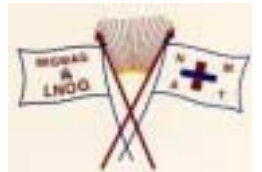




Miawpukek Aknutmaq

INFORMATION IS NO GOOD IF YOU KEEPS IT TO YOURSELF!

30 TE'SUKUNIT PENATMUIKU'SKW 2001. Volume 5, Number 7



ON APRIL 18 - REMEMBER THE HUNGER STRIKE !

Far too often people are looked upon as heroes/heroines after they have passed on to the Spirit World. Many cannot accept that our Heroes/Heroines can be a hero or a heroine if we can still walk up to them and talk to them. And when we are the heroes/Heroines, we often play it down. Most disappointing is when, after the fact, we deny we have Heroes or Heroines. Well we do have heroes and heroines among us, though some from the incidents this story is related to, are no longer with us. And we do honor them all one day a year.

The background to this story in a nutshell is as follows. In June, 1977, Saqamaw Bill Joe affirmed as our Traditional Saqamaw for life. In September, 1980 Newfoundland's Premier Peckford writes Munro to say that "registration would not be in the best interests of either the Province or the particular groups involved".

In July, 1981, we negotiated the first Canada-Newfoundland-Native peoples of Conne River Agreement, but the Newfoundland government refuses to sign if the "Indians" are allowed to sign as equal partners. Then in April, 1982, Newfoundland government withholds permission to release funds totaling about one million dollars for Miawpukek under Federal/Provincial Agreement. By the end of the next year as reported in the September 25 issue of the Evening Telegram, "Conne River economy is total disaster". In response on December 14, Saqamaw William Joe files complaint against Newfoundland government for violations of Human Rights.

December 23, Tragedy struck. Traditional Saqamaw William Joe and Elder Martin Jeddore were both killed in automobile accident. Martin Jeddore was one of the first organizers of the Miawpukek Mi'kmaq.

Our people regrouped with our selection on January 7, 1983, of Mise'l Joe as Traditional Saqamaw for life.

On March 21, 1978 our government receive cheques totaling 822,00, but they reject provincial conditions attached to cheques, and the province issues stop payment order on cheques.

Then two Historic events take place.

On April 18, after more than a year of the Newfoundland government's attempts to deny us our right to exist, 100 Mi'kmaq go to St. John's to show their support for Saqamaw Mise'l Joe in his fight with the Nfld. government.

The 100

Aloysius Benoit. Andy Benoit, Bernard Benoit, Daniel S. Benoit*, Doreen Benoit, Donny Benoit, Emily A. (Drew) Benoit, Gilles Benoit, Gloria (Jeddore) Benoit, Greg Benoit**, Michael Benoit*, Mike Benoit*, Rene Benoit, Gerard Drakes**, Roy Drakes, Clifton Drew, Gervaise Drew**, Francis Drew (JR.), Kenneth Drew, Kevin Drew, Tammy Drew, Thomas Drew**, Tony Drew, Wilfred Drew*, Russell Hinks, Nat Igliolorite, Anita Jeddore, Anthony Jeddore, Clinton Jeddore, Corey Jeddore, Gabriel Jeddore, Gerald Jeddore**, Greg Jeddore**, Kelsey Jeddore, Larry Jeddore, Melvin Jeddore, Mike Jeddore, Pat Jeddore**, Rembert Jeddore, Ricky Jeddore*, Rory Jeddore, Sieglende Jeddore**, Victor Jeddore, Andrew Joe*, Aubrey Joe*, Chesley Joe*, Clement Joe (JR.)**, Colletta (Benoit) Joe, Daisy (Drew) Joe**, Dina (Benoit) Joe**, Leona Joe **, Mardina (Jeddore) Joe, Mike Joe**, Misel Joe*, Billy John, Corey John**, Conrad John, Dianne John, Gordon John, Jackie John, Marilyn John, Pat John*, Peggy John, Vera John, Andrew McDonald, Anthony McDonald, David McDonald, Josephine McDonald, Linda (McDonald) Joe, Mary Agnes McDonald, Michelle McDonald**, Thomas McDonald, Tracy McDonald, Cora Quann, Helen (Benoit) Quann*, Sal'usal (George Drew)*, Sulia'n (Billy Joe)*, Jack Selma, Derek Stride, John Stride (B)**, Josephine Stride, Levi Stride, Maggie Stride, Mary Stride, Paul Stride, Roxanne Stride, Sharon Thistle, Juanita Thomlin, Edwina (John) Wetzal, Jerry Wetzal, Michael Wetzal, (nine names missing).

