

The Native Canadian

Newsletter of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto Editors: Jeff Schnuerer and Heather Howard-Bobiwash

United Way of Greater Toronto

Visit our website at <u>nativecentretoronto.org</u>

16 Spadina Rd., Toronto, ON, M5R 2S7

Tel 416-964-9087 / Fax 416-964-2111

NCCT initiates new program for homeless

by Stacie Migwans
NCCT Homelessness Initiatives Coordinator

The Native Canadian Centre has been serving the homeless for years through its various programs and services. Unfortunately, the homelessness issue is diverse in its needs and for the first time the Centre has been approved for funding from Miziwe Biik to take on direct initatives to serve the homeless community. Two main components make up this program: The Odd Job Relief Program and the Lightening Spirit Design Studio. These programs, complimented by the Centre's existing services, are assisting homeless individuals to access services and provide some solutions.

Odd Job Relief Program

The Odd Job Relief Program offers homeless individuals the opportunity to earn some money that will advance them towards self-sufficiency and gainful employment. Currently, the Centre is paying up to 8 hours a week for odd jobs located throughout Toronto. The jobs will vary from maintenance, distributing flyers, moving furniture and administration. In addition, relationships with local businesses will be developed to assist in covering wages. This initiative will commit business owners and managers to cover half the wages creating a 16 hour week. This kind of empowerment may be the first step in a long journey for someone to move away from the street.

The coordinator will also provide information and referral, as well as outreach services. Furthermore, a clothing bank has been initiated by participants on a volunteer basis. There have already been some successes: two participants are working full time and are using the resources available to help them along on their journey to recovery.

Homeless Artists Doing

'Grate' Work

by Gordon Atkinson

When the winter winds are howling and the fingers turn to ice it's tough to whittle away at soapstone. So the Native Canadian Center of Toronto has opened a working space where homeless Native artists can whittle, paint, carve and bead all day long.

Besides expressing the highs and lows of their daily lives, the program delivers an income. Artists can earn 60 percent of the revenue on the sale of their art. The Homeless Arts Initiative Program was developed to provide an artistic outlet for Native artists who live on the streets.

"It's hard to survive when you're homeless," Elder Vern Harper told a small gathering at the NCCT yesterday. 'Something like this is needed to lift the spirits."

The project will provide a warm environment as well as supplies for artists and crafters to work. Miziwe Bilk Aboriginal Employment and Training sponsors the project.

There are currently about 15 homeless artists involved with the program. Their work will be featured in the opening of a new art gallery at the NCCT Feb. 3-9. The opening ceremonies will include a reception, with Native singing and dancing.

For further information please call Stacie Migwans or Ning at 964-9087.



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

Milestones

Congratulations go to Valerie and Fred McGregor (née Plain) who became proud parents with the birth of their son Marlin Lika McGregor. Marlin was born on Christmas eve and weighed in at a hefty 10lbs, 13oz. Marlin's Anishnawbe name is Miskokijig, which means Red Sky. Mom Valerie is from Sarnia, and Dad Fred is from Maniwaki, Quebec. Marlin's proud maternal grandparents are Wilson and Ada Plain of Sarnia.

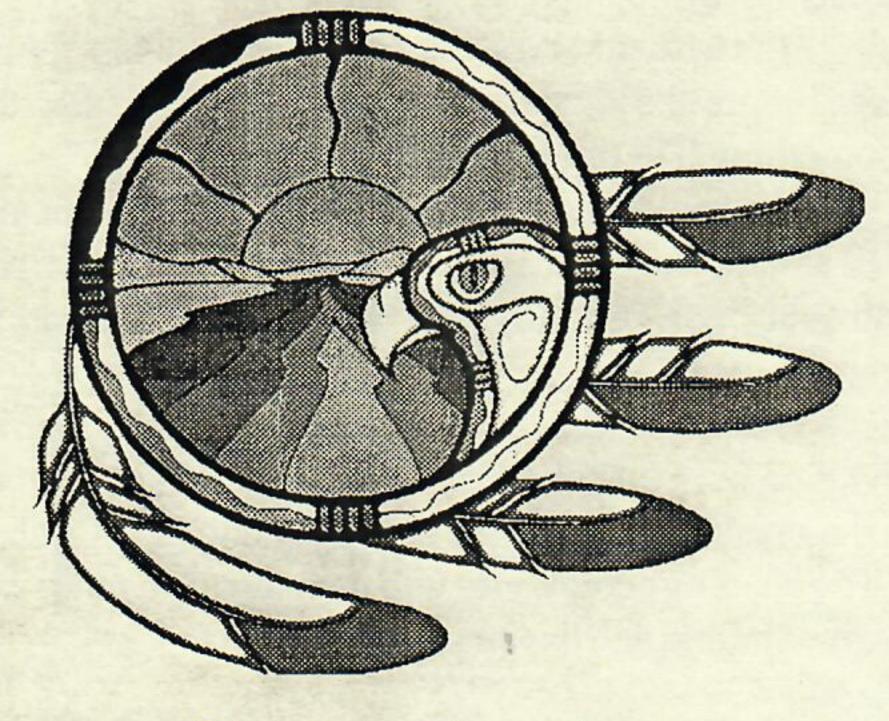
A belated happy birthday goes to **Janet Schnuerer** who turned the big 1-9 on January 4, 2000. Janet is a reliable volunteer who is always happy to lend a hand to make sure our readers get their newsletters. Meegwetch and happy birthday!

