisis intervention);

Health Care Insurance Premiums in Alberta and B.C.;

* Other Health Services, dependent on Regional circumstances.

The NIHB Manager in your region can be contacted for more detailed information about **Non-insured Health Benefits**. In Ontario, the Regional Manager is Ida Campbell at 1547 Merivale Road, 3rd floor, Nepean, Ontario, K1A 0L3.

There are strict pre-authorizations and changes on interpretations within each region. This best-kept secret has prevented off reserve Aboriginal people from knowing the full range of services available. Therefore, it is important to be informed of the changes and how to access services.

I will be conducting a consultation with the community by the end of February. Please watch for further details or contact Bijou at the *Centre* (416-964-9087) for more information. **Documents on the services are available to view at the *Centre* and a whole package will be available at the time of the consultation meeting.**

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11th Annual Elders' Gathering

The **11th Annual Elders' Gathering** will be held April 19th and 20th, 1997. The location will be the *Howard Johnson Hotel* at 475 Yonge Street. The theme for this year's gathering will be "*A History of Healing: Living the Good Life*." The **Anishnawbek Committee** welcomes anyone who wants to be a member of the Committee or volunteer to assist with any aspect of the Gathering.

An absolutely gorgeous **Star Blanket** made by *Carolyn Coté*, and a very beautiful Linda Lundstrom **Parka** are being raffled to raise funds to support the *Gathering*. Tickets are available at the front desk of the *Native Canadian Centre* or from any of the members of the **Anishnawbek Committee**.

Special rates at the hotel will be available later on. There will be more information on this in the March *Native Canadian Newsletter*. We look forward to seeing you again this year!

EUAN G. M. MACKAY

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Protecting the Land and Water A Message From Bkejwanong (Walpole Island)

Brian Loucks, Three Fires Midewiwin 1996

Our people and our children are calling us to step into the future carrying those sacred teachings and responsibilities that are being passed on to us. Last summer, a sacred Condor feather from South America visited the *Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge* at Hannahville, Michigan. The Condor is a magnificent bird and is honoured by Indigenous people in South and Central America as its relative, the Eagle, is in North America. For three days the feather hung on the *Lodge* blessing pole before being taken down and spoken for by *Waashachkung* of the *Three Fires Eastern Door*. "The Condor feather through its coming to the *Three Fires Lodge*," he said, "is part of the fulfilment of an ancient prophecy. It is through the South that the spirit of growth, continuity, and renewal is awakened for all peoples." The Condor feather then circled the *Lodge* accompanied by the Eagle and was left in the care of **Grand Chief Eddie Benton Benai**.

The sacred feather came to the *Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge* through Anishinabe kwe, **Corrine Tooshkenig**. She was attending the **Indigenous Environmental Network Gathering** in North Carolina, entitled, "Our River, Our Life," as a member of **S.P.L.A.S.H.** (Stop Pollution Lobbying and Spirit Helpers) and of the community of **Bkejwanong (Walpole Island First Nation)**. Ms. Tooshkenig was approached by an Elder of the Mayan peoples, **Nelson Diaz** of Quito, Ecuador. She shared with him the problems faced by the people of **Bkejwanong**, a community living downstream form Canada's *chemical valley* and part of the Detroit-Windsor urban corridor. Together they discussed their concerns for Mother Earth and spoke to the spiritual and political awakening being experienced by Indigenous peoples throughout the world. He offered the Condor feather to her and asked that it travel throughout the **Anishinabe Nations** with a message of spiritual unity, awakening, and hope. Diaz said that according to the prophecies of his people, the time of darkness is ending and is marked by the coming together of the Condor of the South and the Eagle of the North.

S.P.L.A.S.H. and **Walpole Island** are advocating "zero discharge" for all forms of water and air pollution. At this time, there is immense danger facing people, plants and animals due to the discharge of toxic waste into the sacred waters of the *St. Clair River*. **Imperial Chemical Industries (I.C.I.)**, with its head office in England, and subsidiary offices in Canada, Australia, Pakistan, India, Hong Kong, Nigeria and many other parts of the globe, is proposing to dump 750,000,000 gallons of contaminated toxic water only 14 kilometres upstream from **Walpole Island**. According to **I.C.I.** engineering experts, it will take 4 to 5 years of daily discharge for the toxic waste water from I.C.I.'s now shut-down phosphate plant, to be dumped in the river. **S.P.L.A.S.H.** has taken up the ancient responsibilities to protect the waters and lands of **Bkejwanong** from further contamination and degradation.

