



Wigwam to Wigwam

Your "House to House" News

Wigwamen Incorporated, 310-25 Imperial Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5P 1B9 www.wigwamen.com

Toronto 2000 Urban Native Housing Conference

Over 100 staff and Board members from 33 urban Native housing organizations across Ontario gathered together for the "Toronto 2000 Urban Native Housing Conference" October 31, - November 3, 2000. The conference is held in a different city every year. This fall it was in Toronto and was hosted by Wigwamen Incorporated!

The purpose of this annual conference, which is sponsored by CMHC and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, is to allow the staff and Board members of urban Native housing groups to meet each and to access information about such things as tenant relations, repairs and maintenance, budgeting etc.

Besides workshops, the conference also had an Aboriginal Craft Show, featuring artists and crafts people with beautiful paintings, quilts,



TORONTO 2000
DREAM CATCHER

moccasins, dolls and more. Wigwamen's own tenants Katie Pasquach, Yvonne Beaucage, Norma Peters, and Shawani Campbell, were among the artists and crafts people there.

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General Manager's Report

Most of our tenants know a fair bit about Wigwamen Incorporated. You know that we have 317 units, including 102 apartment units at Wigwamen Terrace and 215 family housing units scattered throughout the City. You know that we're Ontario's oldest and largest urban Native housing provider, having been incorporated in 1972. You know that we employ thirteen staff, and that we have a Board of Directors composed of nine volunteers drawn from the community.

What you may not know is that Wigwamen Incorporated has a sister company, Wigwamen Non-Profit Residential Corp.

Wigwamen Non-Profit was incorporated in 1994, and is currently responsible for administering almost 600 units funded under Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's "Rural and Native Housing Program."

The RNH program was established in by CMHC in 1974 to help address the housing needs of low-income Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families living in rural areas.

Almost 200 of the units we administer are located in Grey and Bruce counties, in communities as far flung as Owen Sound, Wiarton, and Lions Head, while almost 400 other units are located in the counties of Peterborough, Haliburton, Northumberland and Victoria.

Services in the Grey-Bruce area are delivered out of our head office in Toronto, while the Peterborough, Haliburton, Northumberland, and Victoria units are administered out of our second office in downtown Peterborough.

In addition to the Rural and Native Housing Program, Wigwamen Non-Profit was selected by CMHC earlier this year to be a delivery agent for its "Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program".

The program offers financial assistance to low and moderate income homeowners to bring their homes up to acceptable level of health and safety .

The program is delivered by Wigwamen Non-Profit in the counties of Peterborough, Northumberland, and Victoria, as well as in Durham region, and as with the RNH program, our staff work out of our Peterborough office.

Household Hints

Oops! When your Pet has an Accident

Without question, pet urine is one of the most pungent of odours, especially when it has been absorbed (like a sponge) into porous surfaces such as wood floors and carpeting. Urine is actually a weak acidic liquid laden with body bacteria and salts.

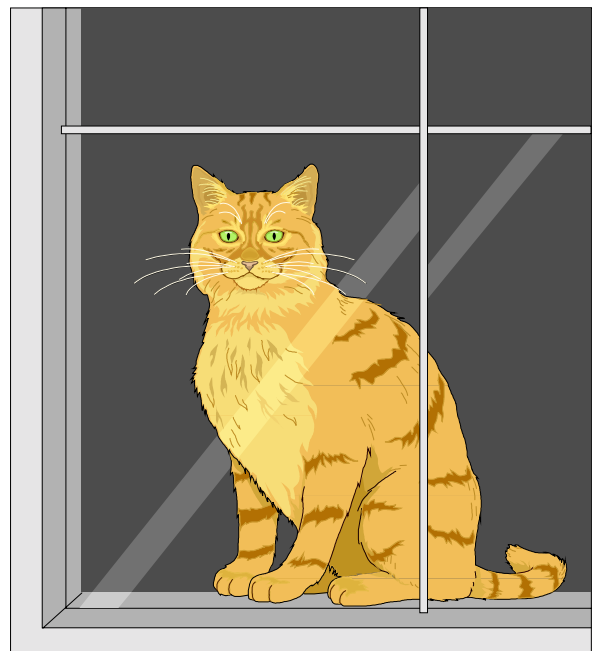
In order to remove the odour, you must organically decompose it. The easiest and least harmful solution to your problem is a non-toxic, non-staining bacterial/enzyme digester such as "Bio-Aid". This type of product introduces non-pathogenic "good" bacteria which engulf and "eat" the odour-producing bacteria. The action takes several days so you must be patient. **IT WORKS!**

Forget about any perfumed soaps or liquids.

