

Wulustuk Times

Wulustuk - Indigenous name for St John River
This publication produced monthly at Tobique, NB, Canada E7H 5K3

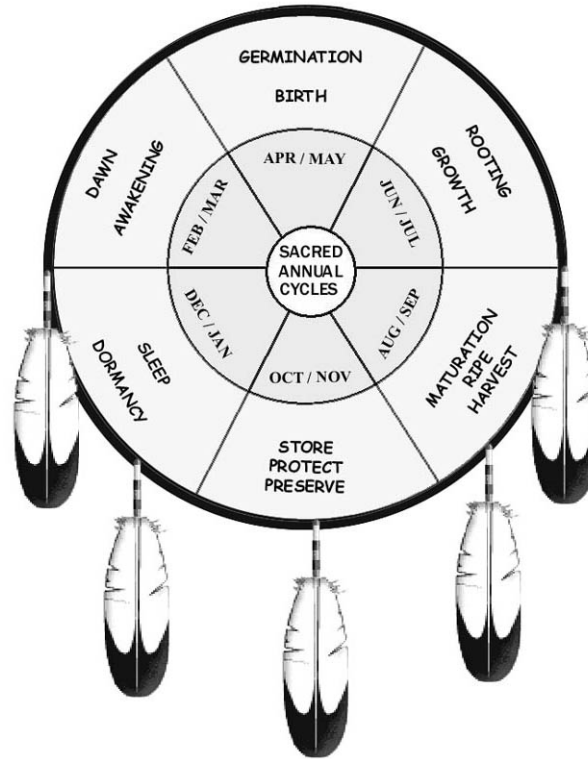


TABLE OF CONTENTS - MARCH, 2008

SACRED ANNUAL CYCLES

MADAWASKA FIRST NATION OPENS NEW ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE March 6, 2008

ONTARIO'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

ALBERTA TAR SANDS, "MOST DESTRUCTIVE PROJECT ON EARTH": Indig. Leaders

DAN'S CORNER, - KOOKMIS-ENOOG (Our Grandmothers) On Indian Time

DEAN'S DEN, - "Here's Why"

BC FIRST NATION TO PRODUCE POWER

FRUSTRATED NATIVES PLAN ANOTHER 'DAY OF ACTION'

POND HOCKEY ROCKS PLASTER ROCK AGAIN

Wulustuk Times:

Each month we try to gather and publish the latest, most current and relevant native news events and top stories for our readership. Proceeding with this concept, we feel that a well informed person is better able to see, relate with, and assess a situation more readily when equipped with the right tools. Through articles our aim is to provide an accurate and a solid background behind every story. That is our policy and commitment.

Contact:

You can reach us by postal mail at P.O. Box 3226, Perth-Andover, NB. Canada E7H 5K3, or at our US postal location, P.O. Box 603, Fort Fairfield, ME 04742. By telephone we're at 506-273-6737 in NB, Canada, and via Internet at pesun@nbnet.nb.ca

SACRED ANNUAL CYCLES

p.paul

For eons and centuries, native people have had to keep a close eye on the passage of time for a countless number of reasons, the most important of which was knowing when and where to plant seeds to grow their foods and sustain life.

In prehistoric times native kept their time schedule by observing the movement of the sun, the moon, the stars other celestial bodies orbiting around the earth. The festivities and events ran true and on time each year.

Through careful reading of the sun's motion, from season to season, and observing the varying angles of the solar rays on the earth's surface, the early native people knew exactly when to plant seeds to get the best results. They did not need a calendar to guide them.

When Columbus accidently landed here in 1492 and brought some European with him, calendars and other Euro-versed offerings had their start in the Americas.

Prior to that date native people depended entirely on their own indigenous practices, techniques and time reckoning devises handed down to them from their ancestors. From this culturally fed knowledge they knew precisely when to tap the maple tree to make the sweetest nectar in the land, the maple sugar, and when to plant the seeds for their foods.

Other indicators that spring was arriving was the advent of shorter longer days and shorter nights, gradual warming of the earth each day, melting of the snow and ice, breakup of river ice, arrival of, and whirring songs of summer birds and other creatures, budding of trees and plants, grass shoots awakening, and later the fiddleheads pushing their way out of their cool dormant beds, spring waters rushing and gushing everywhere, etc. which signaled the grand entry of another spring and a planting season.

This accurate and natural evolution of the sacred annual cycles was the time-indicator used by all native people in the Americas.

