



# Miawpukek Aknutmaq

INFORMATION IS NO GOOD IF YOU KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

02 TE'SUKUNIT SIKEWIKU'S 2001. Volume 5, Number 2



## PADDLING THE GULF DOCUMENTARY TO BE ON VISION TV MARCH 27

By Philip Jeddore, February 28, 2001

The documentary film by Catherine Martin about Miawpukek Traditional Saqamaw Mise'l Joe, his brothers Soulia'n and Antle, Gerald, Rick and Clint Jeddore, along with Pat Hinks and Donny Benoit and their canoe trip across the gulf of St. Lawrence to Unama'ki (Cape Breton) will be aired on Vision TV on March 27 at 10:30 PM Newfoundland time.

This documentary was filmed during the summers of 1997, 1998 and 1999. It took three years and three attempts to complete the journey; a journey that started with the construction in 1996, of SAPE'UTKWJU'SN, the first ocean going Birch Bark Canoe to be built by our people in over a hundred years.

The trip was the fulfillment of a vision which Saqamaw Mise'l had. A vision which would see the reconnecting of the Mi'kmaq Nation. Ktaqamkuk is a long ways by ocean from the seat of **Sante' Mawi'omi** (Holy Gathering - Grand Council) and our Kji-Saqmaw, our Grand Chief and our Mi'kmaq National Government. In the past our people have traveled to and from Unama'ki and Saqamaw Mise'l's trip, if anything, proved this was so.

F.G. Speck, in 1922, wrote that his (Mi'kmaq) informants asserted that they had crossed the "Cabot Strait" by canoe: "The route lay between Cape North (of Cape Breton) and Cape Ray on the South-western coast of Newfoundland, a distance of sixty miles, land being dimly visible in fine weather. This bold journey was ordinarily accomplished in two days, they say." On a calm night a party of canoeists would set out for Tuywegannmikuk (Temporary Goal Island) or as it is called today St. Paul's Island. From here a party of "three sturdy canoe men" continued the journey to Cape Ray. "Landing here, they would await calm weather, then build an immense beacon fire on the highlands to serve both as a signal for advance and a guide for direction through the night." The rest of the party would thus complete the journey.

He further wrote...Throughout Newfoundland the Indians (Mi'kmaq refer to their predecessors as SAYEWD-JKIK, the "Ancients", speaking of them as though they were the first inhabitants of the Island. Some of the older Micmac-Montagnais even claim that the Sayewdjik antedated the coming of the Beothuk. Ignoring such testimony, I think we may conclude that the term simply refers to the earlier Micmac colonists from the mainland, whose numbers were few and whose isolation rendered them distinct in some respects in culture and possibly in dialect. These people are believed to have been true Micmac and to have had a complete native nomenclature for the prominent places in the island. Some of the older Indians recall hearing about the last of these Sayewdjik in the person of an old blind woman who died in Sydney many years ago. Although over one hundred years of age, she was conveyed in a canoe by her relatives, at her own request, over a large part of Newfoundland, giving the various lakes, rivers and mountains their proper names according to the ancient terminology...The Sayewdjik families are said to have become completely merged with the later comers from Cape Breton and Labrador. (Speck 1922:123-24)

For Saqamaw Misel's and his brethren this trip was a continuation of the use of traditional travel routes of our people through our traditional lands of the seven districts of Mi'kma'ki.

What the documentary does not show is the small controversy initiated by some Mi'kmaq who felt the expenses of the canoe trip were unwarranted. Most Mi'kmaq however, believe the trip was well worth the expense, because it reconnected our Nation and showed our enemies that we Mi'kmaq are a sovereign people, that we still hold possession of our traditional territory and that we still continue to traverse and use it.

Catherine Martin, incidentally, is the great grand daughter of John Martin and Margaret Benoit. John Martin's name is on several places in the East Country.



## INFORMATION SESSION HELD ON SALMON FISHING ON CONNE BROOK

By Philip Jeddore, March 2, 2001

Miawpukek Fisheries held an information session in Hd. of Bay on the plans for salmon fishing on Conne Brook next year.

Ross Hinks, Director of Fisheries for Miawpukek Government, co hosted the session with the Federal Government's Fisheries personnel.

The meeting was held in Hd of Bay, because the feeling was if we held it in Conne, we would probably only get people from Conne. As it turned out, about twenty-five people from all around the bay showed up and only two from Miawpukek.

The meeting began with an introduction into the stock status and preliminary projections for the coming year. These include predictions that runs will be up from last year That the run will probably be the best in the past 5 years. That many smolts were produced ( app 100,000) and that if sea survival remains the same or gets better than last year, runs should increase.