Third Stopping Place on the Great Migration of the Anishinabe

According to *Anishinabe* oral tradition and scroll teachings, **Bkejwanong** is part of the *Third Stopping Place* on the *Great Migration of the Anishinabe*. It is located along the stretch of waters and lands between **Lake Huron** in the North and **Lake Erie** in the South. At both ends of this stretch of waters were guardians set there by the Creator to protect and honour the sacred lands and waters of the *Anishinabe*.

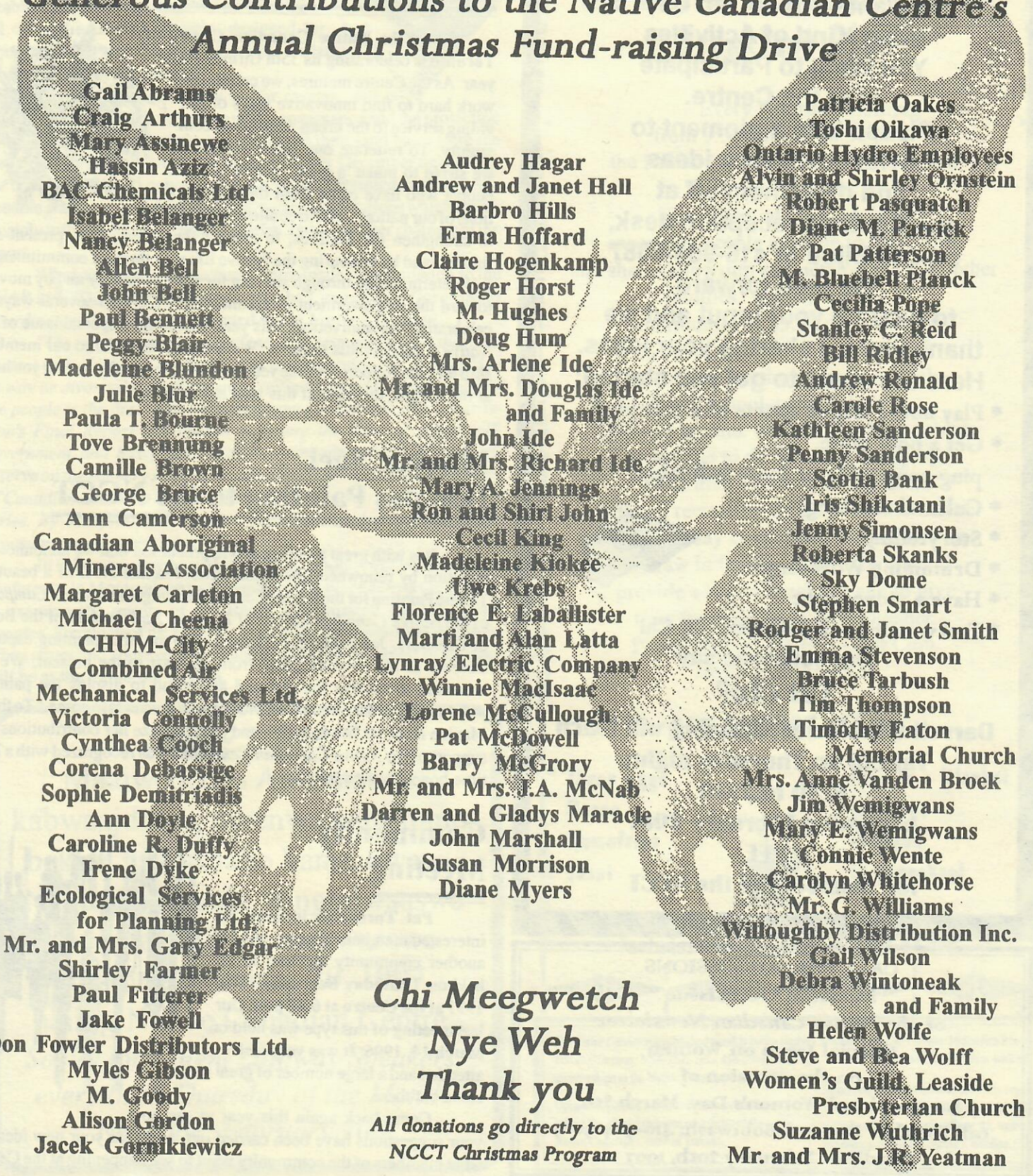
It is said the Anishinabe were led by the sacred megis shell on the Great Migration towards the West from the salt waters of the East. Where Lake Erie meets the Detroit River, a sacred Grandmother rock stood marking the entrance to the Third Stopping Place. The Grandmother rock was the honoured guardian of the sacred waters of Mother Earth flowing out of the North into Lake Erie. From her resting place on one of the southern channel islands, the Grandmother rock stood as a protector and reminder to travellers of the spirit of the waters and her role in bringing life to humankind, the Earth and all Creation. There she stood for all time, being honoured by the people who passed her way. Offerings were left and sacred fires were lit on the Island that hosted her. In the late 1600s it is documented European wanderers came upon this rock and in their fear, arrogance and ignorance broke up the Grandmother and tossed her pieces in the waters. It is said that the Anishinabe nini (men) later dove into the waters, reclaimed the pieces and hid them on another island where they would be safe from further abuse.

