

# Feathers In The Wind

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## Inuvialuit

First Peoples in Canada



### Description:

Artist Agnes Kuptana crafted this block, representing the Inuit of the Inuvialuit region, from white and grey sealskin, trimmed to define details, and stitched with sinew. It depicts the "Alaskan High Kick," a traditional game that has become part of the Arctic Winter Games and the Northern Games. Participants test their agility by putting one hand on the floor while kicking with one foot at a stuffed sealskin hung from a rope. The athlete must hold the non-kicking foot with the opposite hand without letting go during the attempt.

### History:

The people of Inuvialuit are located in the coastal area along the Western Arctic, north of the Arctic Circle. Their name means "the real people" in *Inuvialuktum*, an Inuktitut language, but they were also known as the Mackenzie Delta Inuit. Research shows that centuries ago the Inuit constructed houses of driftwood and sod, but these were abandoned in favour of snow houses as the Inuit slowly migrated eastward. A snow house, or igloo, can take as little as a couple of hours to build. Ancestors of the Inuit were the first Arctic people to become expert at hunting the larger seas mammals; killing even a small whale meant having food for the community for a long time.

In modern times, the "outside world" has infiltrated the far north. Radar dishes for the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line were built along the coast between 1955 and 1957; most of the 58 original sites were converted for the North Warning System in the mid-80s through the mid-90s. Between 1955 and 1958, the town of Inuvik ("a living place") was built to house the government for the Inuvialuit. Today satellite technology connects northern residents with most parts of the world.

In 1970, the first Arctic Winter Games were hosted in Yellowknife, NWT. Two years later the Alaskan High Kick was added to the list of competitive events. Inuvialuit meet yearly to share information, trade goods, engage in competitive games, feast, sing, and dance; no hunting is done during this time.

On June 5, 1984, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) was signed, giving the Inuvialuit rights to land, wildlife management, and financial compensation.

Copied from <http://www.quiltofbelonging.ca/listing.php?Listing=1130>



In times past, the Iroquoian tribes fought on the side of the French. The Iroquoian tribes resided on the South side of the Great Lakes (now America). However, during the American war of independence the Iroquoian tribes fought alongside the English and their Ojibwe allies, against the Americans. This of course was in the late 1700's.

After the war of Independence ended, the Iroquoian tribes did not feel comfortable remaining in the US surrounded by the Americans that they had fought against. They asked the English to give them a safe place to live in what is now Canada. The English then acquired land from the Ojibwe and created reserves for the Iroquoian tribes, some of which were Tyendinaga and Six Nations Reserve near Brantford.

Now we jump ahead to 1846. At this time the Mississauga band of the Ojibwe had a village site at the Credit River. This is where my native ancestor was from. My 4x Great Grandfather was a doctor to the Mississaugas. He provided health care to them in exchange for each man working 1 day of labour per month on his farm. His name was Dr. Joseph Adamson. His son, my 3x Great Grandfather Charles A. married a half breed Mississauga woman. This was kept quiet as my family was very prominent and were one of the founding families of Streetsville, Ontario. The Mississauga ancestry was passed down orally within the family but was also seen as a source of shame.

The Mississauga village site is now the location of the Mississauga Golf and Country Club. As Toronto was expanding and needed more land for mills the English made treaty with the Mississaugas. In exchange for their land the Mississaugas were offered a large tract of land on the Bruce peninsula.

The next year the Mississaugas went up to the Bruce peninsula and discovered that the land they were given would not allow them to sustain themselves as it was too rocky and it would not be possible to farm

the land. When they went back to the English they were told the deal was made, they could not remain at their original village site. They were to be off the land in 1847.

Now, the Iroquoian tribes that had moved to Six Nations Reserve remembered how the Ojibwe had helped them nearly 100 years previous, when they gave land to the English so that the English could give the Iroquoians a safe place to live in what is now Canada.