In contrast and speaking in general terms, and in conformity with christian ethics, January 1, usually represents the new year in almost every country around the globe, whereas in the native world the diagram on our cover this month shows an entirely different (indigenous) concept and guideline for determining time.

In the native world, calculating time is based on the 'natural ebb and flow' of the life cycles taking place in the natural plant world. Rather than January 1, the annual cycle starts from the reawakening period (February-March) when plants start reviving from their natural slumber engaged into during the colder moons.

At the reawakening period, the plants undergo their progression from budding, blossoming, ripping, yielding, preserving and ending their sacred cycle in sleep and dormancy (Dec/Jan) to complete the Annual Cycle.

MADAWASKA MALISEET FIRST NATION OPENS NEW ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE , March 6, 2008

p.paul

The Madawaska Maliseet First Nation, in co-partnership with Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC) will opens its modest Entertainment Centre this month according to John Bernard who is the main planner, builder, and senior financier for the project.

ALC rules and regs will determine the numbers, variety and types of machines that will be used in the centre.

The Centre will be fairly 'modest' with only 9 slot machines operating for now. (more slots are expected in two weeks and in roughly a month 18 more which will bring the inventory up to 38 machines. 5 poker tables are enroute as well. All equipment provided by Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC) who are co-sponsoring the facility and sharing substantially in the receipts. In numbers, seventy eight percent of the gaming proceeds will go directly to ALC for monitoring and accounting purposes while the remaining 22% will be channeled to the prime investor and site holder, John Bernard, a local band member.

The plans of redistribution of revenues were also given a briefing. Of the 78% to be collected by ALC, 95% of that sum will be returned to the band to finance community development programs such as social, economic, cultural and recreational activities in the community. In the same way, Mr. Bernard stated that a portion of the 22% he receives will also be returned to the band and to the Entertainment Centre. It will fund internal support and programming for employees. For instance the money will provide for family comforting when employees are facing difficult circumstances, getting holiday pay, Christmas bonuses, work-related incentive rewards, etc.

The decision to locate the Entertainment Centre on the Madawaska Maliseet First Nation is strategic in a number of ways. First the Centre retains a favorable tax base on permanent basis. The Centre is conveniently located in mid-town Edmundston. It is on a major route, Maine is merely a drive across the international bridge. The province of Quebec is less than 25 miles away. The Centre will serve an area of a hundred mile radius with an estimated Canada/US population of 35,000, It is an Industrial base for Northern NB and Northern Maine.

The 300 hectare reserve has a population of 250 registered band members who are, generally, young and very supportive to the project. It is estimated that employees for the Entertainment Centre will consist a ratio of 50/50 native to non-native due to a limited numbers available on reserve to recruit from.

The Centre will have two floors of slot machines and poker tables, plus several refreshment sites. The east wing will have a full service, 15-table, dining area featuring fresh seafood specials attractively priced.

Officially the doors are opened to the public on March 6, 2008 welcoming customers and marking this special and historical event with pride, and optimism. A Grand Opening is scheduled for mid-May. Everyone welcome.

For more information call the Entertainment Ctr. 506-735-1752, at Madawaska Maliseet First Nation.

EDUCATION IS A RIGHT! HELP ONTARIO'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN

(Submitted by Three Feathers)

For 8 years the children of Attawapiskat, Ontario have had no grade school. They attend classes in cold portables. They have no library and no playground.

The federal government has promised time and time again that it will build a new school. The community has prepared plans and done everything they can to get ready to build the school.

Now the federal government has changed its mind. Indian Affairs Minister Chuck Strahl says the children will have to wait another 8 years (five in delay and three for building) before they can have a real school.

The education of First Nation children in Northern Ontario is not a priority for the government. But the children of Attawapiskat see it differently. They are fighting for the right to go to a proper school and they are asking other students to help them.



ALBERTA TAR SANDS 'MOST DESTRUCTIVE PROJECT ON EARTH':

Indigenous Leaders

Federal and provincial health officials in Alberta are trying to cover up "the most destructive project on Earth," aboriginal leaders said yesterday during the release of a report on the oilsands sector.

The report, called Canada's Toxic Tarsands: The Most Destructive Project on Earth, and released by the leading green group Environmental Defence, accused the federal government of being "missing in action" by failing to enforce federal laws to clean up oil extraction from tarsands in Alberta.

It said excavation of the Alberta oilsands- home to the richest petroleum deposits outside the Middle East, is producing vast amounts of greenhouse gases and poisoning local water supplies.

The process to strip the tar-like bitumen out of the sands and turn it into synthetic crude oil is highly energy intensive.