In the North, where the waters of Lake Huron narrow into the ribbon of waters now called the St. Clair River, was another guardian. The guardian was a set of rapids at what is now called Sarnia, Ontario and Port Huron, Michigan. According to Wisconsin Midewiwin oral history as related to Bawd Dway Wi Dan (Eddie Benton Benai) Sarnia or Aashawaagaming means "Crossing Waters." The people of the Crossing Rivers were entrusted with keeping the crossing safe, protected and sacred. The said trust included the east and west sides of the crossing, with the west side being a ceremonial site. The sacred rapids were blasted out during the making of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Between these two guardians is the lush marsh lands and waterways of the Bkejwanong Walpole Island delta and Lake St. Clair. Here the Anishinabe and the Midewiwin Lodge grew and flourished and peoples of all Nations found safety, kindness, sharing, honesty, healing and strength. The voice of the little boy Water Drum was heard throughout the region bringing peace, health, truth and harmony. It is said some Anishinabe left the lands of the Third Stopping place and went south in search of the sacred mountain. After resting for some time, Anishinabe was called again by the Sacred Megis, to move on from the Third Stopping place. The people were pointed to the north, to the shimmering waters of Georgian Bay and beyond, toward the next Stopping Place on the Great Migration.

As we travel on our journey, our footsteps will bring us to where we once have been. As we remember our place in the world and where we have come, we can stand up and walk into the future with confidence and unity carrying the ancient responsibilities given to us as *Anishinabe* peoples. In so doing we join the Eagle and Condor on the sacred path of life, a path that leads to acceptance, love, peace and fulfilment for all.

Our Very Heartfelt Thanks to All Our Members and Friends Who Helped Us To 'Spread Our Wings' With Their Generous Contributions to the Native Canadian Centre's Annual Christmas Fund-raising Drive



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Chi Meegwetch
Nye Weh
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All donations go directly to the NCCT Christmas Program

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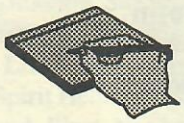
The Native Canadian Centre
Recreation Committee
Wants You to Tell Us
What Kind of Activities
You Want to Participate
in at the Centre.
Please take a moment to
write down your ideas
and drop them off at
the Centre's reception desk,
or, call Bijou at 416-964-9087.
We look forward
to hearing your input and we
thank you for sharing your ideas.
Here are some to get you started:

* Play house league sports like volleyball
* Get a pool table,
  ping pong table or foose ball table
* Cultural teachings
* Storytelling
* Drumming Workshops
* Have a video night
* Taekwondo, Self-Defence, Tai Chi

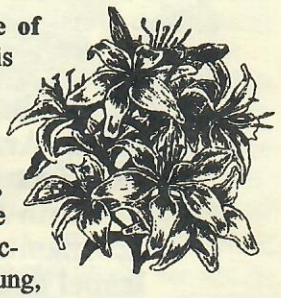


Did someone say
Tai Chi?
Darrell Couchie of Nipissing will teach
Tai Chi on Thursday nights
6:30 to 7:30
beginning February 20th
FREE
for members of the NCCT

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS
for the MARCH Issue
of *the Native Canadian Newsletter*
Special Issue on Women
on the occasion of
International Women's Day, March 8th
call Heather Howard-Bobiwash: 416-964-9087
Deadline: February 20th, 1997

NCCT News

NCCT Celebrates 35th!