Apply this product with the clean sponge side of a "green-padded" scrubbing sponge (available at grocery or hardware stores) liberally spread onto the stain and agitate with the scrub side of sponge. Allow the surface to air dry. Don't put any other cleaning agents on the stain since they may affect the potency of the digester.

In case you suspect but can't find the source or assume it to be pet urine, use a black-light fixture on the floor and it will make the invisible source of odours glow in a dark room. If you don't know where to find a black light, ask a neighbour with teens. They often have them to let posters glow. Often we suspect one corner and have the problem in many areas. Check every room with the lights out. Urine and feces residue will glow!

Disinfectants will kill odour-producing bacteria but will only penetrate carpeting and wood surfaces so far and will not reach deep down into these surfaces, thus leaving plenty of the pet's body bacteria to create those horrific odours.



Continued from pg. 1...

For housing groups that came from as far away as Thunder Bay and Kenora, a visit to Toronto was an exciting event! Wigwamen did its share to promote the city and our Aboriginal community: an evening of entertainment included Nokomis, a women's drumming group, and local Aboriginal recording artist Pam Schreiber. Comedian Adam Timoon (brother to Wigwamen's Maintenance Supervisor, Ron Timoon), delighted everyone with his hilarious skits. To welcome the groups to the city, an opening prayer was offered by Elder, Lillian McGregor.

Conference participants were able to register for a selection of courses including a full-day course on communications and conflict management, and half-day sessions on Myers-Briggs personality trait testing; tendering and contract administration, arrears, project budgeting, the internet, performance appraisals, capital reserve fund planning, alternative sources of funding, and Aboriginal demographics.

"Toronto 2000" was very much a team effort on the part of the Board and staff of Wigwamen Incorporated, and stands as something which all of us can be proud of for many years to come!

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

Ken King

Colbertha Robinson

Valerie Maracle

Sandra Neshkawa

Mary Howk

Elizabeth Wemigwans

Kathrena Green

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

Anishnawbek History

Ojibway Creation Story

When Aki (the earth) was young, it was said that the earth had a family. Neebegeesis (the moon) is called grandmother. The earth is said to be a woman. She is called Mother Earth because from her come all living things. Water is her lifeblood. On her surface, everything is given four-sacred directions—north, south, east, and west. When she was young, the earth was filled with beauty.

The creator, Gitchie Manitou, took four parts of Mother Earth and blew into them using a megis or sacred shell. From this man was created. To this day the megis or cowrie shell is worn by Indians to symbolize and remember this event. From this original man came Anishinabe. In Ojibway language, if you break down the word, this is what it means: Ani “from whence” Nishina “lowered” Abe “the male of species”

It is said that the Great Spirit lowered man to earth.

This man was created in the image of “Gitchie Manitou. He is natural man. He is part of Mother Earth. He lives in the brotherhood with all that is around him.

We believe that we are Nee-kon-nis (brothers) with all tribes. We are

separated only by tongue and language. The Ojibway are a tribe because of the way we speak.

So it is in this way that the Ojibway teachings tell us how life developed for the Anishinabe. Way back when just Indians lived in this country, a religious prophet told us of a people who would come and try and destroy our sacred teachings. To keep this from happening, the Ojibways took a log from the manone (the ironwood tree). They hollowed it out and put inside all the birch bark scrolls on which the teachings and ceremonies were recorded. Men were lowered over a cliff by long ropes. They dug a hole in the cliff and buried the log where no one could find it.

