



MI'KMAQ

WIKEWIKU'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER 2010

The year 2010 marked a year of significant celebration for the Mi'kmaq. Several Mi'kmaq participated in the Olympic torch relay that spanned over 106 days and travelled through 1000 communities, including several of our Mi'kmaq communities. Joan Glode participated as one of the selected torch Bearers, while also having been recognized to receive the Order of Canada. Dr. Elsie Charles Basque and Dr. Donald Julien were also named as members to the Order of Canada. It was a historical first to have three members of the Mi'kmaq community named to the Order in the same calendar year.

June 24, 2010 marked the 400th Anniversary of the Baptism of Grand Chief Henri Membertou. Mi'kmaq shaman and prophet, Chief Membertou was the first aboriginal person in Mi'kma'ki to be baptized. His baptism established a holy alliance between the Mi'kmaq people and the Catholic Church and it signalled Mi'kmaq desire for peaceful relations with the European nations. Robbie MacEwan, one of the direct descendants of Membertou from the Bear River Mi'kmaq community helped stage a re-enactment of the baptism during Celebrations held at Port Royal on June 24th, 2010—400 years to the day that Grand Chief Membertou and 21 of his family members were baptized.

Always ready for a celebration, Mi'kmaq frequently held feasts and celebrations to

acknowledge births, to welcome the seasons, to celebrate weddings, or to honour the life of a community member. The largest aboriginal powwow ever held in Atlantic Canada was held on the Halifax Common between June 25th and 27th to celebrate Mi'kmaq language, culture and heritage. As a crowning moment, Queen Elizabeth II made a formal visit to the Mi'kmaq cultural grounds and was greeted by our very own, Sister Dorothy Moore on June 28th, 2010. She and Prince Philip then met with Mi'kmaq leaders and other community members.

In honour of their community namesake, the Membertou Mi'kmaq community also held a celebration acknowledging this significant milestone. A highlight of the event included the induction of Membertou Chief, Dr. Terry Paul, with an Honorary Doctorate from Cape Breton University.

To round out the busy summer, several hundred Mi'kmaq gathered in Membertou to revive the Nova Scotia Mi'kmaq Summer Games. Seven year old Jacob Cope from the Millbrook Mi'kmaq community represents what the tradition of the games set out to accomplish—involving youth in communities and infusing cultural knowledge through traditional games. Jacob took home a silver medal in the singles division of waltzes (an ancient Mi'kmaq dice game), competing against a field of 80 competitors.



Mi'kmaq Lunar Calendar

Punamuiku's January; frosh fish moon (tom cod)
Apuknajt February; the snow-blinder moon
Sikewiku's March; spawning moon
Penatmuiku's April; egg-laying moon
Etquljewiku's May; frog-croaking moon
Nipniku's June; summer moon

Peskewiku's July; feather-shedding moon
Kisikewiku's August; fruit and berry-ripening moon
Wikumkewiku's September; moose-calling moon
Wikewiku's October; animal-fattening moon
Akesiku's Keptekewiku's November; river-freezing moon
Skuls Kesikewiku's/Kjiku's December; the great month

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A Culture to Celebrate, a Time to Share

Miwiwatmĭk Ta'n Telo'ltimk,

I'kaq Mawi-apoqnmatultimk