Seeing that the Mississaugas were in a predicament, having to leave their land and having no place to go, the Iroquoians told the Mississaugas that they had plenty of land at Six Nations and that the Mississaugas could come there. Some Mississauga families decided to move to the Six Nations Reserve, to the newly formed Mississaugas of New Credit Reserve. Other families, mine included, decided to live in towns in the general area of their original village site. My family thus lived in Streetsville, Ontario.

This article was written by Michael Kinowshameg, Michael as you may remember is the Artist we featured in our March, 2012 newsletter.



**If your ancestors trace back to the Penetanguishene area in Ontario you'll love this site:**

<http://goo.gl/RAKTu>

160 pages covering 300 years of Métis history. Our friend Paul Allaire sent us this link.



## Roast Loin of Venison with Cranberries



- 2 thick slices of lemon
- 2 thick slices of orange
- 2 slices of peeled fresh ginger
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 small bay leaf
- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 4 pounds boneless loin of venison, at room temperature
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 teaspoons freshly ground pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon finely chopped juniper berries
- 2 cups dry red wine
- 2 cups beef or venison stock
- 2 tablespoons cold butter, cut into pieces
- Fresh thyme sprigs, for garnish

In a medium nonreactive saucepan, combine the lemon, orange, ginger, sugar and bay leaf with 1 cup of cold water. Bring to a boil over high heat, stirring to dissolve the sugar. Reduce the heat to moderate and boil, uncovered, until syrupy, 10 to 15 minutes.

Stir in the cranberries, then remove from heat and cool. Transfer the mixture to a glass container, cover and refrigerate for 1 to 2 days, stirring once or twice during that time.

Preheat the oven to 400F. Rub the venison with the olive oil, 3/4 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. pepper and 1/2 tsp. of

chopped juniper berries, pressing the seasonings into the meat. Set the loin on a rack in a roasting pan and roast, basting frequently with the pan juices, until medium-rare (about 135F on a meat thermometer), 25 to 30 minutes. Cover the venison loosely with foil and set aside for 10 to 15 minutes before carving.

Meanwhile, remove and discard the bay leaf and the lemon, orange and ginger slices from the cranberries. In a food processor or blender, puree half the cranberries and half the liquid until smooth.

In a medium nonreactive saucepan, boil the wine over high heat until reduced to 1/2 cup, about 5 minutes. Add the stock and bring to a boil. Add the cranberry puree, reduce the heat to low and simmer, uncovered, until slightly thickened, about 10 minutes. Remove from heat.

Strain the remaining whole cranberries and add them to the sauce with the remaining 1/4 tsp. salt, pepper and chopped juniper berries. Swirl in the cold butter. Slice the venison thinly (stir any juices into the sauce) and serve.

**More Native Recipes can be found at:**

<http://goo.gl/XkLZK>

**Sent to us by Dale Caskanette**

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## A Member Writes In:



I am a Canadian Metis who has been living and working in Hong Kong for the past 12 years. I would just like to say 'thank you' for providing your service

to the community. My appearance is very much that of an aboriginal Canadian and that is how I identify. Although I will probably never migrate back to Canada, getting my Metis card will put my soul at rest and give my grandchildren something to remember me by. Thank you, once again.

**Ellie**



## Research Highlights

My name is Baillie Redfern, I am a graduate student at The University of British Columbia in the Genome Science and Technology Program. Before accepting my position at B.C., I was studying biopharmaceutical science at The University of Ottawa. While in Ottawa, I had the opportunity to work in a plant phytochemistry laboratory for my honours project. I would like to share with you a little about my experiences, studies and research projects that I participated in while at university in the hopes that it may encourage other aboriginal students to explore new areas of science in combination with traditional aboriginal studies.

Medicinal plants have been used for centuries as remedies for human diseases because they contain phytochemical components of therapeutic value. Society has benefited tremendously from these plant natural products. They have been exploited by humans for their beneficial role in the pharmaceutical and food industries and can be found as the active principal component in many natural health products, medicines, flavours, scents, pesticides and anti parasitic drugs. Plants represent a great source of novel leads for product development which is why I think it is important to investigate these chemical sources.