Best birthday wishes to Willis Shawana, who will be twentyone on February 27th, and to Rabbit, who will be nineteen on February 5th - my treat to both of you on the Internet Cafe if you can find me!

Belated birthday greetings to young Andrew Causton who celebrated his third birthday on January 28th! His Grandma, Julie Campbell, Anishnawbek Committee member extraordinaire, also turned X years old on December 9, Happy Birthday to you both!

Condolences go to the family of Elder Violet Cousineau of Perkinsfield, Ontario who passed away on December 14, 1999 on her 92nd birthday. Called by her spirit keeper to come home, she is sadly missed by her great-grandson Cody Copegog, daughter Annie Hinkel, and great-grandson Harvey Horlock, among other friends and family. A family funeral with Native custom was held in Midland, Ontario at Nickle Funeral Home.

Canadian Native Store



canadiannativestore.com summer 2000

inquiry@canadiannativestore.com

1999 Christmas Program Wrap-up

On December 11, the 1999 Christmas concert brought together a long line-up of talent from the community. The acts ranged from warm familiar carols to some sharp yuks from a stand-up comedian. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make the evening so memorable.

The Christmas concert wasn't the only activity going on however. On December 12, the NCCT and Native Child and Family Services Toronto held their joint Christmas Kids Party, which saw the pitter-patter of little feet all over the building. The children were served a delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings and treated to a children's entertainer. This led up to the arrival of old St. Nick and the chance to have a picture taken with him. Then the party drew to a close, and the children were each given a gift just before they left.

As well, two turkey dinners were served for the community on December 18, one right after another. Once again Christmas at the NCCT was a great time, and we hope to see you there too.

From top to bottom: i) Lilian McGregor and Kathleen Leung, ii) Ramona Toulouse, Lori Harris and Linda Gileo iii) Ramona Kiyoshk and iv) Barbara Kearns and Mary Fox.



Three Native Organizations Serve Up Warmth to the Homeless

by Gordon Atkinson

There is no fire at Council Fire, but 150 homeless people come away from there warm, rested and fed. The Aboriginal Survival Program at Council Fire at 439 Dundas St. E. is the biggest of three Aboriginal organizations that cater to both Native and non-Native homeless people.

The drop-in centre is open 24 hours a day during the cold weather, said Elizabeth Gordon, co-ordinator of the popular survival program.

"We don't go by a cold weather alert," she said. "Our staff use their own judgement."

"Our goal is to provide the services our clients need including the most basic and immediate for warmth, shelter and food," added Dennis Stark, information officer for the organization. "The place is packed every night," he said.

Another hot spot for the cold and hungry is the Native Men's Residence (Na-Me-Res) at 14 Vaughan Rd. "We can accommodate up to eight more people," said Joe Seymond, supervisor of counselors for the 40 bed hostel. The Out of the Cold program at Na-Me-Res provides things that most people take for granted. They can have a meal, shower and a good night's sleep, said Seymond. "We give them a bus token in the morning."

The Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT) serves up steaming hot meals five days a week, with a light lunch on weekends. "We usually get a lot of people coming out," said Allan Sutherland, a seniors program outreach worker for the organization. "We serve 250 meals a day," he continued. "No one is turned away."