Yes, the **Native Canadian Centre of Toronto** is celebrating its 35th Birthday this year. As the Centre matures, we continue to work hard to find innovative ways of providing service to the urban Aboriginal community. To reiterate our vision statement, we strive to make 'a good "centre" for the people who have come from the four directions of our nation... and to challenge the young, to strengthen the families, to respect the elders, past, present and future... and by honouring the Native life way through commitment to self-determination through striving for a life of quality and by moving toward the empowerment of community." We plan several ways of celebrating our anniversary this year, including a special issue of *the Native Canadian* this summer. We are most thankful to our membership for your support over the years and look forward to seeing you here, at the *Centre*, throughout this year and beyond!

Maxine Noel Donates Painting to the NCCT

It is with great pleasure and appreciation that we announce the donation by renowned Aboriginal artist Maxine Noel of a beautiful Theme Painting for the *5-year Capital Building/Renovation Campaign* of the *Native Canadian Centre of Toronto*. As President of the Board of Directors, Joe Johnson expressed, "To me, this painting captures Toronto as the meeting place from the past to the present. We are honoured to receive the gift and are proud to display the painting prominently at the Centre for all to enjoy in the years to come." To thank Maxine Noel for her donation and to recognize her contributions and support of the *Native Canadian Centre* she was recognized with a lifetime honorary membership.

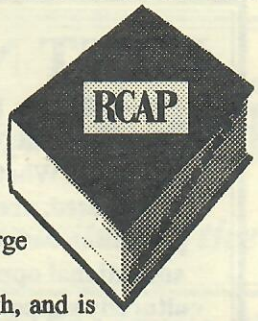
Community Meeting

Pat Turner is inviting all interested members to come out for another community meeting to be held on **Thursday February 20th, 1997 at the Centre at 6:00 p.m.** Our last meeting of this type was held on March 14, 1996. It was very well attended and a large number of great ideas came out there.

Come back again this year to see how your suggestions have been carried out, and hear your new ideas on what members of the community want to see happening at the Centre.

Royal Commission

Continued from Page 1



It also suggests that "the federal government establish and fund a national urban Aboriginal cultural education program designed for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in large urban centres across Canada."

Still, the report does not go far enough, and is especially lacking with respect to urban governance and the protection of the treaty rights of people who move off their land base. Here the recommendations are weak and vague. In their December newsletter, the NAFC expressed concern that the report presented several questionable statistics, broad assumptions and generalizations which unfortunately influenced the inclusion of urban issues in other chapters of the report.

When the *Native Canadian Centre* made its submission to the RCAP in 1992, Rodney Bobiwash was the *Centre's Self-Government Coordinator*. Bobiwash commented to *the Native Canadian,*

"The representation we made to the Commissioners at that time made it very clear that the function of social service delivery could in no way be divorced from the issue of self-government -- taking care of the people is the first responsibility of any government. The Commission's Final Report has chosen to ignore the issue of urban self-government and has placed Indian communities both on and off-reserve on the slippery slope of termination by accepting the legitimacy of Canadian authority over our Nations within their traditional territories. By accepting an argument based on need we surrender the argument based upon rights."

In February, dozens of people from Toronto will be attending a conference in Montreal, one of several taking place across the country to examine the results of the **Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples**. For many of us, working to develop the recommendations on urban issues and addressing the shortcomings of the report in this area will be at the top of our agenda.

Maajwededaa Anishnabek,
kabwaajdeme, meenwa kabaapme,
bekish niibiishabo kamnikwena.
Naakshig monda, ningodwaaswe
sheoptaa biinish nishwaaswe
dbukneg February 20, 1997,
naiing Native Canadian Centre.
Social for Fluent Ojibway Speakers,
every third Thursday of the Month.
Next one: February 20th

Announcing the Native Canadian Centre Breakfast Club

Every Saturday morning
from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
the Native Canadian Centre will host a
Breakfast Club.
The notion of the Club is to
encourage people to come to the Centre
and share fellowship and networking with other
families. We will ask for a
contribution of $3.00 per breakfast
to cover the cost of an organized
creative play-time for pre-school
and school-aged children.
This will provide time for working parents
to be able to do Saturday shopping
while their children benefit from
craft and recreation programs at the Centre.
The Saturday Breakfast Club is an effort
to draw in families to the Centre and
provide a hearty breakfast and to give
time for children to play together.
Please support the Breakfast Club.
Invite your Friends!