While studying in Ottawa, I had the opportunity to work with The Cree of Eeyou Istchee (CEI), a James Bay subpopulation of the Cree Nation which is Canada's largest aboriginal group. The CEI possess a wealth of traditional ethnobotanical knowledge and continue to use medicinal plants today. I did research in collaboration with the elders and Cree Health Board that was dedicated to investigating traditional plants used to treat diabetes. Unfortunately, there exists a high level of type II diabetes amongst the Quebec Cree of Eeyou Istchee. It is estimated that 20% of the Aboriginal population

lives with diabetes and the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes is three to five times the national average. My work focused on the safety and efficacy of traditional medicines for treatment of symptoms associated with diabetes.



Currently I am a graduate researcher in Dr. Joerg Bohlmann's laboratory at The University of B.C. I work in the field of medicinal plant genomics (DNA studies). I recently competed in a 3MT competition, in which competitors have 3 minutes to explain their research to a panel of judges and audience (please watch, [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IS1ZjA\\_--w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IS1ZjA_--w)). It was a very rewarding and exciting competition. My research has been very successful thus far and has had enormous media coverage. So, instead of boring you with all the details of my work in B.C., I will encourage you to refer to the

newspaper links below.

<http://goo.gl/Vynti>

<http://goo.gl/mrqaO>

<http://goo.gl/mD9vt>

<http://goo.gl/LrG9Z>

I believe scientific research is conducted for the society as a whole, therefore I believe it is important to communicate my scientific research and impacts of my work to the public in an understandable fashion. I hope this brief story about my academic life will encourage others to pursue their goals in the natural sciences.



## Educational Funding



If you are looking for funding as an aboriginal student, the following websites should be the place where you start your search. Apply early in the year – funds may run out.

Bursaries Metis Nation and Others

<http://goo.gl/vilVt>

Metis Nation

<http://goo.gl/G8ij7>

You can also Google Aboriginal Bursaries to see what else is offered. We have heard that all the banks and many large corporations such as CTV and Toyota also give bursaries.

For trades call the Native Friendship Center in your area for information and make sure you ask the trade school you will be attending for any information they have on bursaries for Métis make sure everyone realizes you are NOT First Nations.

Also: More scholarships at:

<http://goo.gl/Q0gmO>

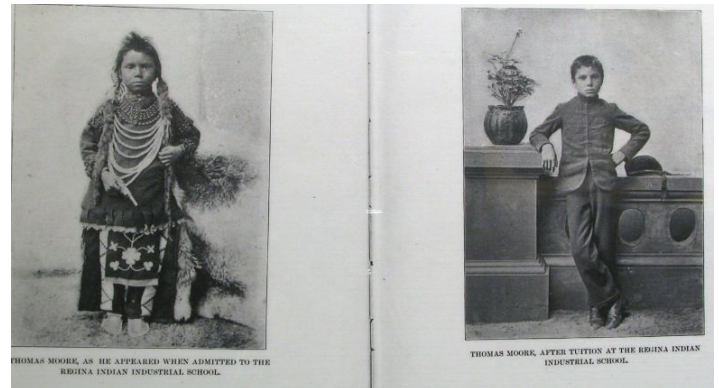
**Statement of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, James Anaya, upon conclusion of his visit to the United States 4 May 2012**



Read his full statement at <http://goo.gl/xMG4W>

Canada shares many of the same problems that he identifies. Our thanks to our friend Donna Meness for sending us this link.

## Residential Schools



We were to start a series in this issue on residential schools. We were quite lucky in having another member send us a second paper on the subject. We have decided to include both papers in a special edition of our newsletter.



To all the Staff of the OMFRC Thanks so much for making the application process fun and beneficial, you are a breath of fresh air and I thank you all for your assistance.