"The meals are good," said Kevin Daniels, a Cree man from the Kawatatoose First Nation in Saskatchewan. "I've enjoyed every meal I've had here," he said. The NCCT hot meal program sometimes serves traditional meals like moose stew and bannock.

According to recent statistics there has never been so many people surviving on city streets. Not surprisingly, many churches have responded to the need by opening their doors and hearts for the needy. Everyday, 1500 homeless men and women are fed through the **Out of the Cold** and every night 500 people sleep safely in a church or synagogue.

When the wind howls and the gut pinches and all the hostels there are still a few homeless people who don't know where to turn. "I don't know where I'm going to sleep tonight," said a frustrated, tired and hungry young Native man named Dan. "I'm getting hungry," he growled. I took a submarine and an Out of the Cold pamphlet from my knapsack and offered them both to him.

"I can't find myself a job, apartment or even get welfare," he said, submerging the sub one bite at a time. Dan blames unemployment, inadequate housing and cuts to social assistance as the main culprits of homelessness. The bitter winds of winter were biting through Dan's clothing as he headed to Council Fire to sleep. He wanted to get into the warmth and out of the cold.

If you see a homeless person in need call the Street Helpline at 0-416-392-3777.

It's a free call - give your quarter to a needy person.

Couriers of Kindness Deliver Warmth and Hope to the Homeless

by Gordon Atkinson

Native relief workers are peddling through alleys and bike trails going where no van has gone before. Their mission: to seek out nooks, search the ravines, dark alleyways and under bridges where the homeless are shivering the night away. The "Alert Patrol" goes into action when temperatures fall below -15 Celsius, but there's no problem starting their motors in the cold weather - the intrepid trackers travel by bicycle so they can reach people who sleep in places not accessible by van. The couriers of kindness deliver a package of warmth and hope to the homeless. Workers are in constant communication with Roving Patrol who provide these people with transportation to a shelter. On many a bitter cold night, they've found two or more people sharing the shivering together.

"We let them know a food or transportation van is on the way," said Denise Toulouse, coordinator of the Anishnawbe Health Street Patrol. Still, quite a few of them refuse to spend the night in a warm place, even in the most extreme weather conditions. "There's a thousand reasons why they don't want to stay inside," continued Toulouse. "A lot of them had a bad experience or they've been barred," she explained. No one knows the exact number of people who make the cold and lonely streets their home. "It's a number that goes up and down," said Toulouse, "some of them go to jail or end up in a treatment centre."

According to statistics released in 1992, 11 534 homeless people were served by Street Patrol, and by 1998 the number had skyrocketed to 33 841 - a dramatic increase of 198%. Toulouse also expressed concern about the number of women living on the streets. "It's shocking how many are out there. They still know how to survive on the streets."

Jennifer McGregor, 29, has been on the cold weather alert bike patrol twice this year. "When it's minus fifteen out there anybody can be at risk," she said. "We stop and check on anybody we come across." Sometimes waking someone up when they're sleeping can result in conflict. "We've been told to get lost, others are happy we're there." Street outreach workers provide counseling for those interested in getting off the streets or those wanting to change their current life pattern. "It's a needed service," McGregor commented. McGregor who goes home with a feeling of goodness after a shift with Alert Patrol, says it has another reward. "I get my exercise."

d Silverhand to Return to NCCT

Ted Silverhand to Return to NCCT

The last time famous seer Ted Silverhand was here, all his appointments were booked solid. So it doesn't take a psychic to figure out that bringing him back is makes definite sense. Pat Turner has done just that. Ted will be here from June 5 to 10 to share his insights into the past, present and future with those brave enough to book an appointment. Like the last three years, the price is a modest \$75. As always Ted's visit is a fundraising venture for the NCCT, so some of the money goes to keeping our little Native Centre running.

Seniors Program February 2000

ART CLASS: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 BEADING CLASS: Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

WALKING CLUB: Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

GAMES CLUB: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23 MOVIE NITES: Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23

MID-TORONTO: Feb. 8, 22

BINGO: Feb. 11, 25

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Valentine's Day Party: Feb 11, 1-3:30pm



Lakehead University · Achievement Through Effort

Choosing a professional career?

Are you of Aboriginal* ancestry?

*Status, Non-status, Inuit, Metis

ENGINEERING CAN BE IN YOUR FUTURE

The NATIVE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR ENGINEERING (NAPE) at Lakehead University is looking for mature, dedicated and hard-working individuals.