BREAKFAST MENU

Three Eggs
Bacon
Homefries
Toast

or

Pigs in a Blanket (sausage wrapped in pancakes)

Includes orange juice, coffee or tea

The Native Canadian is published monthly by the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, 16 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2S7; TEL: 416-964-9087, FAX: 416-964-2111. Subscriptions: Free with all memberships to the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto.

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NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE
SENIORS PROGRAM
FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Mondays: Art
Tuesdays: Beading
Thursdays: Wood Carving and Movie Nights
Friday, February 7th: BINGO
Tuesday, February 11th: MID-TORONTO

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 14TH
SENIORS' VALENTINE'S DANCE
4-6 P.M.
Happy Valentine's Day
to All Seniors

Friday, February 21st: FOCUS GROUP
Tuesday, February 25th: MID-TORONTO
Friday, February 28th: BINGO

FIRST NATIONS HOUSE

First Nations House at the University of Toronto encourages all Native people to consider a university education. Whether you are in high school, have just graduated, are in the workforce, or considering a profession we can help you identify the best route to educational opportunity. First Nations House offers culturally supportive programs and services to Indian, Metis and Inuit students at the University of Toronto and those considering university. The University of Toronto offers the Transitional Year Program and Pre-University programs for students without OAC; regular undergraduate programs in the Arts and Sciences; professional programs in Health Sciences, Engineering, Law and Business; and graduate programs at the Masters and Doctoral levels in all disciplines. To discuss your best path to educational success and greater opportunity at the University of Toronto please contact Anita Benedict, Academic Counsellor.

University Application Deadline is March 1st

563 Spadina Avenue, Third Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1A1
Telephone: 416-978-8227
Fax: 416-978-1893

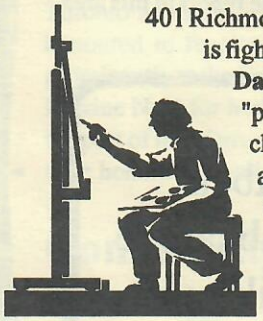
Youth Canada Poster Challenge

The **Canada Day Poster Challenge** invites young people, eighteen years of age and under, to create a poster that illustrates what Canada means to them. The artwork of the national finalist becomes the official poster used across the country for Canada Day and activities that start on **June 21, National Aboriginal Day.**

Submission deadline is
February 28, 1997

For more information, contact the Canada Day Committee Office **c/o Canadian Heritage, 5160 Yonge Street, Suite 500, North York, Ontario, M2N 6L9,**
or details are available at the *Native Centre*, posted in the downstairs lounge.

Urgent Art Appeal



Friends of the Lubicon is holding an **Art Show Auction, April 4th and 5th 1997**. The location for the show is **A Space Gallery**, 401 Richmond Street West in Toronto. **Friends of the Lubicon** is fighting a lawsuit initiated by **Forestry Multinational Daishowa** and needs funds. The theme of the show is "power" and can be interpreted in any way artists may choose. **Friends of the Lubicon** will gratefully accept any work you wish to donate, or will negotiate a percentage of the selling price. **Submissions Deadline February 28, 1997.** Contact 416-532-0453, or, 416-532-0453; 485 Ridelle Ave., Toronto, Ontario, M6B 1K6.

The **Native Canadian Centre** extends sincere thanks to all the many volunteers who helped with the **1996 Christmas Program**. This season, more than ever, the need was great and the work of volunteers made it possible for the **Centre** to serve a large number of people in the community. A lot of hard work was put in with so many jobs that needed to be done: helping with the two sittings for dinner on December 15th -- organizing, cooking, serving, washing up, entertaining at the children's party on the 14th, and with the preparation and delivery of hampers. We also much appreciate all the efforts of those who participated in the **Annual Christmas Concert** providing very talented entertainment, as well as helping out with selling pop and goodies.