It is said that the time will come again when Indian people can practice their religion without fearing any man. When this time comes, the prophets say a little boy will dream where the ironwood log full of the sacred scrolls is buried. He will lead his people to the place. From that time on, all of us will be able to live in religious freedom again. That time is not yet come today. Maybe, those of you who hear this story will see all these things come about.

The Images of Mother

Four years of Age ~ My Mommy can do anything!

Eight years of Age ~ My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!

Twelve years of Age ~ My mother doesn't really know quite everything

Fourteen years of Age ~ Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either.

Sixteen years of Age ~ Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.

Eighteen years of Age ~ That old woman? She's way out of date!

Twenty-five years of Age ~ Well, she might know little bit about it.

Thirty-five years of Age ~ Before we decide, let's get mom's opinion.

Forty-five years of Age ~ Wonder what mom would have thought about it?

Sixty-five years of Age ~ Wish I could talk it over with Mom.

Joke of the Month

A devoted wife had spent her lifetime taking care of her husband. Now he had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months, yet she stayed by his bedside every single day.

When he came to his senses, he mentioned for her to come near him.

As she sat by him, he said, "You know what? You have been with me all through the bad times. When I got fired, you were there. When I got shot, you were by my side. When we lost the house, you gave me support. When my health started failing, you were by my side. You know what?"

"What dear?" she asks gently.

"I think you bring me bad luck."

Toronto 2000 Draw

Meegwetch, to all of the Aboriginal organizations listed below for donating gifts for the Toronto 2000 Urban Native Housing Conference draw.

Aboriginal Peacekeeping Unit

Anduyaun

Nishnawbe Homes

Anishnawbe Health ~ Translators Program

Council Fire Native Cultural Centre

First Nations House ~ U of T

Na-Me-Res

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto

History Dates to Know

Dates in History after 1980

1980 - March: An Anishnabe boy named Steve Collins wins the World Junior Championship of ski jumping in Sweden. He is 16 years old.

1980 - March: Mohawk people from the Bay of Quinte in Ontario apply to the Canadian government to keep their traditional government.

1981 - March: Aboriginal people in Ontario can now establish their own community police forces.

1981 - June: Aboriginal protesters begin a 2,400 kilometer walk from Manitoba to Ontario to help focus attention of the rights of Aboriginal people living off their reserves.

1982 - April: Canada repatriates its own constitution from Britain. The Canadian constitution recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights.

1983- February: The Saskatchewan Indian Federated College starts a new bachelor's degree in Native Studies.

1984- December: The Pope says that Canada's Aboriginal people have a right to self-government, their own resources and their own economy.

1984 - Yukon First Nations and the federal government reach an agreement on land claims. The agreement calls for the bands to receive \$620 million and secure title to 20,000 square kilometers of land.

1987 - February : The Whitebear Nation in Saskatchewan received \$19 million in a land claim settlement for land that was sold in 1890.

1988 - January: An exhibition of priceless Aboriginal artifacts opens at the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, drawn from museums around the world.

1988 - May: The Glenbow Museum in Calgary removes a sacred mask from a collection as a result of protests by Iroquois leaders.

1990 - July: Quebec provincial police try to dismantle a road block set up by a group of Mohawks from the community of Kanessahtake near Montreal. The Mohawks had set up the roadblock to prevent the nearby town of Oka from expanding a golf course onto land the Mohawks considered their own. This resulted in a 78-day armed stand-off involving Mohawks, the Quebec provincial police and later the Canadian Forces.

Terrace Happenings

The Wigwamen Seniors' Club held a cribbage tournament on November 18. There will be a bingo at 1:00 p.m. and dinner at 5:00 p.m. in the Turner Room on November 24 and 30.

Recently recruited Seniors' Club bookkeeper Mary Fox is busy planning a number of Christmas festivities for December.

I hope all of you who attended the pancake breakfast on October 11, 2000 enjoyed the delicious pancakes Frances whipped up in the Turner Room. All of the proceeds went towards the Christmas Party fund.

A special thank-you goes out to Janet Bellefeuille and her son Joseph, auctioneer Kim McDougal, and staff from the Seniors' Program for their generous help at the Terrace Loonie Auction held on October 30, 2000. The auction was a true success, as we raised \$690.00 towards the 2nd Annual Christmas Party for the residents of Wigwamen Terrace.