Application Deadline is March 15, 2000 Women are encouraged to apply.

NATIVE ACCESS PROGRAM FOR ENGINEERING LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1 Tel: (807) 343-8399 Fax: (807) 343-8013

E-Mail: nape@Lakeheadu.ca
Website: www.lakeheadu.ca/~napewww/home.html



designed for Native students by representatives of the First Nations and

Lakehead

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. To discuss your best
path to educational success and greater
opportunity at the University of Toronto please
contact Anita Benedict.



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





Pursuing a career in health or social services? Aboriginal communities across Ontario are looking for qualified professionals. Registeri in our Employment Registry Database (ERD) and become part of a province-wide referral system. Call us toll free at: 1 800 346-9318



Aboriginal Recruitmen Coordination Office

Lakehead University Campus 681 Oliver Road Thunder Bay ON, P7B 2H8 Fax: 1 807 343-0330 www.arco.on.ca

26 27 28 29 30 31

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2000

an appointment.

of the Yorkmen's League.

Phone Joni or Thomas at 266-9684.

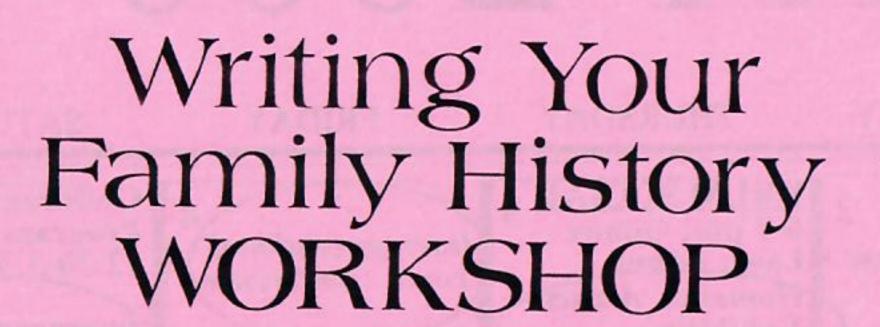
SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY DRUM SOCIAL 3 Children's Tai Chi: 6:30pm 6-9 pm; Ojibwe Program 12:30-3:30pm Sharing & Teaching Intergenerational Lang: 6-8pm Arts&Crafts: 6-8pm Circle 6-8pm Youth Conference) Regalia Making Cree Lang: 6-8pm Homeless Artists Iroquois Social: 6-8pm Women's Trad. Workshop 8pm Intergenerational Exhibition Youth Conference Micmaq Lang. 6-8pm Reception 7 9pm Singing Workshop Youth Dance 8pm CASINO RAMA 6-8pm at Medallion Club, TRIP-Anishnawbek, Arts&Crafts:6-8pm 9 Committee Tai Chi: 6:30pm Sharing & Teaching Circle 6-8pm Regalia Making 8pm DRUM SOCIAL Youth Volleyball 6-8pm Children's Program Micmag Lang. 6-8pm 6-9 pm Men's hand drum generational 12:30-3:30pm Cree Lang: 6-8pm workshop 6-8pm Post-Sec Education Youth Iroquois Social: 6-8pm Women's Trad. Men's Grass Dance Ojibwe Language: Fair 9-5pm Conference, VALENTINE Workshop 6-8pm 6-8pm READING Singing Workshop TALENT NIGHT Ojibwe Lang. 6-8pm CIRCLE: 6:30-8pm 6-8pm Anishnawbek Comm. 13 14 Tai Chi: 6:30pm 15 Children's 16 19 Youth Volleyball 6-8pm