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Breakfast Club 1 **9:30 - 12:30** **Beading Class** **12:30 - 4:00** **Birds of A Feather (AA) 1-2 pm**
2	Quilting Club 3 *1-3 p.m.* Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Aboriginal History of Toronto 4 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. MicMac Class 6 pm	*(Quilting Club)* 5 Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Men's circle** **6 - 8 pm**	**Community Pot-Luck and Social /Drumming 6** **5:30 - 8:00 p.m.** Ojibway with Mary Assinewe: 6pm	7	**Breakfast Club** 8 **9:30 - 12:30** **Beading Class** **12:30 - 4:00** **Birds of A Feather (AA) 1-2 pm**
9	Quilting Club 10 *1 - 3 p.m.* Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Aboriginal History of Toronto 11 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. MicMac Class 6 pm	12 *(Quilting Club)* Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Drumming: 13 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Ojibway with Mary Assinewe: 6pm	**Valentine's 14** **Dance** **Ukrainian Hall 8 pm**	**Breakfast Club** 15 **9:30 - 12:30** **Beading Class** **12:30 - 4:00** **Birds of A Feather (AA) 1-2 pm**
16	Quilting Club 17 *1 - 3 p.m.* Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Aboriginal 18 History 6:30 pm MicMac Class 6 pm **Dave White Moccasin Workshop**	*(Quilting Club)* 19 Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Men's circle** **6 - 8 pm**	**- Community 20** **Pot-Luck Social** **- Fluent Ojibway Social 5:30 p.m.** **- Community Meeting 6:00 p.m.**	**Tai Chi 21** **Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.**	**Breakfast Club** 22 **9:30 - 12:30** **Beading Class** **12:30 - 4:00** **Birds of A Feather (AA) 1-2 pm**
23	Quilting Club 24 *1 - 3 p.m.* Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Aboriginal History of Toronto 25 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. MicMac Class 6 pm	26 *(Quilting Club)* Ojibway Class: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. **Men's circle** **6 - 8 pm**	Drumming: 27 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Ojibway with Mary Assinewe: 6pm	28	***Native Peoples Parish Loonie Bazaar***

MARCH 1997

						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

For the schedule for this month's Visiting Elders Program, and information on all other Cultural Programming, Call Jimmy Dick at 964-9087

Join us on all week-days for community lunch

A 1$ charge for working people now applies

N.H.L. HOCKEY

Trip to Buffalo

First Nations Day

WITH THE BUFFALO SABRES

BUFFALO SABRES VS. NEW JERSEY DEVILS

Bus Package Includes Tickets to the Game

100-level seats: $75.00

(Best Seats in the House!)

or

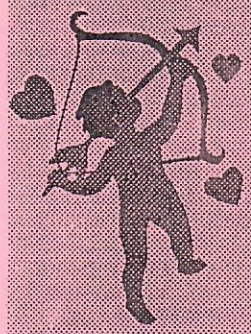
300-level seats: $40.00

Tickets available on a first-come-first-served basis
Contact Bruce Stark @ 416-599-0631 or
The Native Canadian Centre: 416-964-9087

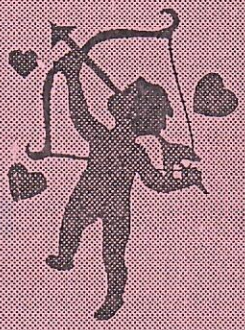
BIG GAME!

Sunday, March 9, 1997, 7:05 p.m. in Buffalo

SWEETHEART HOP
VALENTINE DANCE



FRI. FEB. 14/97
UKRAINIAN HALL
297 COLLEGE ST.



West of Spadina

8 p.m. to 1 a.m.

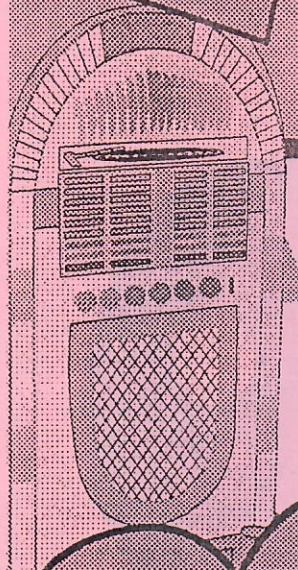
DANCE CONTESTS

PRIZES

50-50 DRAW

MUSIC BY "MIXED BLESSINGS" BAND

and GREAT D.J.