The Management plan approved for last year will be carried over to this year with a few changes:

These changes are:

There will be no hook and release. All the people at the meeting, as are most of the area's anglers, including many Mi'kmaq, are against the hook and release. Many Mi'kmaq in particular who are sustenance food gatherers by nature see no use in catch and release fishing. Traditionally, Mi'kmaq believe salmon like all living food sources

**MISSION STATEMENT of MIAWPUKEK AKNUTMAQN**  
**TO PRESERVE, PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE CULTURAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC, EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING OF THE OUR PEOPLE, INCLUDING OUR LANGUAGE, HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY.**

---

offer themselves to us as food and to hook a fish just for pleasure will cause bad things to happen to the food source or the person doing the hooking. Some Mi'kmaq still believe if they abused the salmon's offering for us to feed on them, we would not be able to harvest the salmon when we need them..

The season will open on June 14.

An in-season review will be conducted at the end of July to determine if 100% seeding requirement are being met or not. This review will thus determine if the river will remain open for the rest of the year and if the yearly quota of 2 salmon will be increased.

The river will also still be closed if high water temperatures and/or low water levels occur.

The use of barbless hooks will apply.

The meeting went very well. The only subject that caused some of the people present objected to was that Miawpukek Mi'kmaq were allowed to fish for rainbow trout in Conne brook, before and after the salmon season. Some said that it should be open to all. The Federal fisheries (DFO) is taking this into advisement, and we may hear something more on that matter at a later date.

In an information paper to this paper, Rose offered the following additional information.

Our First Nation members will be getting their licenses compliments of Miawpukek Band Government again this year.

Ross further states that he has ordered 200 family and 400 individual salmon licenses for the coming season. "This is in response to requests made last year".

Ross says he cannot stress enough that "All band members must adhere to all the rules spelled out in these licenses. He believes that "Last year we showed both the Fed. and Prov. governments that we are true to our word, even without a formal signed agreement".

Ross points out that "To prove this point, two of our members have been charged with an offense under the Fisheries Act, and our Government did not argued the case on (grounds of) aboriginal rights.

Finally Ross concludes "We need everyone's support to make this year another success".



EDITORIAL—CONNE RIVER CHRONICLE. March 29, 1988

As your editor for this week's issue of the Conne River Chronicle, I'd like to comment on "The Question of the Week" in the first issue of the Chronicle. The question was, "how do you feel about the social opportunities for teenagers In Conne River?" The replies to this question were all negative. After I replied to the question I thought about what I said and I had other thoughts about the situation. I came to the position where I thought there are good points and there are bad points

Mr. Craig Benoit and Mr. Cecil Meade have done a tremendous Job at organizing sports for all ages in which everyone should Participate. Mr. Benoit and Mr. Meade spent much time organizing sports. Mr. Benoit estimates that lie spends 30 to 40 hours a week in the gym. On top of this they both have their teaching jobs. These two are responsible for sports such as the Intramural System, Jr. I Sr. Table Tennis, Jr. /Sr. Boys Floor Hockey, Ken's/ Women 'El Floor Hockey, volleyball, and Badminton. These are Just a few sports that Mr. Benoit and Mr. Meade are responsible for. These sports are for the advantage of all people and you are urged to participate.

Although there are a variety of sports available there are no arcades or hangouts in Conne River. There is a dance now every Friday thanks to the efforts of a group of teenagers. You are also urged to attend these dances. On the weekends most teenagers leave Conne River because of a lack of hangouts. The teens that do not leave Conne River on the weekends find it more boring because there is no people around for them to mingle with. This concludes the Editorial for this week's issue of The Conne River Chronicle. Want to see the newsletter in full? Click on the following: <http://www.geocities.com/pilip/mar29crc.pdf>



### **MIAWPUKEK GATHERING—2001**

Miawpukek First Nation, following a tradition that dates back ages, once again came together for their Annual Gathering, on Sunday, March 4.

Labeled and promoted as the 1st Annual Miawpukek Family Day Carnival, the first in modern times was actually in May 1986, but that's not to take away any of the positive ness of the great work of this year's organizers.

The weather wasn't all that bad and the turnout was good - there must have been at least 60 people there. The snow was receptive to being manhandled and the central attraction this year was the snow sculpture contest.

Everyone pitched in! There were excellent works of art, but the judges, in spite of offers of cash money from other participants, selected The Wigwam, The Pooh Bear and The Horse and Sled as 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners.

Phil Jeddore and family received the first annual 1st Family, Family Day prize.

Congratulations again to organizers and participants. You all have an open invitation to attend next year!

See if you can view the photos by clicking on the following: <http://communities.msn.ca/philjeddore>

**MIAWPUKEK AKNUTMAQN** is published to bring news and information to Miawpukek Mi'kmaq, to provide a forum for expression of views and concerns and to record our present day life for future generations. Published every Friday. Opinions printed are not necessarily the views of Miawpukek Mi'kamaway Mawi'omi or of those working on this paper. Items may be duplicated or reproduced only with the express written consent of Miawpukek Aknutmaq or it's agent. Email c/o [pjeddore@cancom.net](mailto:pjeddore@cancom.net). We're online at <http://www.geocities.com/pilip/>