Men's hand-drum

Sharing & Teaching

Circle 6-8pm Arts&Crafts: 6-8pm DRUM SOCIAL Program Regalia Making 12:30-3:30pm Men's hand-drum Open, Cree Lang: 6-8pm Workshop 8pm workshop 6-8pm Iroquois Social:6-8pm 10am - 2pm Ojibwe Language: **Hand Drum** Micmaq Lang. 6-8pm **Sunrise Ceremony** Women's Trad. 6-8pm Making Workshop Ojibwe Lang. 6-8pm Singing Workshop 9am-4pm 20 YouthV-ball 6-8pm 21 Children's Tai Chi: 6:30pm 22 26 Men's hand drum Program Sharing & Teaching Arts& Crafts: 6-8pm ANDPVA Mikwa Geesis **DRUM SOCIAL** 12:30-3:30pm workshop 6-8pm Circle 6-8pm Open, Regalia Making Festival at NCCT 6-9 pm Men's Grass Dance Cree Lang: 6-8pm Workshop 8pm Feb. 25-27, March 3-5. Iroquois Social: 6-8pm Women's Trad. Workshop 6-8pm 10am - 2pm Sweatlodge Community History Micmaq Lang. 6-8pm Ojibwe Language: Call 972-0871 for details, Ojibwe Lang. 6-8pm Ceremony Leland Bell Speaking 6-8pm (Call Jimmy Dick Singing Workshop Classes will resume Engagement 12:30-4pm for details) 6-8pm February 28th, Tai Chi: 6:30pm 29 The Anishnawbek Committee will be **Family History** Call Heather for History Class 6:30-9pm Sharing & Teaching Workshop 9:30holding a fundraising Pool Tournament, Open, Youth Volleyball 6-8pm Circle 6-8pm 4pm more information, Men's hand drum Cree Lang: 6-8pm the week of Feb. 21, date to be confirmed. • 10am - 2pm 964-9087, ext. 319 Iroquois Social:6-8pm workshop 6-8pm Call Julie for details: 964-9087 Women's Trad. Sunrise Ceremony Singing Workshop 6-Ojibwe Lang. 6-8pm March 2000 Don't miss a fundraising dance at the February's visiting Elder NCCT Kids' Art Calendars for 2000 Medallion Club at 1280 Bay St. (at Yorkville) is Ernie Benedict of the February 10, 2000, 8pm to 1am. are still available from the Craft Shop or Tickets are \$5 in advance or \$8 at the door. Akwesasne Mohawk Pat Turner. Proceeds support the Toronto Native Hockey Team 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 Nation. Call to book

It's not too late to get yours!!

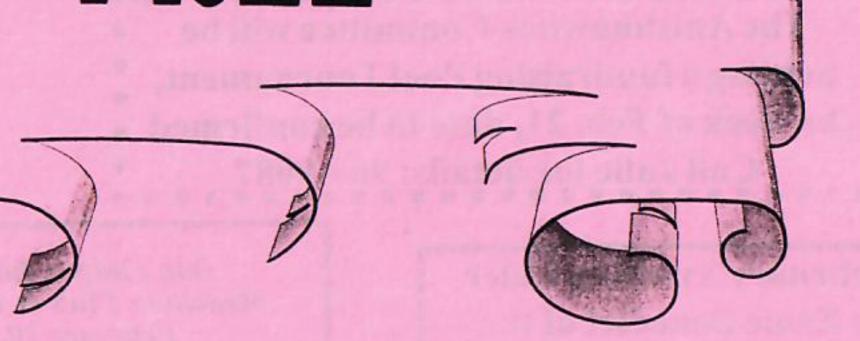


offered by professionals from the Canadian Authors
Association in partnership with the Toronto Native

Community History Project

Sat., Feb. 26th, 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Limited Space available
Must register in advance
Contact Brenda: 964-9087

FREE



ANISHNAWBEK COMMITTEE NEWS

Fundraising Events

Feb. 3: Casino Rama Trip - \$10 Feb. 12: Valentine Talent Night (1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes) Week of Feb. 21 (Exact date to be determined): Pool Tournament

Mar. 3: Casino Rama Trip - \$10 Also in March (date to be determined): Looney Auction (Another great door prize in store!)

Call Julie @ 964-9087 for info

Raffle Winners:

Baby Star Quilt: Tracy Lynn Ouellette of Washago, Ontario Linda Lundstrum La Parka Coat: Jimmy Dick, Toronto Painting by Tim Trudeau: Daryl Rak of Oshawa, Ontario

ELDERS GATHERING 2000 MAY 20-21



Spirit of Hope

Newsletter for



IMAGES OF THE AECCPP



Group #36 Graduation, Dec. 1999...



John Simon...
(no photo)



Angie Assinewe...



Jonathan....



Mark ...



Dina...



Mask Making – Jan. 2000...



Jackie MacDonald...



Colin Makkik...



Attention past graduates of the AECCPP!