$10 per Person at door

CALL PAT at (NCCT 964-90[illegible] for info

FUN FUN FUN!

FIRST NATIONS DAY FUNDRAISING

Well-known Tuscarora Seer
Ted Silverhand
from Powellsville, North Carolina is coming to the Native Canadian Centre

16 Spadina Rd.

Daily From
Monday May 26 Through Saturday May 31, 1997
11 A.M to 8:00 P.M.

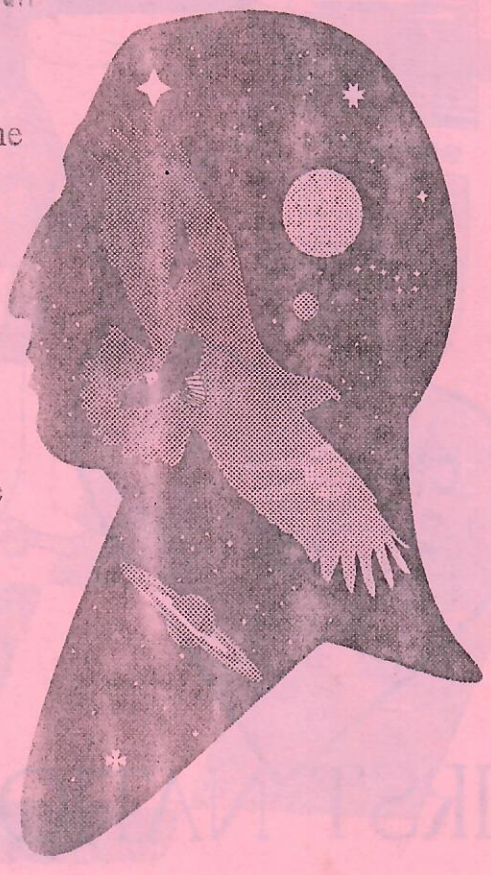
(Sorry, Saturday, the 31st is already booked!!!)

40 minute sessions,
and you will receive an audio tape of your session.

75$

Come in and book your appointment now!
or call Pat to reserve by phone*
416-964-9087

*Phone reservations must be placed by Friday April 11th with full payment by cheque, cash or money-order by April 25th, 1996. Full payment must be received to guarantee your booking.



Since before recorded time, human beings have striven to know the balance between the natural and the spiritual worlds, and the role we play within those worlds. According to Native tradition, there was always a special person in each tribe that one could go to for answers to dreams, visions and future events. These special people are called Tellers or Seers. Ted Silverhand is a member of the Sagarissa family, known and acclaimed as seers for generations. A Pawnee Medicine Man, recognizing Silverhand's special gifts, gave him the name *Pahocatiwa* (he walks among the stars). All of Silverhand's readings are conducted on a spiritual level, in the Native tradition, much the same as Indian Seers have done since the beginning.

Half of all Proceeds will go to support the Native Canadian Centre's Children's Summer Camp Program

COME WITH US TO CASINO RAMA

SUNDAY MARCH 2,1997

PICK-UP: NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE (16 SPADINA RD.)
LEAVE CENTRE: 10:30 A.M.
RETURN TO CENTRE: 7:30 P.M.

COST: $ 22.00 – MEMBERS
$ 27.00 – NON-MEMBERS

INCLUDES: RETURN BUS & LARGE DELICIOUS HOT / COLD BUFFET.

CONTACT: PAT TURNER at N.C.C.T
(964-9087) EXT.320

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO
SIX-WEEK
ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT COUNSELLING
&
CAREER PLANNING TRAINING PROGRAM

****

Participants will:

* **Explore career and education interests**
* **Assess individual needs, values and skills**
* **Identify personal strengths and weaknesses**
* **Learn problem solving techniques**
* **Explore strategies to embrace cultural diversity**
* **Practice stress management techniques**
* **Learn job search and interview techniques**
* **Explore academic and vocational testing**
* **Develop a well-organized resume/portfolio**
* **Become part of a referral network and ongoing counselling program**

This program is intended for those individuals who want to develop better life skills (e.g. work habits, time management skills, etc.) as well as refine communication skills, especially those pertaining to the competitive job market.

