

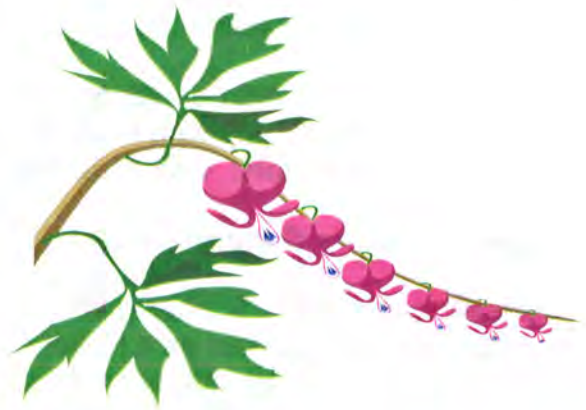
Wigwam to Wigwam

Your "House to House" News

Wigwamen Incorporated, 310-25 Imperial Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5P 1B9

Spring Showers Bring May Flowers

Sweet Grass Gardens is the first and only Native owned, Native operated, native plant nursery in North America. It is located on the Six Nations Indian Reserve just outside of Brantford. The gardening philosophy of Sweet Grass Gardens, and its owners Ken and Linda Parker, is simple—let the site dictate what kinds of plants are grown. And so the nursery specializes in plants that are native to North America, such as sweetgrass, prairie sage, butterfly milkweed and even wild rice. Plants that have traditionally been important to Native people are also grown, for instance, coltsfoot which has been used for hundreds of years as a cold remedy. Other species grown, such as the Eastern prickly pear are edible.



Recognition of Native culture has also gone into the naming of the nursery. Used in ceremonies as a purifier, sweetgrass is understood to be the first plant to cover the Earth.

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General Manager's Report

Since the first publication of "Wigwam to Wigwam" over a year ago, I've made mention of a number of initiatives which Wigwamen has taken including our website, the Aboriginal Housing Support Centre, and our annual unit inspections. Here's a brief update on where we stand on each of them:

Company Website:

We've finally launched Wigwamen's website! Those of you who are hooked up to the web can find us at www.wigwamen.com.

In the months ahead, we'll be making regular changes to it, including among other things, posting back issues of "Wigwam to Wigwam"; adding to the staff biographies; and having a guest book for site visitors. Come, visit us regularly, and see how the site evolves.

Aboriginal Housing Support Centre:

I'm pleased to announce the hiring of Roger Misquadis Jr. as our Housing Support Centre Counsellor. Roger's worked as a Relief Attendant at Na-Me-Res; was a Community Health Worker at Anishnawbe Health; served as the youth Co-ordinator at the Native Canadian Centre; and was a Fundraising Co-ordinator with the Centre for Indigenous Theatre. Beyond his work experience, he also has his Community Worker Diploma from George Brown College.

Although the Centre won't be providing services to Wigwamen's tenants (who are already living in social housing), it will be assisting Aboriginal families and individuals who are currently living in the private rental market to apply for social housing, and working with them to provide assistance where it's needed to help them keep their accommodation while they wait for a social housing unit to become available.

If you know of any Aboriginal families or individuals who might need some assistance in retaining their private market rental accommodation and/or who might want to apply for social housing, please encourage them to call Roger at 482-3334.

Annual Home Visits:

This April, Ron Timoon and I began the third annual set of unit inspections. I'm pleased to be able to report that I've noticed a considerable improvement in the condition of the units we've visited so far, with our maintenance staff having addressed many of the maintenance concerns we identified last year. That being said, I would be the first to acknowledge that we have a long road to travel before we can say that the units are in the condition that they should be. I'm cautiously hopeful that if we continue to work steadily at addressing the maintenance concerns, we may be caught up by the time of the next round of visits.

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The six coldframes at the nursery are shaped like Iroquois long houses and are named after the six Iroquois nations of the Grand River: Mohawk, Seneca, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Tuscarora.

Now in its fifth season of operation, the nursery remains a small, family-run retail operation, growing and selling plants and hosting a variety of educational workshops and lectures. For more information or directions on how to get there, contact Sweet Grass Gardens at (519) 445-4828. You can also visit their website at www.sweetgrassgardens.com

Submitted by: Adene Kuchera

(Source: The Toronto Star, April 26, 2000)

Lease Excerpts

Tenant Appliances

The section of your lease entitled Tenant Appliances 5:17 reads as follows:

Not to bring into the rented premises or into the project any stove, refrigerator, washing machine, clothes dryer, dishwasher or air conditioner or any other similar or major appliance without prior written approval of the landlord.

Some of the reasons why you require permission to have these appliances in your unit include: to avoid any confusion regarding ownership during the move-out process; the added hydro consumption costs; the fact that rental units come equipped with a refrigerator and stove; and most importantly that some appliances need higher voltage which could either cause damage to the electrical wiring in the unit or cause a fire.