Do you know anyone who you think will benefit from taking our program. Have them contact Dina or Jonathan at (416) 964-9087 Ext. 327/325

Explore career and employment interests



Embrace cultural diversity



Develop job skills (cover letter, resume, interview techniques)



First Aid & CPR
Certification
Some computer training
(MS Word, internet, email)

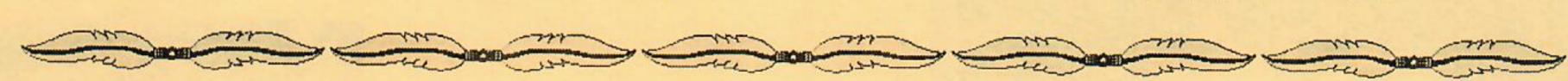


Refine your communication skills



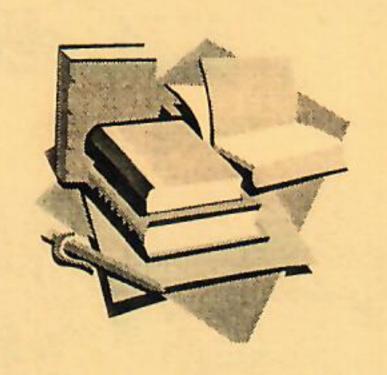
Develop better life skills





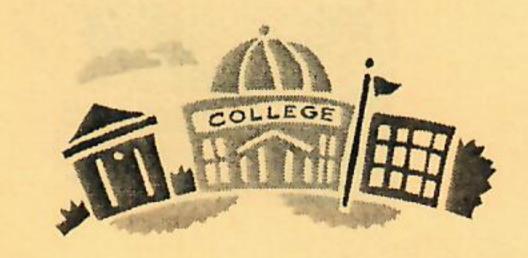
16 Spadina Road Toronto, ON MSR 257 aeccpp@nativecentretoronto.org

2nd Annual Education Fair



Native Canadian Centre of Toronto

16 Spadina Road (just north of Spadina subway station)





Wednesday, February 9, 2000
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Keynote Speaker - Carla Robinson, CBC Newsworld
Meet representatives from colleges & universities.