Chief Allan Adam of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation accused the federal and provincial health departments of harassing a local physician who has sounded alarm bells about rare cancers striking the community downriver from the oilsands. Both departments have filed complaints in an attempt to get Dr. John O'Connor's licence revoked because they believe he was raising undue alarm, but locals say the physician was doing his job.

"I think it seems like one organization drops the issue and another one picks it up to carry on to take his practice away from him," Adam told a news conference yesterday. "If that's the case of how they do their business, in that sense, we feel that there is a cover-up on health issues and on environmental impacts in our region." Alberta is a Conservative Party stronghold, and critics say the government does not want to alienate the powerful energy industry by clamping down.

The report estimates that Environment Minister John Baird's new proposal to regulate pollution from industrial facilities would allow greenhouse gas emissions to double to about 80 million tonnes per year by 2020 because of soft targets that require industry only to reduce emissions per unit of production instead of hard caps.

Matt Price, program manager with Environmental Defense, said that, as a result, growing emissions from the oilsands sector would wipe out gains from industries in other provinces, such as British Columbia or Ontario.

"Politically speaking, the reason we have weak federal standards on climate change is to let the tarsands grow," said Price. "There's a tailor-made loophole for the tarsands. Otherwise, we would have hard caps on industry all across Canada. So this is why the impacts of the tarsands extend well beyond the borders of Alberta." An industry spokesperson acknowledged that petroleum producers need to adopt greener practices, but suggested that they shared some common ground with environmental groups.

"While I don't see there's a lot new that's raised in here, it certainly does highlight the shared concern that the public has, the government has, the environmental group has on the environmental issues around the oilsands," said Greg Stringham, vice-president of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

"Carbon capture and sequestration is the biggest kind of technology that we have right now to address the issue and we are getting on with it, but we need to get on with it quicker." Baird said his government has taken the first ever federal steps to regulate pollution from industry, but is open to studying the recommendations in the report. "Environmental Defense is a pretty credible group," said Baird. "I think I'll do them the courtesy and the favour of reading it and reflecting on what it has to say." The Harper government's plan calls for annual emissions to be slashed by 150 million tonnes by 2020, putting Canada nearly 20 years behind its legally binding international Kyoto Protocol commitments.

DAN'S CORNER, - KOOKMIS-ENOOG (Our Grandmothers) on Indian time

Our two peoples, Indians and Euro-Christians, world view's are as different as night and day. One excellent example of this fact is the concept of time. Time such as past, present, future, hours, days, weeks, months and years. Time is a Euro-Christian manmade concept and construct.

To the Euro-Christian the universe is a "block universe". One imagines a square box that is divided in three sections. One section represents the past, another the present and the third the future. All three sections co-exist at the same time.

To the Euro-Christian, time can be spoken of as changing, slowing down or speeding up. Objects and events exist in portions of time: they can be in the past, in the present or in the future.

It also depicts the future as bounded, that is, there will come a "time" when the boundary is met and confronted. The Euro-Christian idea of "progress" came in because the present is making progress in its movement toward a goal - the future.

To our people there is no such manmade concept or construct of time as put forth by Euro-Christians. Instead we were given, through our original instructions/traditional teachings, the concept of an infinite universe, an infinite Creation, an infinite Creator. Time is merely a measure of motion: of the motion of the sun, stars and moon through the sky, of changes that are visible and can be predicted.

Kookmis-enoog, our Grandmothers, taught us that the present generation are co-creators of future conditions. We do not exist in a preordained universe. Our actions in the "now" bring the "future" universe into existence.

From these teachings one could imagine a ball to which one slowly adds a layer and each layer is a "present" which is laid over a steadily growing "past" supporting the present.

Since we are participants in a process of motion and change, we know that we can affect the future. If we kill off all of the buffalo, polar bears, or chop down all of the trees, then we will live in a world without buffalo, polar bears and trees. There is no glorious "future" out "there" waiting for us to arrive. We build the future through our present actions. We do not, however, "build" as gods but as participants. The universe is a process, of which we are a small part. In this process the goal is always toward balance and harmony. Our survival depends on maintaining balance and harmony.

In these two world views, the universes that Indians and Euro-Christians inhabit are two different "worlds", parallel universes, so to speak. We occupy the same "space" and the same "time" yet we live in two different "worlds".