If any residents are interested in a coupon for a free pizza slice at Pizza Pizza, please pick one up in the Terrace Management office.

In closing, please extend a warm welcome to our new residents Mrs. Dorothy Currie, Mr. Frank and Mrs. Ethel Keesickquayash.

Terrace Loonie Auction Acknowledgments

Phyllis Jones - Table Cloth & Lamp

Suzanne Sutherland - Towel & Key Holder

Barbara Gajic - Native Needle Point

Yvonne Beaucage - Stuffed Bears and Blanket, Utensils, Christmas Stocking & Book

Janet Bellefeuille- Glass Vase, Wooden Rabbits, Hungarian Blanket, Chest Board

Jacqueline Voutt - Bird Book & Bag

Louise Sheshewabic -Knife Set

Mary Jane Trudeau - Food Basket

Frances Folz - Converter & Beauty Gift Set

Jacinta Shawanda - Toronto 2000: Dream Catcher

Native People's Parish - Cabbage Patch Dolls

Madeline Kiokee - Four Pairs of Knitted socks

Alice Gerrard - Frying Pan

Joseph Bellefeuille - Handmade Bears

Janet Esquimaux - Door Prize

Your continued support is truly appreciated!

Terrace Community Kitchen

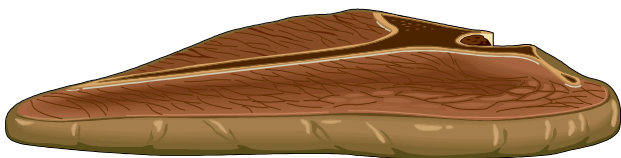
Braised Pork Chops with Mushrooms

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 5 med. pork chops
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can Campbell's condensed cream of mushroom soup
- 1/2 cup of milk

In large skillet over medium-high heat, heat oil. Brown chops 3 minutes on each side. Remove . Pour off fat.

In same skillet, cook onion, mushrooms and garlic 2 minutes or until tender. Stir in soup and milk. Bring to boil.

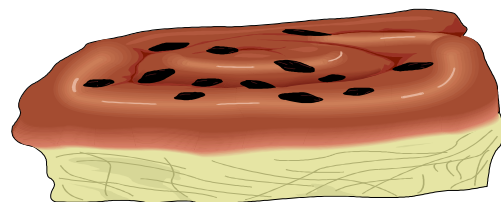
Return chops to skillet. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer 20 to 25 minutes or until tender, turning chops halfway through, cooking and stirring occasionally. Makes 5 servings.

Apple Orchard Bread Pudding

- 7 slices raisin bread, cubed
- 2 cups apples, peeled, cored and chopped
- 3 eggs
- 1 can Carnation 2% partly skimmed evaporated milk
- 1 cup water
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans

Beat eggs in large bowl. Stir in evaporated milk, water, sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Pour over bread mixture, moistening bread completely. Place in greased 8" square or 9" round baking dish. Sprinkle with chopped nuts if desired.

Place dish in larger pan. Fill pan with hot water to 1" up sides of pudding dish. Bake at 350°F for 60-65 minutes, or until set and top is golden . Serve with warm maple syrup.



Lease Excerpts

Liability & Content Insurance

If you rent a home or an apartment and don't have renter's insurance, you're flirting with financial disaster!

Keep that statement in mind as we review this section of your lease agreement with Wigwamen, titled, Liability & Content Insurance.

Tenants must "...take out and maintain appropriate fire, theft, liability and water damage insurance for the Tenant's contents, including automobiles and upon request to deliver a copy of such policy to the landlord".

Without renter's insurance, you have no protection for your valuables if they are stolen or damaged by fire or other disasters. Approximately 54 percent of renters today have no insurance to protect their possessions.