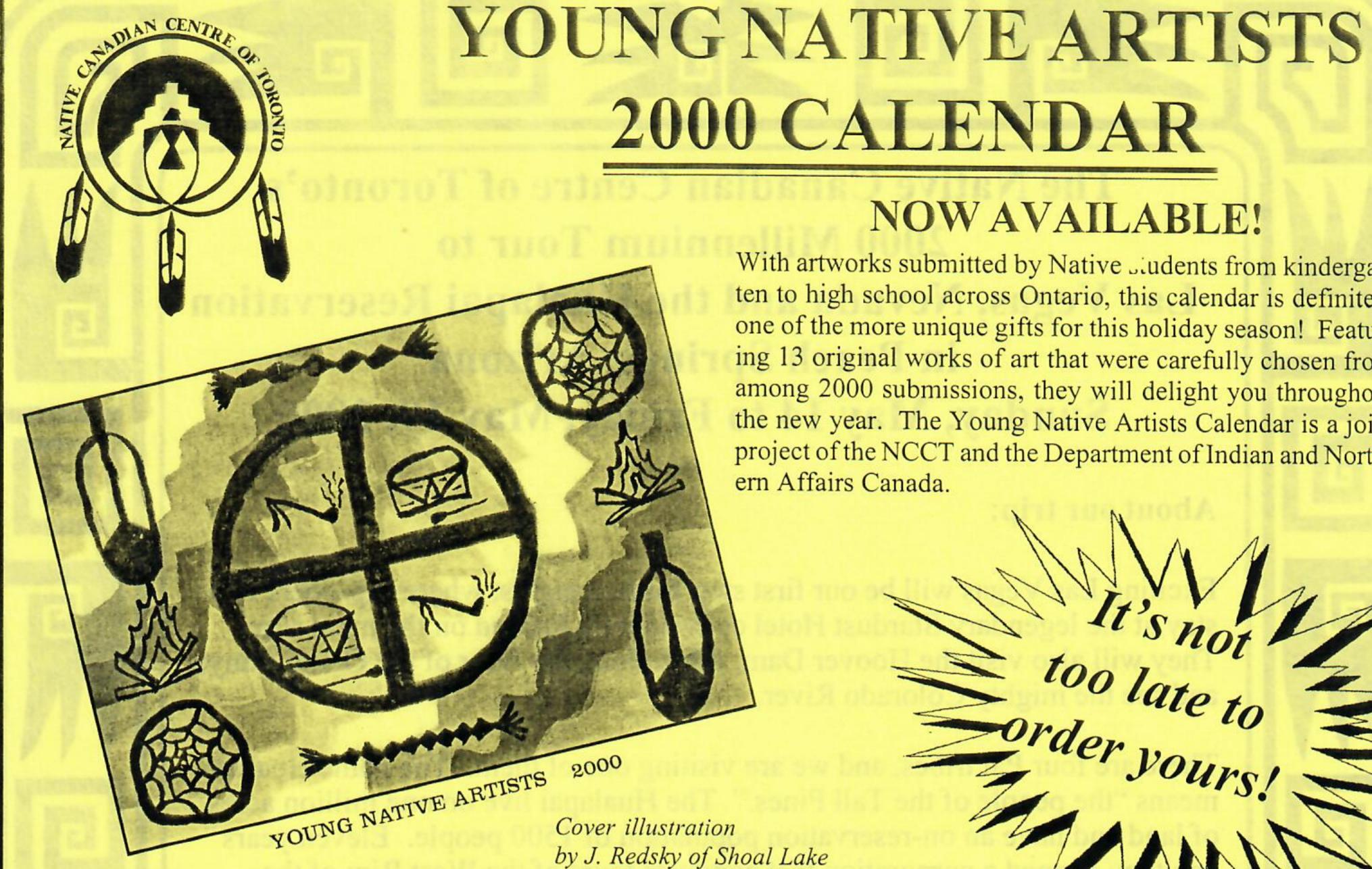
Door Prizes

Bake Sale

"Preparing for the Next Seven Generations"



Hosted by the AECCPP in partnership with Ryerson University Aboriginal Student Services & First Nations House - University of Toronto



NOW AVAILABLE!

With artworks submitted by Native Sudents from kindergarten to high school across Ontario, this calendar is definitely one of the more unique gifts for this holiday season! Featuring 13 original works of art that were carefully chosen from among 2000 submissions, they will delight you throughout the new year. The Young Native Artists Calendar is a joint project of the NCCT and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Native Canadian Centre of Toronto 16 Spadina Rd, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2S7 tel: 416-964-9087

fax: 416-964-2111



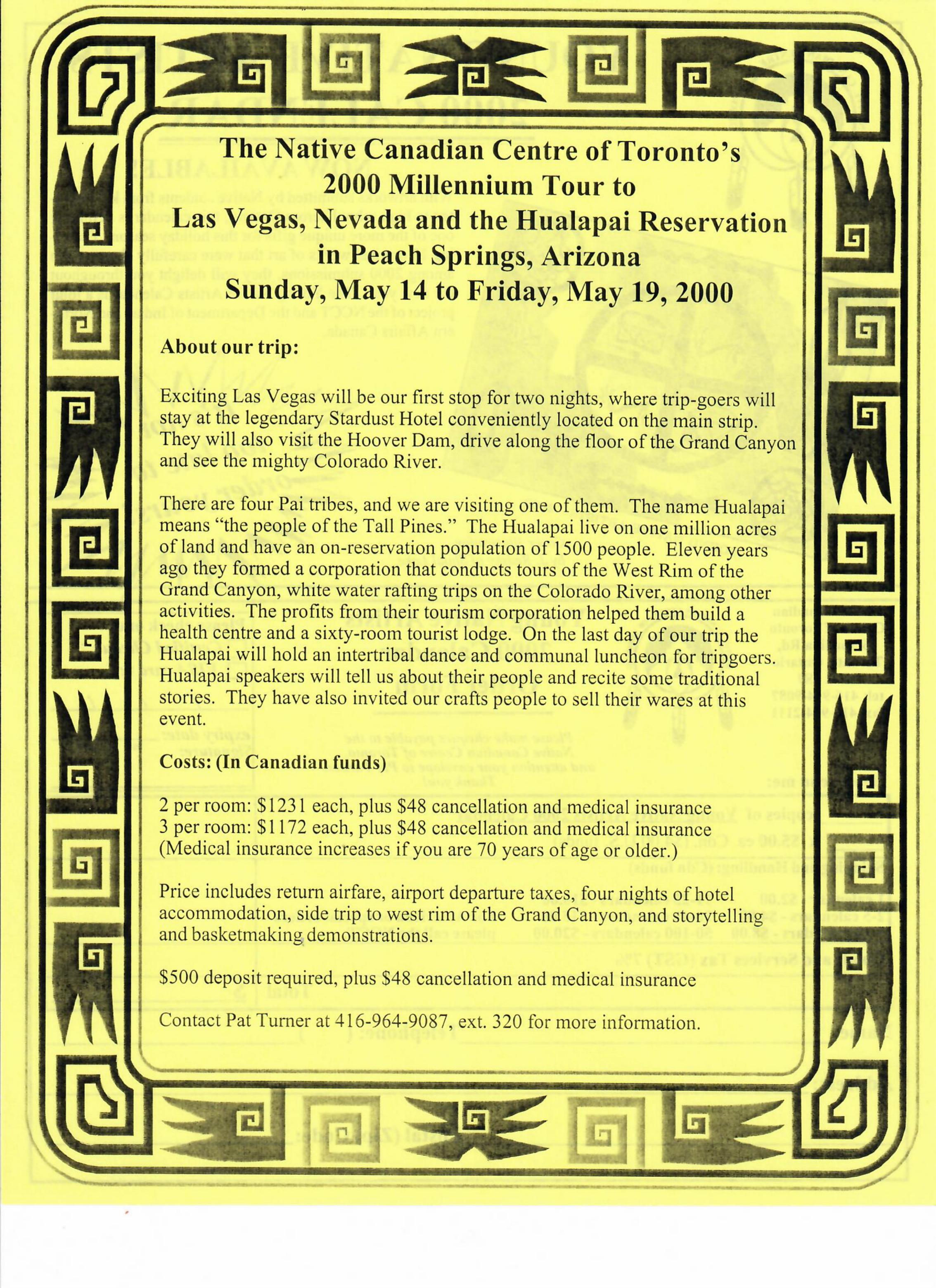
Young Native Artists 2000 Calendar Order Form