All My Relations,

Dan Ennis, February 10, 2008

DEAN'S DEN, - "Here's Why"

Here's to the deer and the caribou
To the moose and the mighty bear
I hate to think we'd be on the brink
If the critters and creatures weren't there,
And here's to the stars and the Milky Way
To the sun and the "man in the moon"
I can only hope that we learn to cope
While the time is so opportune,
And here's to the forest and fountains

To the rills and the rivers and lakes
To the whales in the waters, and all the otters
And the beauty a sunset makes,
Here's to the fir and maple and the mighty oak
And to the mountains that touch the sky
I can only plead that we must succeed
And avoid the obvious ... why!
Here's "not" to the places of people and power
Of consumers and credit and cash
As they glom and gore for always "More!"
While turning our planet to ash!

D.C. Butterfield

BC FIRST NATION TO PRODUCE POWER

Times Colonist

Songhees Creek Hydro Inc. and the Kwakiutl First Nation have signed an agreement to develop a 15-megawatt run-of-river hydro project outside of Port Hardy.

The small power station, considered a sustainable energy project, will have an annual production of 61 gigawatt hours, enough to power about 6,000 homes for one year.

The goal of the project is to provide an opportunity for the Kwakiutl to secure long-term financial benefits from a resource development within its traditional territory.

"Our nation has relied mainly on fishing and logging for its well being," Kwakiutl chief councillor Verna Chartrand said in a release. "However, we need to diversify, and through our ownership in the Songhees project, we can help to provide a stable footing for other social, cultural and economic development for our community."

The project, located 20 kilometers outside Port Hardy, intends to use water from Songhees Lake to power the generator and produce the electricity.

"The entire community benefits when a project like this is built in the north Island region," said Port Hardy Mayor Hank Bood.

Songhees Creek Hydro secured a long-term agreement to sell electricity generated by the project to B.C. Hydro in September 2006. The project team is currently examining the design, construction and operational aspects of the development to ensure that the project meets strict environmental standards. Project completion is anticipated for 2010.

"We are delighted to welcome the Kwakiutl First Nation as active partners in development and ownership of this project," said Stuart Croft, CEO of Songhees Creek Hydro.

© Times Colonist (Victoria) 2008

FRUSTRATED NATIVES PLAN ANOTHER 'DAY OF ACTION'

OTTAWA — Frustrated by what they say is lack of support in the federal budget, Canada's Natives plan another national "day of action" like the one last June in which the main CN rail line in Eastern Ontario was blocked and the country's busiest highway was shut down.

Assembly of First Nations Chief Phil Fontaine said yesterday Natives were already planning a peaceful day of "reaching out to Canadians" to explain the problems plaguing their communities. But he said the budget's lack of commitment to Natives means they'll accelerate their plans.

"Our people are becoming more frustrated, they are losing hope and losing patience," he said.

The action day is supposed to be a peaceful show of aboriginal concerns over poverty, inadequate housing, lack of clean drinking water and insufficient education.

But Fontaine conceded frustrations could boil over as they did in 2007, when protesters blocked a quarry near the town of Deseronto, Ont., and the site of a potential uranium mine near Sharbot Lake. During the day of action, Mohawk protesters blocked a rail line and Ontario's Hwy. 401 was shut.

"There are situations that are occurring that would suggest to me there is a distinct possibility ... that the summer will be quite uncomfortable for a lot of people," Fontaine said.

"There are many, many situations that are in a precarious state at the moment but could very easily deteriorate."

He said despite years of submitting plans to the federal government, the AFN was "bitterly disappointed" by the Tories' budget.

The budget announces \$660 million for First Nations' education, health programs, child services and safe drinking water. But Fontaine said only \$270 million, spread over two years, is new money and that most of it depends on striking deals with provincial governments.

The AFN chief suggested federal priorities were skewed.

"It is not responsible to spend billions of dollars to rebuild Afghanistan while ignoring the poverty of First Nations here at home," he said.

POND HOCKEY ROCKS PLASTER ROCK AGAIN

Report by ESPN

I didn't know much about the World Pond Hockey Championships when ESPN The Magazine asked me to cover the seventh annual tournament in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick. What I did know was sports reporters don't usually get to play in the events they're writing about.

"I'm in," I told the editor, as if he was my men's league captain checking headcount for an 11:30 game on a Wednesday night.

A quick troll via Google suggested this excursion would not be for the weak. A locker-room chinwag confirmed the perils ahead.

"Yeah, I had a couple toes turn black," said Shawn Kallet, a league rival and 2007 WPHC finalist, when I grilled him about rumors he'd suffered frostbite in 2006. "But it was the most fun I've ever had playing hockey." I scribbled "buy feet warmers" at the top of the list on my notepad.