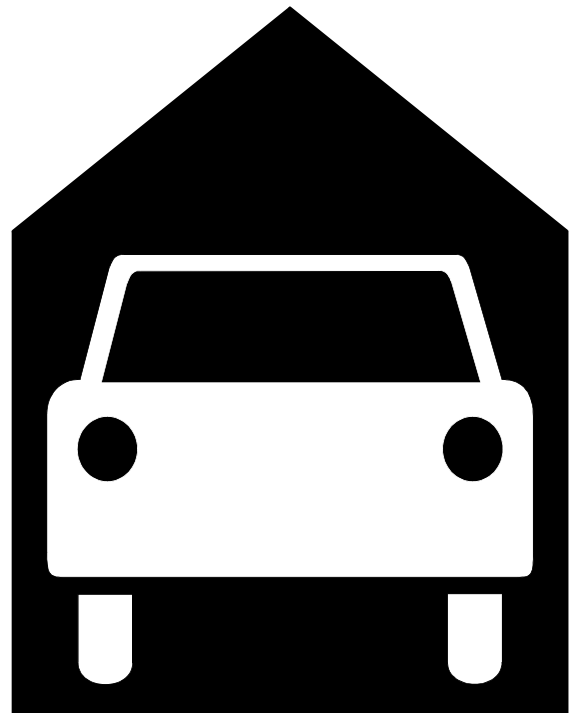
To understand why renter's insurance is a wise investment, simply add up the total cost of everything you own. If you can't afford to replace these items at a moment's notice, you should consider purchasing a renter's insurance policy.

Renter's insurance will cover most of your personal belongings against fire/smoke, lightning, vandalism, theft, explosions, and other

disasters, as well as additional living expenses if you are forced to move. Finally it will provide liability coverage if someone is injured in your home.

Unlike other personal property policies, renter's insurance is relatively inexpensive, depending on the type of coverage, amount of coverage and where you live.

We would encourage all of Wigwamen's tenants to obtain this type of insurance.



Who's Who at Wigwamen

Recruitment of Board members is no easy task for Wigwamen as they seek out highly experienced, professional individuals to become Directors to oversee their ever-growing company.

Those qualities hold true as we profile our next dedicated Director, Secretary/ Treasurer, Ms. Valerie Kendall.

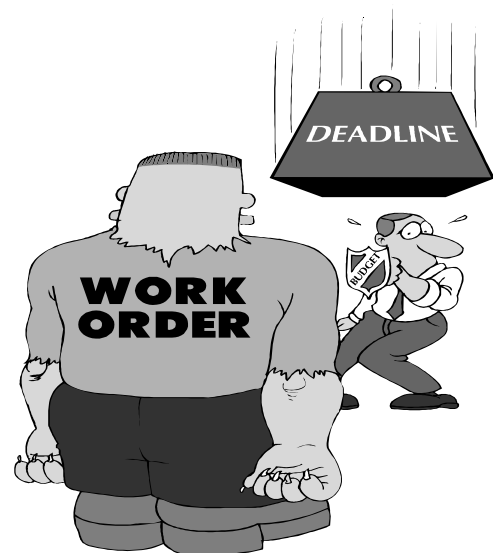
Valerie excels in her career choice as a Certified Management Accountant and is currently a candidate to become a Chartered Financial Analyst.

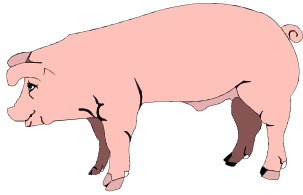
Valerie is employed as a Controller for a real estate investment company where her functions include performing net worth/valuations of holdings, financial performance analysis and evaluation, analysis of investment opportunities, and tax reporting, projections, and planning.

When she has free time, she works towards her goal of becoming an accomplished rollerblader, and enjoys the outdoors while hiking, walking and bird watching.

5 Maxims for Making Excuses

- 1) The feebleness or banality of an excuse should never be a deterrent to its use.
- 2) Always put the blame on something that can't defend itself. Children, pets, inanimate objects, and relatives living in foreign countries make perfect scapegoats.
- 3) Whine convincingly.
- 4) Certain ailments work better than others as excuses. No doctor or machine in the world can prove that you don't have that headache.
- 5) Try to remember that nature gave each of us only two grandmothers to attend funerals for.