On April 21. Thursday. 33 Mi'kmaq occupy Joe Goudie's office (8:15-11:30 AM). They were forced out by police and 23 of 33 face charges.

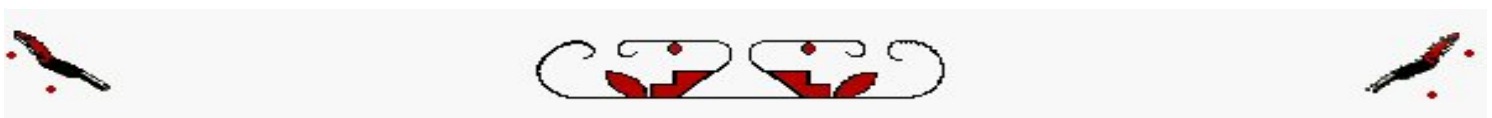
The 33...

Daniel S. Benoit, Gilles Benoit, Greg Benoit, Michael (Micky) Benoit, Mike Benoit, Gerard Drakes, Gervaise Drew, Thomas Drew, Wilfred Drew, Corey Jeddore, Gerald Jeddore, Greg Jeddore, Pat Jeddore, Sieglende Jeddore, Ricky Jeddore, Andy Joe, Aubrey Joe, Chesley Joe, Clement Joe Jr., Leona Joe, Daisy Olive (Drew) Joe, Diana Benoit/Joe, Misel Joe, Corey John, Pat John, Michelle Benoit/McDonald, Helen Benoit/Quann, Joseph Russell, Jack Selma, John Stride Jr., Sal'usal, Soulia'n and ?.

On April 22, (Noon) **THE FAST** (Hunger strike) begins. Thirteen of our people started the FAST. Jackie John and Vera John were among them, but were asked not to do the FAST, mainly because they were women and although we respected their desires, we could not allow them to put their lives in danger this way, and our Saqamaw said no. Giles Benoit and Mike Jeddore also volunteered, but circumstances did not permit them to continue.

The 9 who did offer their lives for our people:

Saqamaw Misel, Sulia'n (Billy Joe), Salusal (George Drew), Chesley Joe, Antle, Aubrey Joe, Michael Benoit, Wilfred Drew, Ricky Jeddore.



MISSION STATEMENT of MIAWPUKEK AKNUTMAQN: TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND ADVANCE OUR MI'KMAW NATION BY PROVIDING, NEWS AND INFORMATION, A FORUM FOR EXPRESSION OF VIEWS AND CONCERNS AND A RECORD OUR WAY OF LIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

On April 30, 1978, a Saturday, The **FAST** ends. WE WIN ONE.

Because of the 100 who put their lives on hold and left young family members behind in the care of relatives and friends, while they went to St. Johns...

Because of the 33 who risked jail...

Because of the 13 who volunteered to FAST to the death...

Because of those 9, who put their lives on the line in a Fast to the death...

And finally because of all the Mi'kmaq who have gone before us, fought before us, lost and won before us, names now forgotten or remembered by a few;

LET US REMEMBER THE HUNGER STRIKE.

UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL.

ON APRIL 18, TAKE A MOMENT AND REMEMBER.