Becky



## National Aboriginal Day in Canada

Thursday, June 21, 2012



Canada's National Aboriginal Day is annually held on June 21 to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of the nation's Aboriginal peoples. There are three Aboriginal groups in Canada – the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

READ MORE AT <http://goo.gl/MsOTe>

## Our Referral Network Is Exploding!

One man credited with over 50 Referrals in less than a year.....

We first spoke with Dale Caskanette in the spring of 2011. Dale has now shared his

story of discovering his heritage through the Ontario Metis Family Records Center with over 50 other Metis who are now also members of the OMFRC. Our hats go off to you Dale, we can't thank you enough. Although Dale had spent his life in the appliance service business he decided to make a career change last year and joined the team of Kempston & Werth Realty Ltd. at their Wingham Office as a sales representative. Incidentally we are proud to report that Dale ranked among the top sales agents in the company in 2011, not bad for your first year in the business Dale. Remember if you are thinking of Real Estate Dale is the one to call. 519-357-4200 [dalecaskanette@gmail.com](mailto:dalecaskanette@gmail.com)

Lynn Haines, Administrator, OMFRC

## Tribal Wisdom

This is a piece I created a few years ago. It was donated to the Florida Breast Cancer Benefit. I attend this Benefit every year and have created several pieces for them and the Atlanta Chapter of the Cancer Society. This particular piece was my favorite and brought a bidding war bringing in close to \$1,000. Hope you enjoy it. Ellie Morin



Ellie Morin©2007

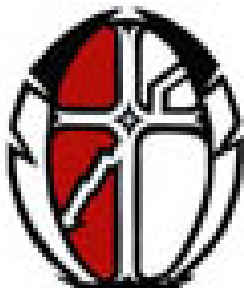


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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.omfrc.org](http://www.omfrc.org)

[www.aboriginalstatus.org](http://www.aboriginalstatus.org)

### New Submissions!

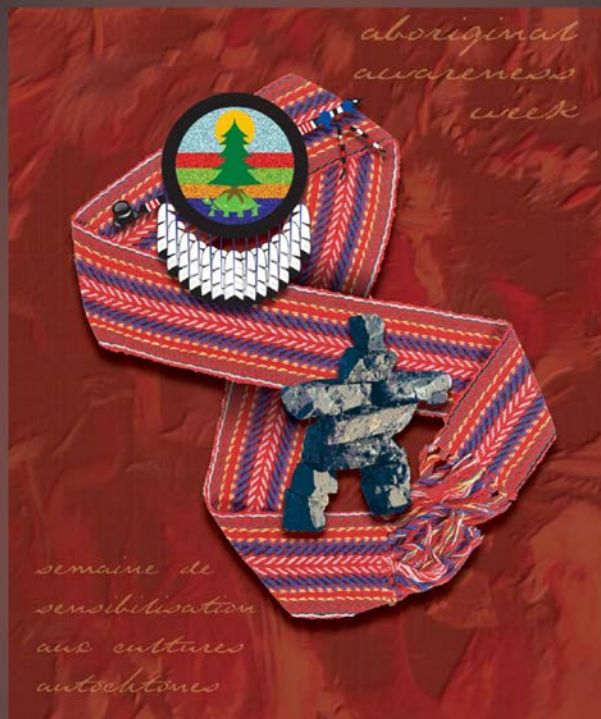
We are always looking for new interesting submissions to add to upcoming issues of the OMFRC Newsletter. If you have something you would like to add to the newsletter please call or email us! We'd be happy to consider it for an upcoming issue.

## Is Your Membership Coming Up for Renewal?



If it is, call 1-613-332-4789 and you can do it right over the phone in just a couple of minutes.

## ABORIGINAL AWARENESS WEEK



Semaine de sensibilisation  
aux cultures **AUTOCHTONES**

May 22 to 25, 2012

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

Member of the Bancroft & District Chamber of Commerce