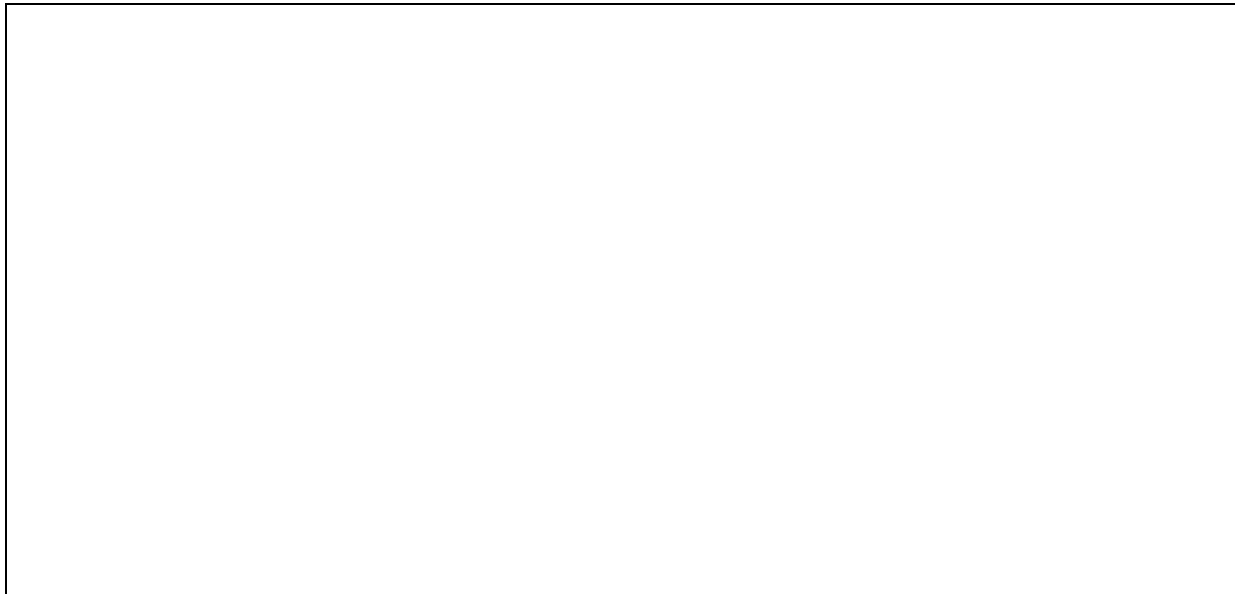




Wigwamen's Fun Page

Draw a Pig Test

This is quite interesting! No cheating now. In the space provided, draw a pig. Then look at the next part when you are done.



This pig serves as a useful test of the personality traits of the artist. If the pig is drawn: Toward the top of the paper, you are positive and optimistic. Toward the middle, you are a realist. Toward the bottom, you are pessimistic, and have a tendency to behave negatively.

Facing left, you believe in tradition, are friendly, and remember dates (birthdays, etc.).

Facing right, you are innovative and active, but don't have a strong sense of family, nor do you remember dates.

Facing front (looking at you) you are direct, enjoy playing devil's advocate and neither fear nor avoid discussions.

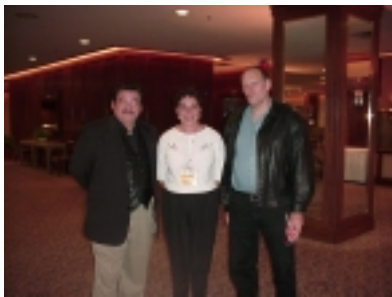
With many details, you are analytical, cautious, and distrustful.

With few details, you are emotional and naive, you care little for details and are a risk taker.

With less than four legs showing, you are secure, stubborn, and stick to your ideas.

The size of the ears indicates how good a listener you are. The bigger the better.

IMAGES OF "TORONTO 2000" URBAN NATIVE HOUSING CONFERENCE





LET THE SPECIAL MEMORIES
OF CHRISTMAS PAST
BRING NEW JOY AND DELIGHT
TO YOUR HOME THIS CHRISTMAS



FROM THE WIGWAMEN INCORPORATED
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF