

Miawpukek Aqnutemakn

Volume 1, Number 4

STILL ONLY 25 CENTS

OCTOBER 4, 1996

We are Mi'kmaw - but who are we really?

(The following is taken from a discussion paper for the Assembly of First Nations - read it and know who you are)

We are the original inhabitants of this land. We were put here by the Creator and were given many responsibilities and duties in terms of how to live and how to interact with Mother Earth and all of her inhabitants. For thousands of years we lived in harmony on this continent without any contact or interference from other peoples or governments. These are the very basic facts upon which our inherent rights to self-government are based. We are sovereign peoples and we always have been.

Across the continent many different First Nations exist, each with their own spirituality, territory, language and culture. Despite these fundamental differences, however, we share many similarities, particularly in terms of how we view our original relationships with Canada. For example, when European settlers first arrived on our lands, we acted in accordance with our instructions and attempted to live with each other in friendship and peaceful co-existence. We acknowledged each other as sovereign nations and many of us entered into agreements, or treaties, with the European governments in order to establish and define our relationships more clearly. It is important to remember, however, that none of these treaties stated that we were relinquishing, diminishing or extinguishing our inherent rights to govern ourselves and our futures.

Our original nation-to-nation relationships and treaty agreements have never been repealed, abandoned or forgotten. They must therefore continue to exist today. Any assertions by Canada that state otherwise can only be based upon a systematic process of false and racist assumptions. We need to remind ourselves of this fact and state it clearly whenever Canada attempts to block First Nations in the implementation of our inherent rights. We already possess full powers to govern and control ourselves, our lands and our resources - it is time we took action to ensure that this reality is reflected in our communities.

As First Nations citizens, we hold unique visions of the world in which we live. In every aspect of our lives we turn to our spirituality and teachings for guidance and on. The way in which we interact with Canada and participate in any federal, provincial and/or territorial processes should not be considered any differently. Therefore, when we find ourselves sitting at the same table with Canadian Governments discussing our future, the most important thing that we can do is remember who we are as First Nations and ensure that we are always guided by the fundamental principals of all things that are important to us.

AROUND TOWN...



Unepapeu visited us from Utshimasits (Davis Inlet)



It is only a cut survey line right now, but this is where our new road will end.



Future home of our aquaculture industry people

CONNE RIVER(MIAWPUKEK) HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

OCTOBER IS CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH

There will be a showing of the video **Secrets - Detection and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse** on Wednesday, October 9, 1996 at 8:00 P.M. on CHANNEL 6 - YOUR COMMUNITY CHANNEL

Everyone is encouraged to watch this video. This video targets Parents, Teachers, Youth Workers: and talks about the myths of child sexual abuse. In this tape, warning signs and child behaviors are explained. Most importantly, steps are clearly outlined that can protect your child from becoming a victim.

This video is sponsored by **MIAWPUKEK CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES** at **CRHSS** and brought to you as a community service with the co-operation of CRHSS, Miawpukek Communications and your community Channel.

This video is the first of 5 such videos that will be shown over the month of August. The schedule is as follows:

October 2: Breaking the cycle - Child Abuse; October 9: Secrets - Detection and Prevention of child sexual abuse; October 16: It's not always happy at my house; October 23: Finding Out - Incest and Family Sexual Abuse; October 30: Trouble with Evan. For more information, please call Stephanie Ducey at 882 2710

MISSION STATEMENT

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

LISTEN TO ME... Why isn't there any archaeology work done before we go digging up places for whatever kind of construction!?

I would think that any people who have to depend so much on the tiniest scrap of evidence proving the have land rights in an area, would pay more attention to finding such evidence. But here in Miawpukek, construction of all sorts go ahead without the slightest interest in what may be uncovered during construction or covered over for that matter. I heard there was an interesting piece of artifact uncovered below Poor Uncle Mattie's garden, when they were doing some work on the road. If that had been in Labrador, the Innuts there would have halted all work until a full and thorough examination of the area had been made. In fact such action would have been taken almost anywhere in the world except maybe if it was Bull Arm.