BECAUSE OF THEM, WE ARE WHO WE ARE, AND BECAUSE OF THEM WE ARE WHERE WE ARE.

THANK YOU TO ALL AND ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT FASTED.

WE WILL NEVER, MUST NEVER, FORGET!

...SO WHAT ELSE IS GOIN' ON IN MIAWPUKEK?

Newfie Tel is installing a new telephone system in the Our Main Government Building (Great Hall), Se'ta'newey Kina'matno'kuom and Amelia Joe Medical Center. They say there will be fiber optics connecting the three buildings. Completion date early summer.

The ice is all gone in the Bay. Looks like Aden's truck at the Marina. So he has gone out the bay already.

Shayne and his team are in St. John's cross examining the Crown's witnesses in the court case Queen vs Drew. That's the one concerning our trapper cabins in Sandy Pond (Jubilee Lake) and other places.

Harvey Drew and his wife have opened a new business, a confectionery store, just across from the apartment complex. Liz has given herself some ungodly hours (8:00 am to 11:00 pm), but early risers and forgetful shoppers who wait for the last minute to go buy something for next day's breakfast, will like her hours. Hope she can keep it up. Good luck to both in their new ADventure.

Did I mention, there has been quite a few caribou in our near area this year. I procured some excellent caribou meat for my family, only 10 minutes from my door. Roasted Caribou head, Caribou legs roasted over open fire, Stuffed Caribou intestines, Meat boiled, fried, roasted, cooked on bare stove top. If you check, you will find I left only the gut, and I wouldn't have left that, if I hadn't forgotten how to prepare it. It appears the caribou have changed their migration a bit, but I am not sure which herd this is.



MIAWPUKEK HISTORY April 1, 1996. Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi is served with six statements of claim to Mi'kmaw territory by Newfoundland government. April 6, 1989. Traditional Saqamaw Misel Joe and supporters begin protest march to Ottawa. April 7, 1984. St. Ann's High School wins provincial boy's 'A' high school basketball championship. April 1, 1949. Newfoundland enters Confederation. No provision is made for aboriginal peoples, including the Mi'kmaq in the discussions. There was mention but "we was penciled out!". April 1, 1872. Licenses of occupation were issued to Chief Maurice Lewis (Cuff: Crown Lands licenses of occupation, volume 1, folio 57). April 4, 1835. Saturday.-I started at half-past six into the interior. Two Indian squaws accompanied us, and two other Indians, as twenty deer, some of which they wanted to carry out, were buried in the snow, one day's journey directly upon our track. It is a singular fact, which the Indians related to me, that bears and wolves have so great a dislike to the branches of the juniper, that if a few of them are stuck in the snow where the venison is deposited, they effectually preserve it from the depredations of these animals. (Wix). April 6, Sunday.-At half-past six, A.M., I took leave of the two Indians and the young squaws, who were now returning, and as I parted from them, I felt that I should miss those musical prattlers; for their soft language, though I could not understand a word of it, had fallen very gratefully upon the ear in the stillness of a night in the forest. I had been induced, too, on the preceding night to creep out a little distance from the fire, that I might enjoy the picturesque effect of our little group, as the stars were twinkling in the broad arch of heaven, and the smoke was curling through the evergreen branches which were enlivened by the ruddy glare of our brisk fire; and, as I heard the light laugh, and caught the good-humoured faces of my companions. (Wix). April, 123. Shanadetti (Nancy), her sister (Easter Eve) and mother give themselves up to/or was taken by furriers, one of whom was William Cull.. Father drowned crossing river. She reports only 27 of her people still surviving. MORTON'S HARBOUR, September 10, 1819. To His Excellency Sir Charles Hamilton. I humbly beg leave to address Your Excellency stating that in the month of April 1817, I was plundered by the Red Indians in the bottom of White Bay, property to the amount of fifty pounds taken from the winter house, and the Micmac Indians infest White Bay in that manner that makes it impossible for me or any other person settled here to make a life of it by catching fur.

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