Please chec	Che	que
HT 2/1012	/	/
expiry date:. Signature:	mo	/ year

Please send me:	Please make cheques payable to the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto, and attention your envelope to Pat Turner. Thank you!	Signature:	mo year
copies of Young Native A	Artists 2000 Calendar		
x \$5.00 ea. Cdn. (\$4.00 U.	.S. funds)	ni lesibal/h	The second second
Shipping and Handling: (Cdn funds)			
1 calendar - \$2.00 11-25 calendars - \$4.00 26-49 calendars - \$8.00 50-100 calendars - \$8.00	ars - \$15.00 For American or special orders	Price included accommodes accommodes and basicens	
Goods and Services Tax (GST) 7%	ó		
	Total	\$	•
Name:	Telephone: ()		

Address:

Postal (Zip) Code:___



LIGHTNING SPIRIT DESIGNS

FIRST OPEN HOUSE GALLERY EXHIBITION BY HOMELESS NATIVE ARTISTS

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

BIG FEATHER ART GALLERY SHOW

"HOT OFF THE BLOWERS"
HOMELESS ARTISTS' INITIATIVE PROJECT
FEBUARY 3RD – 9TH, 2000

RECEPTION: SEMINAR ROOM FEBUARY 3RD, 2000 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

ALL PROCEEDS HELP FUND HOMELESS ARTISTS AND PART OF THE PROCEEDS GO BACK TO THE PROGRAM

NATIVE CANADIAN CENTER OF TORONTO (NCCT)
16 SPADINA RD. M5R 2S7

SPONSORED IN PART BY
MIIZWE BIIK ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM

R.S.V.P CONTACT STACIE OR NINGNING @ (416) 964-9087

Book Launch

The Toronto Women's Bookstore & Knopf Canada proudly present

Award-winning author of *Traplines*

Eden Robinson

reading from her latest book

Monkey Beach

Monkey Beach is a spellbinding voyage - one that gives full scope to Robinson's renowned ability to make bedfellows of comedy and the dark underside of life. Informed as much by its lush, living wilderness as by it colourful characters, Monkey Beach is a startling coming-of-age story, and a multilayered tale of family grief and redemption



Eden Robinson is a
Haisla woman who grew
up near Kitamaat, BC.
Her previous collection of
stories, *Traplines*, was
awarded the Winifred
Holtby Prize for the best
work of fiction in the
Commonwealth, and was
a New York Times
Editor's Choice and
Notable Book of the
Year. She lives in North
Vancouver.

7:30pm, Thursday February 10th

@ the Toronto Women's Bookstore

73 Harbord St. @ Spadina
For more information please call 922-8744

This event is co-sponsored with the Native Canadian Centre