

3rd Annual
**Gchi
Dewin**

**INDIGENOUS
STORYTELLERS
FESTIVAL**



**DEC • 7-9
2017**



Programme

Boozhoo / Greetings!

Winter marks the storytelling season and ReZ 91 and MUSKRAT Magazine are honoured to co-present the 3rd Annual Gchi Dewin Indigenous Storytellers Festival: Under the Big Spirit Moon.

Gchi Dewin means “Big Heart” in the Anishinabe language. Storytellers are individuals with ‘big hearts’ because they listen, hold, and share traditional knowledge with the community.

This year’s special storytelling themes include acknowledging water, children, and creation.

Chii Miigwetch/Big Thanks to the Ontario Arts Council, The Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve and Canada 150, and to Wasauksing First Nation located along the beautiful shores of Georgian Bay.

All our Relations,



Anita Chechock,
Manager, ReZ 91



Rebeka Tabobondung,
Publisher, MUSKRAT Magazine

Guest Storytellers:



ANISHNAABEMBDA NOONGO HOST MSKWAANKWAD RICE

Mskwaankwad is Anishinaabe from Waasauksing. In recent years Mskwaankwad has sought to learn his traditional language of Anishinaabemowin in order to help revitalize and pass it on to future generations. He hosts a beginner/intermediate Anishinaabemowin learning program on CHRZ ReZ 91.3 FM and is involved in language revitalization efforts across Anishinaabe Akiing.



GRANDMOTHER JOSEPHINE MANDAMIN

Josephine is a member of the Wikwemikong Unceded Nation. With a copper pail of water in one hand and a staff in the other, Josephine Mandamin, an Anishabaabekwe, grandmother and traditional knowledge keeper took on a sacred walk, traversing over 10,900 miles around each of the Great Lakes; she is known as the “Water Walker.”

In Anishinaabek culture, women have the responsibility to take care for the water. “The water of Mother Earth, she carries life to us, and as women we carry life through our bodies.” In the wake of extreme extractive industries such as fracking, oil, and coal mining, access to clean water is rapidly declining. “In our prophecies, in our Three Fires Midewiwin Society, we are taught that water is very precious. In February 2016, Josephine was awarded the Lieutenant Governor’s Ontario Heritage Award for Excellence in Conservation.



ISKWÉ

In a world where the sum of our lives is defined through another’s gaze, genuinely unchained artists like Winnipeg-based Hamilton-based Iskwé (pronounced iss-kway) are a rare breed. Named one of the ‘Top 10 Artists to Watch’ by CBC Music, Iskwé’s (‘woman’ in Cree) unmistakable sound weaves her Irish and Cree/Dené/Métis roots with poignant politically charged lyrics, dark soulful R&B rhythms, electronic flourishes, and trip hop breakbeats. Her debut single “Nobody Knows”

Programme

was featured in the Netflix series *Between*, captivating audiences by turning a stark spotlight on the more than 1200 missing and murdered Indigenous women here in Canada. Iskwé's sophomore album 'The Fight Within' was just released.



JOHN RICE

Zahgausgai zhinkaazo, Mukwa Dodemim, is an Ojibwa/Anishinabeninni and a 3rd Degree member of the Three Fires Midewiwin Society from WFN. He has made it a life passion to study the "Mlikaans" Teaching which is about the whole development of the human before, during and after life. His past work experience includes work as the Elder/Healer at the Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene and Fenbrook Medium Institution near Gravenhurst, Ontario He has been a part time lecturer at Georgian College in Barrie. John travels internationally and is a well-respected teacher and Elder in the Anishinabe Nation.



KNOWLEDGE KEEPER ESTHER OSCZE

Esther is a storyteller and teacher of local history in Birch Island – Whitefish River First Nation (Manitoulin) where she lives. She visits Festivals, schools and libraries sharing stories of the Ojibwa people that were passed down to her from her grandparents. These stories address the interconnectedness to all things through human relationships with the natural world, thunder beings, water and wind spirits.