What I am saying is this. There is not enough work being put into finding archaeology evidence of Mi'kmaw presence in Taqamkuk. And this will prove detrimental to our fight against the Newfoundland government' land claims. And if we ourselves are going to suffer the most from such lack of evidence, how can we give so much disregard to what may very well be right under our noses. I can't understand this. Why do we take so little heed to what we may burying up or ploughing under in our headlong rush to develop our small land base. And that's all we are going to have, because if we don't come up with the proof we need, no one else will. All it takes is a day or two investigating any local area where we plan to tear up or cover over. The time lost will be pretty small compared to the huge loss of land and rights that will result. And all because we missed some crucial piece of evidence through our negligence.

UTSHIMASSITS (Davis Inlet) seeks advice from Miawpukek's Financial Department

A representative from the Labrador community of Utshimasits was in Miawpukek a while back, looking for ways our community might be able to contribute towards the preparatory work being done regarding the relocation of their community.

Unepapeu (Joseph Mark Rich), Chairperson of Utshimassits' relocation committee came and met with the financial department of Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi.

The committee believes there are several ways our community's experience van benefit them. One instance would be to have some of their people come to Miawpukek to "Job Shadow".

That means someone from their financial department will come here and work alongside some of our financial people and learn from them.

Miawpukek has received widespread admiration for the way they handle their finances. As a result other aboriginal governments want to learn from them.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES...Who are they and please tell us more about the picture(Last week's photo, l - r, Late Joseph Hinks, John N. Jeddore, Michael (Mick) Joe and Late Louie John - Taken in Scotland. We hope to have a story on the forestry boys from Miawpukek later on)



DID YOU KNOW...

That Mi'kmaw call themselves LNU, which means HUMAN BEING, (LnuK means two or more Human Beings); That aboriginals in Labrador call themselves INNU, which means HUMAN BEING (Innuds means two or more Human Beings) and that the northern native peoples (Eskimo) call themselves Inuk, which means HUMAN BEING (Inuit means two or more Human Beings).

HOW DO YOU PRONOUNCE . . . MIAWPUKEK, Conne River. According to Melvin Jeddore, Miawpukek's unofficial historian, it's ME AW WE BU KEK. And it means Middle River.

C O N T A C T U S . . .

By Phone 7 0 9 8 8 2 2 4 7 0

By Fax 7 0 9 8 8 2 2 8 3 6

By mail P. O. Box ?, Miawpukek, Taqamkuk, A 0 H 1 J 0

By e-mail c/o pjeddore @cancom.net

In person When you are going south on route 360: After you cross the bridge over the Conne River, take the first dirt road going west.

PRESERVE YOUR OLD PHOTOS

Most everyone in the community have photos they treasure. Many of the photos are very old.

Sentanneway Kegnomokwom would like to have a copy of those pictures.

All you got to do is take them to the school and they will scan your pictures into their computers. The pictures are not harmed and your grandchildren will thank you for doing this.

WHY...

are those camper trailers allowed to be set up on our territory in HAPJEKUMU-JUEGATEK(Black Duck Pond) and the other access roads?

M I A W P U K E K A Q N U T E M A K N is published for two reasons: To bring news and information to the Mi'kmaw of Miawpukek and the whole of Taqamkuk. To provide a written forum for Mi'kmaw to express their views and concerns. It is published every Friday with the assistance of the Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi, but is completely independent of that organization regarding the material printed inside. Opinions printed are not necessarily the views of Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi or of those working on this paper. Articles of interest relevant to the cause of the Mi'kmaw are welcomed and solicited. People responsible for this issue of Miawpukek News are: Shayne McDonald, Melvin Jeddore and Philip Jeddore. Special thank you to all the people that offered suggestions and pointed out errors or gave general advice and suggested ideas for stories. Pictures from Archives courtesy of Pauline Jeddore. Computer courtesy of John N. Jeddore. Items published in this newspaper is the property of Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi, and any duplication or reproduction can only be made with the express written consent of Miawpukek Mi'kamawey Mawi'omi or it's agent.

Miawpukek Agnutemakn

SPECIAL SECTION

BASKET MAKING - REVIVING AN OLD TRADITION



Finished products of Miawpukek's elite group of Spruce Root Basket Makers.

BASKET MAKER BRINGS BACK TRADITION FROM NEAR EXTINCTION

Anthony and Georgina White would be pleased, as would Anthony's father Kenneth. Even more so would Anthony's Mother Adelaide Benoit, a Mi'kmaq of Taqamkuk (Newfoundland).