The pictures online were stunning. Twenty 150-by-75 "rinks" carved out of the snow that sits on Roulston Lake, where the competition has been held since 2002. Using the word "world" back then might have seemed been a bit ambitious. The 40 squads that competed six years ago hailed from the three Maritime Provinces and neighboring Maine. Today, however, the organizers' vision has been more than realized. For the past two years, the event has been maxed out to 120 teams; every Canadian province, 35 U.S. states and 15 countries have faced off for the chance to raise that wooden Stanley Cup look-alike.

More than 800 applications were submitted to tourney director Danny Braun in each of the last two years. In fact, the WPHC has been such a smashing success, proceeds from it helped build Plaster Rock's gorgeous new \$4.8 million ice arena, which opened in November. In 2007, Prime Minister Stephen Harper dropped the ceremonial first puck, the first time Canada's head of government ever set foot in this tiny village of 1,200 people. Clearly, this pond hockey thing was officially a big deal.

Better make room reservations, pronto.

"We're not staying in a hotel," said my new teammate Dan Demasi when I spoke to him by phone the next day. Dan was a two-time WPHC vet and seemed to know what he was talking about. At this point, he said, the only available rooms would be an hour away.

"We're renting an RV, driving it up and parking next to the lake," he said. I began to feel queasy. I have enough trouble keeping my Jetta dent-free in New York City. "If the weather isn't too bad, it'll take about 12 hours," he said.

Before we set off, we needed a fourth player. Former Dartmouth captain Mike Loga was already on board, but Dan was determined to find an all-world winger. He suggested former NHL All-Stars Glenn Anderson or Valeri Kamensky, both of whom play pickup locally. Not only did I believe that went against the spirit of the event, but having a Stanley Cup champ on the roster was no guarantee of success. In 2007, a team featuring two-time Cup winner Brian Skrudland didn't even make the elimination rounds. Plus, I'd already told my buddy Jeff Olsen he was in. I knew Jeff, a former SUNY Cortland standout with excellent hands, would be a perfect fit, on and off the ice. He also worked for Budweiser and offered to bring drinks. Dan was sold. Our team was set.

Fast forward to Feb. 7. We finally rolled into Plaster Rock at about 2 p.m. after driving through the night. We were the Wolfpack, and after a month of planning and stationary bike sessions, we were ready to take our shot at the world title.

Unlike at other outdoor tournaments, there are no divisions at the WPHC. Young guys play against old. Women compete against men. Of the 120 teams, maybe a dozen have a legitimate shot at glory. But even for the elite foursomes, it's not just about the competition. It is about playing the game as you did as a kid—no coaches, no refs, just God's own game in its purest form.

Still, we were among the handful of teams that thought we could go pretty deep if a bounce or two went our way. At the very least, we were determined to be one of the 32 teams that would advance to Sunday's playoffs.

First, we had to not freeze to death. At around 3 a.m. that first night, the propane tank in the RV ran out. When my shivering woke me up, the thermometer read minus-4 degrees. I lay there hoping it was a nightmare until I heard my teammates starting the engine and putting on their coats, hats and gloves before crawling back under the covers.

"We'll get a tank the next morning," said a voice in the dark. No one groused; what was another six hours of misery to imminent champions?

On the ice, things went more smoothly. In group play (teams are split into 24 divisions) we went 5-0, outscoring opponents, 133-53. That earned us the 15th overall seed in knockout rounds, where we got past our first serious opposition—four super-fit army bruisers from the Canadian Forces Base in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

Up next was the Easton Express, this year's incarnation of the four-time defending champion Boston Danglers. We hung with them for a while, but in the end, they smoked us. But I don't really want to talk about that, because losing one game isn't going to be my lasting memory of Plaster Rock.

What I will remember is when, 20 minutes into Friday's first game, under the lights, a light snow began falling. I'll remember the awesome beauty of the snow-covered pines that ring the lake. I'll remember playing a kid's game with friends new and old, and not wanting to be anywhere else in the world at that moment.

"Life is good when you can skate into the beer tent," Bryan Gruley wrote in *The Wall Street Journal* in 2004.

That sums it up perfectly. Those words have become the tourney's unofficial mantra, and rightfully so. For anyone who has ever fallen for this wonderful game, it doesn't get any better than skating on that little pond in Plaster Rock.



Chief Seattle Quotes:

All things share the same breath,
the beast, the tree, the man

The air shares its spirit with
all the life it supports