Update: Symposium on Aboriginal Housing and Homelessness

Hosted by the Native Home Providers of Ontario (NHPO), a 3-day conference in Ottawa last week brought together Aboriginal Housing organizations and community groups from across the province. The gathering allowed participants to learn about the real impacts of the lack of suitable housing for Aboriginal people and to discuss what might be done. Conference presenters included urban Native housing providers, community workers, women's shelters, and others.

Representing Wigwamen Incorporated, Terrace Manager Janet Esquimaux and Adene Kuchera were in attendance at the conference. For Janet, the gathering gave new understanding of the extent and effects of homelessness on Aboriginal people not only in Toronto, but in cities across Ontario. The importance of having housing providers and other organizations working together to combat the issues was also strongly felt.

At the end of the 3-day meeting, a **Plan of Action** was developed to

give future direction to the NHPO and to the housing organizations in attendance. Resolutions were passed to begin legal action and to lobby local governments against homelessness and inadequate housing for Aboriginal people. Actions will also be taken to pressure the Federal Government to provide funds for more and improved housing. "Wigwam to Wigwam" will keep you updated on any new developments.



Submitted by: Adene Kuchera

Household Hints

Food and Yard Waste

Food waste, such as fruit and vegetable peelings, egg shells, coffee grounds and yard waste, are not garbage. All are natural and renewable resources. In fact, at least 1/3 of your household waste is made up of food waste.

Instead of wasting this resource by throwing it in the garbage, you can compost it and turn it into a nutrient-rich soil conditioner for your lawn, garden and house plants.

Whether you're a master gardener or just someone who pokes away at the lawn, you can reap the benefits of composting at home.

Metro Works has a wide assortment of indoor and outdoor composter bins available at affordable prices. Or if you prefer to build your own, fact sheets are available with building instructions. Call the Composting Helpline at 392-4689 for more details.

Zero Balance Club Honour Roll

All of the tenants listed below belong to the Zero Balance Club. They are all winners of the Zero Balance monthly draw and each have received a \$50.00 gift certificate!

We salute all of the participants for being such responsible Wigwamen tenants!

Nicole Young

Gary & Theresa McKay

Ines Alvis & Isa Askarizadeh

Suzette Darby

Tina Newshkawa

Cindy Jacko

Daisy Hahnfeld

Paul Kornidesz

Samantha Cote

Judy Miller

Myrtle York

Ida Shaggi-Jawan

Evelyn LeTourneau

George Johnson

Valerie Maracle

To be involved, all you have to do is get your rental payment in by the first of every month. You will then be automatically entered into the Zero Balance monthly draw!

Aboriginal Information Line

Spirit of the People: invites you to their 2000 Fund Raising Dance to be held at the Royal Canadian Legion. The dance is taking place at 9 Dawes Road (between Main and Victoria Park off the Danforth), on Friday, May 26, 2000, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. All proceeds will go to Spirit of the People.

Flower Power 2000 Deadline Extension

You still have time to participate in Wigwamen's Second Annual Flower Power 2000 Garden Contest.

First Place \$150.00

Second Place \$75.00

Third Place \$60.00

***Entry Forms must be received
at 25 Imperial St. by
Thursday, June 1, 2000.***

Who's who at Wigwamen Inc..

Who, other than our Board of Directors controls Wigwamen's finances? With that question in mind, we take a look at our next committed and experienced staff member, ***Mr. Wayne Vincent, Financial Controller.***

Wayne remains true to his original career choice. Most of his positions before joining Wigwamen's team four years ago, were in the same job capacity as he now holds, as a Chartered Management Accountant.

A typical day in his work schedule includes issuing payment to various contractors, reviewing financial statements, and overseeing the general and daily operation of Wigwamen.

During winter hiatus from his demanding position, he always makes time for alpine skiing, typically at a resort somewhere cold. He also plays in a slow pitch baseball league in the summer.

Terrace Happenings

The Seniors' Club Annual Election was held on April 17, 2000.

Phyliss Jones was elected for her first term as their new President; Second Vice President is Katie Pasquach; Treasurer is Ida Shaggi; and Mary Fox was selected as their Secretary. Congratulations to all of you!

Also, their upcoming events are as follows: Cribbage Tournament on Saturday, May 13, 2000 in the Turner Room; a fundraising Barbecue on Thursday, May 9, from 11:00 a.m. til 7:00 p.m. at the NCCT; and the Annual Courtyard Sale on Friday, May 26, 2000. All members and non-members are encouraged to attend!

The Seniors' Club would like to thank **Louise Sheshewabic, Madeline Kiokee, Mary Anne Trudeau, Suzanne Sutherland, Robert Pasquach, Mary Fox and Emilia Howard** for their donations to the Easter dinner.