They would be pleased because their offspring, Dan White, of Shallop Cove, St. George's Bay, is passing on their skills and traditions of spruce root basket making to Mi'kmaw once again.

Dan says, "Spruce root baskets are made from the roots of the White Spruce Tree. The cage is made from what is known as the wit rod, and the weaving from spruce roots. The basket was usually used by the people for collecting vegetables and fruit."

The skill and tradition of spruce root basket making is an old tradition, that was lost for almost 90 years and almost became extinct.

Anthony had seen it being done in his younger days, but it wasn't until 1970, in his elder years that he himself returned to the tradition. If not for his vision to see the tradition revived, the art of spruce root basket

making as it existed in Taqamkuk would have been lost forever.

As luck would have it, one of his children also became very interested. His son, Dan quickly learnt the craft and continues the tradition. Single handily Anthony and now Dan has made sure the craft will survive. Anthony White died two years ago and now Dan carried on as the only person with this craft in all of Taqamkuk.

But now Dan is working in Miawpukek, passing on his skills so that the craft will be revived and continued here as well.

Fortunately for Miawpukek, there was a video done at one time about crafts in St. George's Bay. Part of the video showed Dan White practicing his craft. Saqamaw Misel

return and can be harvested again."

Not to diminish the importance of the making these baskets from a cultural point of view, however, making these kinds of baskets can be a viable venture. We can therefore expect to see them being sold locally soon. And watch out for Next Year's Pow Wow, where you can expect to see the best of the batch on display.

For now, any basket purchased from these budding (pun intended) basket makers will no doubt be expected to increase in value as time passes and their experience



There are only seven Spruce Root Basket Makers in all of Taqamkuk (Newfoundland), and six of them are from Miawpukek. In usual order, Howie John, Emily Benoit, Rocky John, Linda Stride, Master Craftsman and instructor Dan White, Tracy Stride and Carol McDonald.



Dan White, shows us some of his work with spruce baskets taught to him by his father Anthony White.

grows and reputation spreads.

While this writer was there, the crafts people had the school kindergarten class visit. The children had a wonderful time. Clearly showed an interest, and under the guided hands of Carol and Rocky, even tried their hand at the craft

Anyone else wishing to see these craftspeople in action can drop by at the old Church Hall. Dan can be contacted while in Miawpukek, through the government offices of Miawpukek Mi'kamaway Mawi'omi (709.882.2470.)



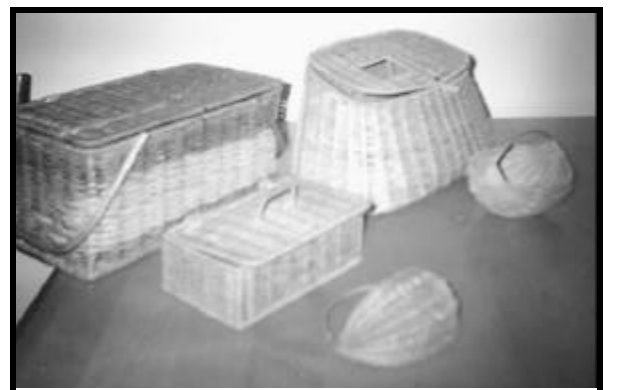
Part of the group of kindergarten students that visited, and had some hands on experience with the project.

and Shayne McDonald saw this clip and decided that he would be the best person to revive the craft in Miawpukek. They searched him out, found him in Ontario and asked him to come to Miawpukek and teach his craft to some of our people.

As a result, Emily Benoit, Howie John, Rocky John, Linda Stride, Tracy Stride and Carol McDonald are now midway through their course in spruce root basket making.

When they are finished their apprenticeship, they will be among a very select few, who know the tradition. The importance of them teaching others cannot be forgotten.

According to Dan, "The basket is very "environment" friendly, in that harvesting of the roots does not in any way damage the parent tree. Only the fine roots (1/4") are harvested, which leaves the larger more important roots to continue to feed and support the tree. Within a year these 1/4" roots



Finished products made by Dan. Similar to work Miawpukek's own basket maker's will be able to do when they receive their diplomas several weeks from now.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIENDSHIP NIGHT

A **FRIENDSHIP NIGHT** is held each Thursday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, in the downstairs area of the Nutrition Center.