LITTLE SPIRIT SINGERS

The Little Spirit Singers started about a decade ago when students at the Wasauksing Kinomaugewgamik school went to teacher Deina Bomberry saying they missed the singing they'd done while in her Grade 1 / 2 class. She and the girls started gathering at recess and eventually were invited to perform in public. It took off from there. The traditional singing group of elementary and high school-aged girls has performed around Ontario, for special events and conferences for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Union of Ontario Indians, and Town of

Parry Sound Mayor's New Year's Levee. Last year the community celebrated the Little Spirit Singers and their Lieutenant Governor's Ontario Heritage Award for Youth Achievement.



RABBIT AND BEAR PAWS

Creator, Chad Solomon member of Henvey Inlet, First Nation brings his hilarious characters and master puppet and storytelling skills to share with us! Chad's grandfather Art Solomon, was a traditional healer and justice activist would spend his time building wooden toys and playing with Chad and his siblings. Learning from his grandfather, that no matter how old you become, you should always be young-at-heart and that laughter is the greatest medicine! This is the spirit behind the comical Adventures of Rabbit and Bear Paws series.



WAUBGESHIG RICE

Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation on Georgian Bay. His short story collection Midnight Sweatlodge and debut novel Legacy were published by Theytus Books in 2011 and 2014, respectively. His forthcoming novel, Moon of the Crusted Snow, will be published by ECW Press in 2018. By day, he works as a broadcast and web journalist for CBC in Sudbury.

Programme

Honouring Storyteller Richard Wagamese



In March of 2017, acclaimed Ojibway author and journalist, Richard Wagamese passed on to the spirit world. He was 61. Wagamese, from the Wabaseemoong First Nation in northwestern Ontario, had been a professional writer since 1979. An acclaimed Indigenous writer, he is being remembered not only for his work that reflected on the legacy of the residential school system, but for his generous and loving spirit. He was known for helping young writers — particularly Indigenous writers — tell their stories. Richard Wagamese understood the power of words. He made a living from writing – eventually, after terrible struggles – but he also knew what words, put together the right way, could do for a life: They could save it.

As one of Canada's most accomplished Indigenous storytellers, his body of work includes six novels, a book of poetry, and five non-fiction titles. In addition to winning many other literary awards, he has also twice won the Native American Press Association Award and the National Aboriginal Communications Society Award. Assembly of First Nations Chief Perry Bellegarde said Wagamese; "Profoundly told the stories of our Peoples. We lost a great storyteller and he will be sorely missed."

Honouring our Storytellers Past and Present:



Basil Johnston, Fred Wheatley, Francis Pegahmagabow, Duncan Pegahmagabow, Marie Anderson, Brian McInnes, Waubgeshig Rice, Mskwaankwad Manoominii, Waukomaun Pawis, Mskwan Rice, John Rice, Amy Desjarlais, Vince Chechock, Tracey Pawis, Audrey Pawis, Aileen Rice, Zeeb Amy King, Sam Pawis, Shania Tabobondung, Harmony Rice, Debbie Jackson, Maria Hupfield, Hector Copegog, Rachel Deschenes-Pegahmagabow

Yikes! We wouldn't want to forget anyone, please let us know if we did so we can add them to our amazing list!

Programme

Chii Miigwetch/Big Thanks

to the following artists and storytellers who contributed their works Our Beautiful Land Film Festival day and Welcome Feast and Water Ceremony:



BUILDING OUR BRIDGE

An award-winning illustrated book about reconciliation by Parry Sound High School students that was told and presented on stage. Authors: Gracie Crafts, Dawson Bloor, Mackenzie Elwes, Taylor Judge, and Sara Burns.



STRIKING BALANCE

The people of Georgian Bay struggle to mitigate the impact of increasing numbers of cottagers and a new four-lane highway on the region's endangered species. Prod. by TVO.



SPIRIT OF BIRTH

After a colonial legacy of silencing Indigenous women's wisdom, a searching mother and midwives journey to unearth traditional birth practice. Directed by Rebeka Tabobondung.



COLONIZATION ROAD

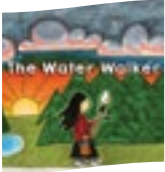
Anishinaabe comedian and activist Ryan McMahon takes us to his hometown of Fort Frances and down its main drag, which is called Colonization Road. Directed by Michelle St. John.