The Garden Club had their meeting on May 8, 2000 on the rooftop Terrace. They are planning a Courtyard Sale on June 26, 2000, with proceeds

going towards purchasing the Terrace patio furniture.

Also, President Yvonne Beaucage would like to thank all of the people who participated in the fundraising and for the donations that were received toward the garden and flea market sale.

Raffle tickets for a dream catcher, Native doll and soap stone carving are currently on sale in the Terrace Management Office. All proceeds go towards new patio furniture for the rooftop Terrace.

The Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit is hosting their annual barbecue on June 6, 2000 at Police Headquarters. If any tenants are interested in attending this event, please speak with Janet at the Terrace Management Office. (Transportation will be provided)

In closing I would like to extend a warm welcome to new residents **Marie George, Ivan Toulouse, Beverly Cote, Emily Hadden, and John Michel.**

I hope all of you enjoy your tenure at Wigwamen Terrace!

Submitted by: Janet Esquimaux

Terrace Community Kitchen

This quick-toss, one dish meal is filling without a lot of fat.

Spaghetti Carbonara

2/3 c chicken broth
1 medium onion, chopped
3 oz lean Canadian bacon, thinly sliced into strips
3 c sliced mushrooms
1 c frozen peas
1 oz Parmesan cheese, grated
2 Tbsp sour cream
8 oz spaghetti

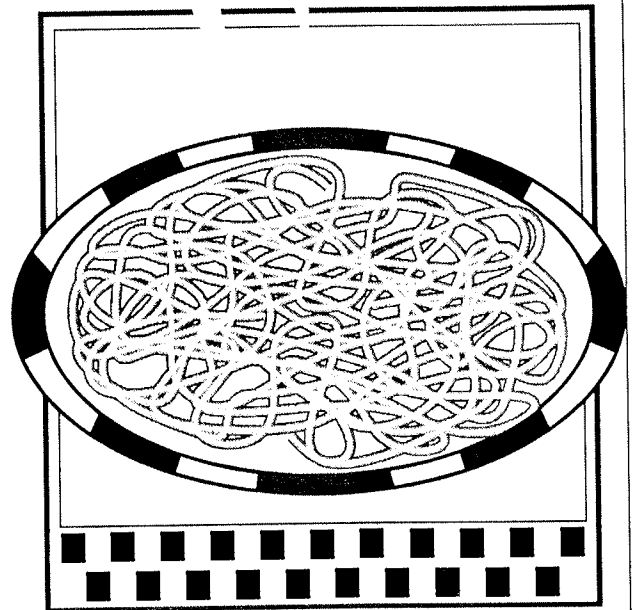
Bring the broth to a boil over medium-high heat in a large non-stick skillet. Add the onion and cook, stirring frequently, for 3 minutes. Add bacon and mushrooms and continue to cook, stirring frequently, for 5-8 minutes, or until the mushrooms are very soft.

Add peas and heat through. Remove from heat and stir in the cheese and sour cream.

Cook the spaghetti in a large pot of boiling water until just tender.

Drain. Return the pot. Add sauce and toss well.

Makes 4-6 servings.



Source: Quick & Speedy Healthy Cooking

Anishnawbek History

Nanabush and The Dogs

Once upon a time, long ago and far away, as these matters usually are, all the dogs came together for a big meeting. In those days dogs could speak, just like humans, so that this big meeting was not strange as it sounds, at least not for that reason.

All the dogs were there: big ones, small ones, fat ones, skinny ones, young ones, old ones, handsome ones, ugly ones and so on. They were all there.

In those times it was the custom to hang one's tail on a nail just inside the door, much the same way we hang up our hats today when we enter a lodge, out of respect.

With the dogs it was easy because the anus attached to the tail made a dandy ring to slip over a nail. Some of the dogs even became quite skillful at tossing the ring over the nail from ten or fifteen feet away. They say that is how the modern game of "ring tossing" was invented, but that's another story for another time.

Once the meeting got going everybody started yapping at once,

except of course, the ones that always come to meetings and never say anything. they save their words for later, for the "moccasin telegraph" or for when they're drunk, and not afraid of anyone.

Meantime, at the meeting, everybody else was mixing it up good. Big dogs growled, little dogs yapped shrilly, old dogs criticized everything, silly dogs clowned and vicious dogs attacked anything that moved. Whenever a dog fell down, or was knocked down, the rest would pounce on it and give it a damn good beating. To add to the confusion all the crazy dogs howled for no apparent reason.

Nanabush happened to be going by the same time and heard all the commotion. The racket hurt his ears and he became very annoyed at the dogs' behavior.

"I've got a good notion to play a trick on those noisy dogs", he said, digging around for his fire-starter. In no time at all Nanabush had his back wall of the council lodge burning fiercely. He ran away laughing.

Inside the dogs smelled smoke, saw the flames, and panicked. Everybody headed for the door at the same time; it was every dog for itself.