With the guidance and assistance of counsellors and staff, participants will take the program in developing a personal "Action Plan" outlining the skills and experience needed in order to secure employment and/or relevant training that will address individual needs, career aspirations and lifestyles.

SESSION START DATES FOR 1997:

January 6 to February 14
February 17 to March 31

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER PLEASE CALL

Lesley Davis or Sam Macleod at

THE NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE OF TORONTO
16 Spadina Road, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 2S7
Phone (416) 964-9087
Fax (416) 964-2111

Sponsored by The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
in affiliation with George Brown College
Funding from Human Resources Development Canada through
Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment and Training

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE
FAMILY BREAKFAST CLUB

Every Saturday morning from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. the Native Canadian Centre will host a Breakfast Club. The notion of the Club is to encourage people to come to the Centre and share fellowship and networking with other families.

We will ask for a contribution of $3.00 per breakfast to cover the cost of an organized creative playtime for pre-school and school-aged children. This will provide time for working parents to be able to do Saturday shopping while their children benefit by craft and recreation programs at the Centre.

The Saturday Breakfast Club provides a hearty breakfast and gives time for children to play together.

Please support the Breakfast Club. Invite your friends !!

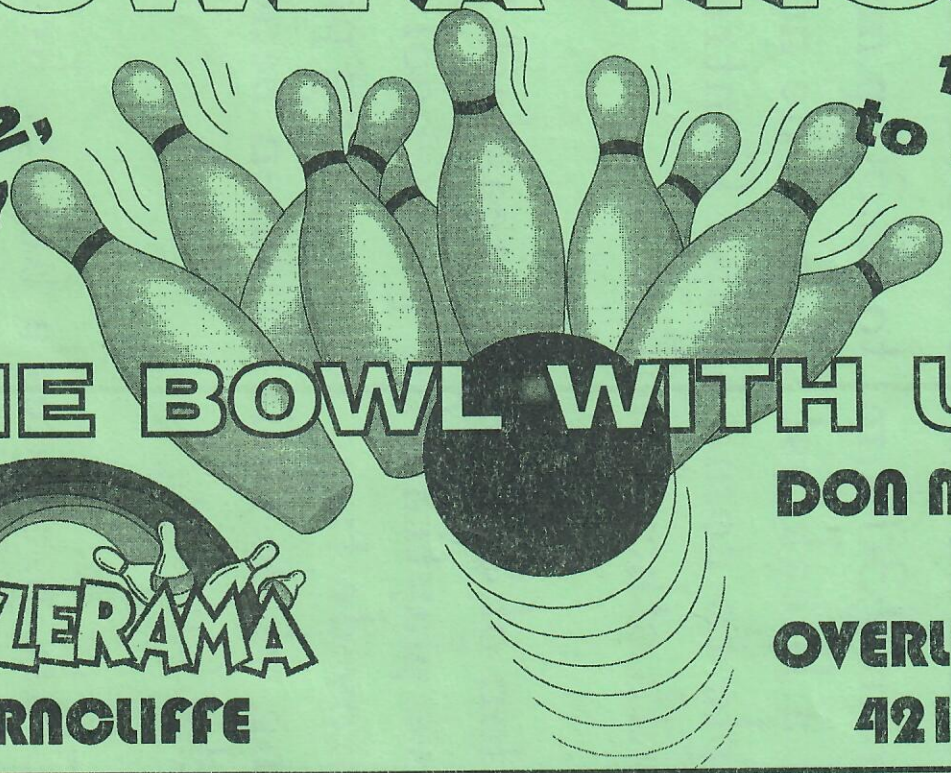
3rd Annual

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTRE

BOWL-A-THON

April 12, 1997

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



COME BOWL WITH US !

BOWLERAMA
THORNCLIFFE

DON MILLS RD.
&
OVERLEA BLVD.
421-2211

EACH BOWLING TEAM NEEDS 5 PEOPLE.
YOU WILL RECEIVE PLEDGE SHEETS
WHEN YOUR GROUP CONFIRMS WITH US.

PRIZES TO BE WON FOR DONATIONS OF $10.00 OR MORE.

FREE HOT SNACKS AND DRINKS

CORPORATE SPONSORS WILL RECEIVE SIGNAGE ON THEIR LANE

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER ON A TEAM OR AS AN INDIVIDUAL CALL 964-9087