This event welcomes youth, adults and elders alike, to learn from one another and to share stories and fellowship. **FRIENDSHIP NIGHT** is sponsored by Conne River Health and Social Services.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOU!!
BRING A FRIEND!!**

For more information, please call the Social Worker or the Family Violence Worker at **882 2710**.

ANNOUNCEMENT

**MIAWPUKEK MI'KAMAWEY
MAWI'OMI WILL BE MEETING IN
GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OCTOBER
31, 1996**

ASSEMBLY OPENS AT 10:00 AM

GRADE 12 CHRISTMAS CRAFT SHOW

Tentatively scheduled for November 23, 1996, at St. Ann's School in Conne River.

Tables can be rented for \$10.00 plus a small craft donation to the graduating class.

Craft producers from the entire Baie d'Espoir area are invited to rent a table.

For more information, please contact Edwina Wetzel at 882 2747 (School) or 882 2921 (Home).

AEROBICS

Exercises for elders will be starting October 8 at 6:30 PM at the Great Hall.

This is low impact aerobics that can be enjoyed by people of all ages.

For more information
please contact
Louise Organ at 882 2710

THANK YOU!

LOST

A black and white dog with pointy ears and answers to the name "Get". If found, keep it.

FOR SALE

Honda 650 Generator. Used only three times. Bought new for \$980.00 - Yours for \$600.00. Call 882 2972.

Game Boy. Double Dragon; The Amazing Spider Man and T.M.N.T.-The Fall of the Foot Clan. \$10.00 each. Call 882 2033

Nintendo. Jaws; RoboCop; Ice Hockey; Bucky O'Hare; Darkwing Duck; Gremlins 2: The New Batch; Fox's Peter Pan and the Pirates; Simpson's Bart VS The Space Mutants; Ironsword Wizards and Warriors II. \$15.00 each. Call 882 2033

MIAWPUKEK TRIVIA GAME!!

There are three that we know of right now, and only one is recognized by the Canadian and Newfoundland governments.

There's a reserve in Springdale, another in Gambo and Miawpukek. All of these were surveyed in 1870 or thereabouts. Only Miawpukek is recognized.

Q. Who was it that killed a moose with an axe?(This was quite a few years ago.)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning Sept. 28, the garage will be open on a trial basis, Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

IF YOU LOVE SOMETHING, LET IT GO.

IF IT RETURNS TO YOU, YOU WERE MEANT TO HAVE IT.

IF IT DOESN'T, YOU WERE NEVER MEANT TO HAVE IT IN THE FIRST PLACE.

**Wondering what it
would cost to advertise
in Miawpukek
Aqnutemakn?**

**This square costs
\$5.00 for one issue.**

**This page contains 9
of these squares, so a
full page will cost you
\$45.00**

(For anything between, make a simple calculation based on these figures.)

**THANK YOU . . . Elders of
our community. Your help
and patience with us is appreciated.**

BAN THESE WORDS!

BAND - we are not a band. Most of us don't even play any musical instruments. Use **NATION** instead.

SECURITY - Our Police force started as a community security force, but that was only because that was the less complicated way of getting our own Police Force. You know how the federal and provincial governments think. Use **POLICE** instead.

COUNCIL - Our government is bigger than a little o' council. They are the leaders of our **NATION**, for cryin' out loud! Use **GOVERNMENT** instead.

SEARCHING FOR A YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE

Do you know of a youth from this community that has shown a special interest in the environment, either through their traditional lifestyle, area of academic study or community based activities?

If this individual falls in the general age category of 14 - 25 years old, consider nominating him/her to be the youth representative at the Assembly of First Nations First Environment Conference.

In general this youth will be responsible for making a statement at the opening plenary session, co-ordinating discussions at the youth forum and presenting the results of those discussions at the closing plenary.

Send a brief one or two page biography of the youth candidate with a one page writing sample from the candidate, by October 7 to Siobhan Arnott, Chair, FNEC Working Group, Assembly of First Nations, Suite 1002, 1 Nicholas Street, Ottawa, On. K1N 7B7. For more information contact Siobhan at 613 241 6789.