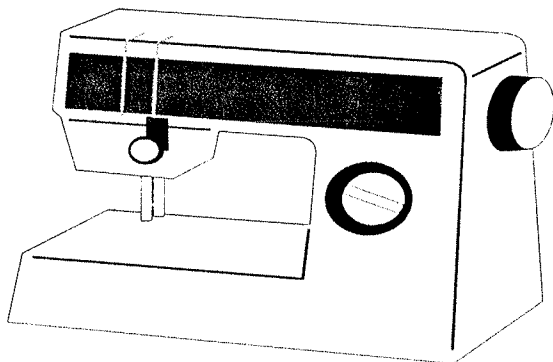
In the confusion and panic no one took the time to find his or her own tail; they just grabbed one, stuck it on, and ran for their lives.

And that is why to this very day, whenever two strange dogs meet the very first thing they do is check out each other's backside and tails.

Source: Gilbert Oskaboose, Ojibway Legends

Advertising Service

If you require alterations for pants, shirts, jackets, etc... please call 944-2149 for more details.



Disclaimer: Wigwamen Inc. reserves the right to refuse to publish any or all classified advertisements submitted to it at its sole discretion without notice, and is not liable for the contents or accuracy of advertisements it chooses to publish.

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto - Customary Care Program

The Native Child and Family Services of Toronto's Customary Care Program provides alternative care for Native children who need to be away from their family for a period of time. They work in partnership with the community to prevent Native children from being removed from their families and culture. They provide Native-specific training support and payment for care. The children need traditional Native homes. If you live in the Toronto area, why not provide a youngster with a temporary home? If you are interested in becoming a licenced Customary Care provider please contact the Customary Care Program at:

Customary Care Program
Native Child and Family Services
464 Yonge Street, Suite 201,
Toronto, Ontario
M4Y 1W9

Phone: (416) 969-8510
Fax: (416) 969-9251

Wigwamen's Fun Pages

Aboriginal History Quiz

Questions:

1) Nunavut is an Inuit word meaning:

_____ "Gathering Strength"

_____ "Our land"

_____ "Our People"

2) At a lavish ceremonial feast among Northwest Coast nations, the host distributed valuable gifts to guests to earn prestige. Recipients were obliged to reciprocate with more lavish gifts at the same future event. This event was a:

_____ Sundance

_____ Potlatch

_____ Pow-Wow

3) The Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy are comprised of six North American nations. Which of the following nations listed below are not part of the Six Nations Confederacy?

_____ Mohawk

_____ Onandaga

_____ Cherokee

4) The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is the national representative/lobby organization of the First Nations in Canada. What was the name of the previous title of the AFN?

_____ Native American Movement (NAM)

_____ Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN)

_____ National Indian Brotherhood (NIB)

5) In the 1996 final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, what percentage of Aboriginal People reported that they could speak an Aboriginal language well enough to carry on a conversation?

- 26% or 80,321
- 38% or 109,765
- 42% or 122,324

6) If you wish to travel just beyond the eastern border of South Dakota, northeast of Sioux Falls, you would find world famous quarries, yielding a reddish, soft stone that is easily cut. This stone is known as:

- Nipigon (Red Rock)
- Pipe Stone
- Soapstone

7) The courts and justice systems within any Country sometimes wrongly prosecute and convict people. American Indian Movement member Leonard Peltier was sentenced to two life terms in prison. In what year was Leonard Peltier convicted?

- 1974
- 1976
- 1979

8) A group of Native People had many notable achievements, including rubberized rain clothing, barkless dogs, stingless honey bees, an accurate calendar, a unique counting system including the concept of zero, and an excellent set of astronomical observations. What was the name of the group of Native People?

- Mohawk
- Aztek
- Mayan

9) In Canada the Mohawk village of Kanehsatake near the village of Oka in Quebec was the site of international attention because of a situation that took place there. This was known to many as the Oka Crisis or Stand off and lasted for several weeks. In what year did this take place?

_____1990

_____1991

_____1992

10) This treaty of 1794 which, among other things, gives Native American people the right to freely cross the U.S. Canada border is called:

_____The Jay Treaty

_____The Treaty of Ghent

_____Canada - Ontario Boundary Treaty

Answers will be printed in the June edition of "Wigwam to Wigwam"

HOWLING OUT

to the Aboriginal Community of Toronto!!



We need your Help!!

Our New Aboriginal Housing Support Centre
needs a name.

Enter your idea and you may receive one of three prizes

Prizes are:

1st \$125.00

2nd \$ 75.00

3rd \$ 50.00

We need your suggestions by: **Friday May 26th, 2000.**

Send entries to:

Aboriginal Housing Support Centre

25 Imperial St., Suite 310, Toronto, Ontario, M5P 1B9

Telephone: (416) 482-3444