RUMBLE: THE INDIANS WHO ROCKED THE WORLD

Co-presented with Film at the Stockey, RUMBLE tells the story of a profound, essential, and, until now, missing chapter in the history of American music: the Indigenous influence. Featuring music icons Charley Patton, Mildred Bailey, Link Wray, Jimi Hendrix, Jesse Ed Davis, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Robbie Robertson, Randy Castillo, and others, RUMBLE will show how these talented Native

musicians helped shape the soundtracks of our lives. Directed by Catherine Bainbridge, Rezolution Pictures.



JOANNE ROBERTSON

Author of the book *The Water Walker*, published by Second Story Press, Joanne Robertson is AnishinaabeKwe and a member of Atikameksheng Anishnawbek. She was adopted as a baby, by her French/German parents and raised on a farm in Southern Ontario, and was reunited with her Anishinaabe family in her twenties. She received her degree in Fine Arts from Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig at age 50. Joanne is the founder of the Empty Glass for Water campaign to bring attention to the drinking water crisis in Indigenous communities across Canada. Today she works as a research assistant at the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and with The ArtSpeaks Project as an art mentor to women that have suffered trauma. She continues to support water walks through live GPS spotting to make sure the water and walkers are safe. Joanne lives near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario.



WATER PROTECTOR AUTUMN PELTIER

Twelve-year-old Autumn from Wikwemikong First Nation didn't get to deliver her speech in the presence of the Prime Minister, but she's still spreading her message that the Canadian government needs to protect the water. Peltier got on stage at the 2016 AFN Summit with only a few moments as she gifted the PM a "water bundle" of a copper bowl containing a red cloth, some tobacco, and a copper cup. Last year, she travelled to the Children's Climate Conference in Sweden and shared ideas with other youth on how to create a better planet.



91.3FM
THE VOICE OF THE ANISHINABEK NATION

REZ RADIO ANISHINABEMOWIN

On Saturday, December 9th tune in to ReZ 91.3 FM or live stream at www.Rez.91.com to hear a special radio documentary about a Wasauksing mothers' dream to pass the language onto her son. **SHOW TIMES:** 9:30AM • 12:30PM • 5:30PM • 7:30PM

Programme

Special Thanks to our Festival Sponsors!



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO

an Ontario government agency
un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario



Canada



FILM AT THE STOCKEY



HOST SPONSORS



MEDIA SPONSORS



ROCK 95



GIVE-AWAY SPONSORS



Island's Studio

The Islands Gas and Variety Centre



Ivy's Taxi



Chi Miigwetch (Big Thanks):



Vince Chechock, David Shilling, Doug McCann, Bernadette Drake, Vera Pawis Tabobondung, Cynthia King, Aimée Rochard, Zainab Amadahy, Malinda Francis, Erica Commanda, Johna Hupfield, Catherine Pawis, Zeegwon Shilling-Tabobondung, Jessica Kraitberg, Meaghan Tabobondung, Shane Tabobondung, Deborah King, Candace Pamajewon, Audrey Tabobondung, Staff of the Parry Sound Friendship Centre.



MUSKRAT
MAGAZINE.COM

WWW.MUSKRATMAGAZINE.COM

MUSKRAT Magazine is an online Indigenous arts, culture magazine that honours the connection between humans and our traditional ecological knowledge by exhibiting original works and critical commentary. MUSKRAT embraces both rural and urban settings and uses media arts, the Internet, and wireless technology to investigate and disseminate traditional knowledges in ways that inspire their reclamation.



91.3FM
THE VOICE OF THE
ANISHINABEK NATION

WWW.REZ91.COM

CHRZ Rez91, is a community radio station, broadcasting from Wasauksing First Nation near Parry Sound, On. It was launched in July of 2002 with the help of Central Ontario Broadcasting (Rock 95) out of Barrie On.

Rez91, radiating at 91.3 megahertz FM, has a broadcast footprint covering Wasauksing First Nation Territory, the Town Of Parry Sound as well as the neighbouring townships of Seguin, McDougall, Carling and the Township of the Archipelago. The stated mission of the station was to give the Community of Wasauksing a progressive presence and voice reaching out to our neighbours and to the many visitors to this tourist destination.



WWW.GCHIDEWIN.CA

design: maaiingan.com