



Step

HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Passamaquoddy Tribe

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Indian Township Inauguration

The Historic Preservation Office organized the Indian Township/Motahkomihkuk Inauguration, which took place on December 3rd, 2010. The Master of Ceremonies, Roger Paul greeted the community and welcomed the guests. Joanna Dana, who is also the newly elected Tribal Governor Joseph Socobasin's grandmother, performed a blessing ceremony, while Blanche Sockabasin sang the Welcome song. After the blessing and singing, Roger Paul read the ceremonial chief inauguration tradition. Drums echoed in the gymnasium and a solo shawl dancer circled once, followed by Brenda Lozada and other shawl dancers who circled four times. Roger Paul announced the newly elected officials which include, Governor Joseph Socobasin, Lt. Governor Clayton Sockabasin,

council members, Leslie Nicholas, Nipuset Sabattus, and Tribal Representative Madonna Soctomah. As Roger announced the newly elected officials, each shawl dancer presented former long-time Chief John Stevens with beaded bolo ties,

which he placed around each member's neck. After the gifts, each newly elected official said a few words and then danced the round dance followed by the other council members, which includes Richard Sabattus, Elizabeth Neptune, Matt

Dana and the community, while the Huntley Brook Drummers sang another song. When the song and dance finished, everyone gathered together and shared a traditional meal.



Grandfather John Stevens gives grandson Joseph Sockobasin his blessing. Photo by D. Soctomah

Special points of interest:

- *Indian Township Inauguration*
- *Language Archives*
- *Passamaquoddy Calendar*
- *Remember Me*
- *Research at the National Museum of the American Indian*
- *Song of the Drum*

Language Archives

The Historic Preservation office has collected, documented, and digitized various language and audio recordings. The summary of recordings include singing, story telling, interviews,

news, readings, language tests, wax cylinder recordings, Washington D.C. hearings and interviews about the Land Claims settlement, paddle making, language lessons, and much

more. Over 400 hours of recordings include audio and visual documents. The languages recorded are Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Maliseet, MiqMaq, and English.

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Passamaquoddy Calendar

The 2011 limited edition Passamaquoddy calendar is available. It has been a collector’s item for the past 21 years. Each month features historic and contemporary individuals, family groups, ancestors, landscapes, and artwork. Thanks goes out to all who appreciate the work which goes into producing the annual calendar. If anyone is interested in a space for next year’s calendar, please contact Donald Soctomah or Stephanie Francis. The sales of the calendar, fund interviews for the historic preservation office, as well as the following years calendar produc-

tion. Thank you especially to Joseph



Pleasant Point Elected Officials featured in the 2011 calendar. Photo by D. Soctomah

“Cozy” Nicholas, who was proud of his heritage and celebrated this with a yearly calendar. The 2011 calendar will be the final original layout and the new 2012 Passamaquoddy calendar will consist of a revised layout with more historic photographs from the National archives. Calendars are available at your local markets, such as The Commons, The Calais Bookstore, The Priceton Variety, or you can contact Donald Soctomah or Stephanie Francis. Contact information is provided on the last page of the newsletter.

Remember Me

Remember Me won the Gold Medal Moonbeam Award in the multicultural picture book category in 2009. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the thirty-second president of the United States spent his summers on Campobello island. Tomah Joseph, a Passamaquoddy elder, former chief, guide,

“What stories could that old canoe hold?”

birch bark canoe builder, artist, and basket maker befriended Roosevelt and taught him about the Passamaquoddy culture and canoeing. A creative non-fiction story written by Donald Soctomah and Jean Flahive and illustrated by Mary Beth Owens capture a reflection of

the past. “For many years a birch bark canoe—etched with the symbol of an owl on its bow—leaned against a porch at the summer cottage of the Roosevelt family on Campobello Island, New Brunswick. What stories could that old canoe hold?” (Remember Me, Flahive, J. and Soctomah, D.) Dedication to Tomah Joseph and his descendants, which includes three of Donald Soctomah’s daughters and grandchildren.

Repatriation

In the Fall of 2010, the Historic Preservation Office assisted the Wabanaki Repatriation Committee with the reburial of ancestor’s remains and funerary objects from an out-of-state museum. The Wabanaki Repatriation committee consists of representatives from Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia tribes.

The Wabanaki Repatriation Committee work under the guidelines of NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

NAGPRA provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return certain



Native American cultural items - human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony - to lineal descendants, and culturally affiliated Native American Tribes, and Native Hawaiian organizations.



Research at the National Museum of the American Indian

Donald Soctomah and Stephanie Francis traveled to Washington D.C. to conduct research at the National Museum of the American Indian and the NMAI archives warehouse in Suitland, Maryland during Columbus Day. Near the Washington Monument, various tribal members sold their crafts, drummed and smudged within a circular encampment of teepees. Donald and Stephanie visited the NMAI and photographed various displays, which included artifacts, photographs, regalia, and canoes, contemporary art exhibits with paintings, sculptures, and videos. The fol-

lowing day, they traveled to Suitland, Maryland to the NMAI warehouse. The archives housed many Passamaquoddy baskets in their collection which included Theresa Gardner's Uncle Sam basket, Frances Richard's Pie basket, and other baskets by Rocky and Clara Keezer. Tomah Joseph's artwork was also photographed in the archives, which included a canoe, and a birch bark carrying bag. Donald and Stephanie's final destination was a visit to the photo archives. They collected historic photos to increase the number of tribal photos in the Passamaquoddy archives.

Look for some of the historic photos in the next calendar 2012.



Columbus Day Protest by the George Washington Monument
Photo by D. Soctomah

Aye! No Monuments by Rita Joe

Aye! no monuments
No literature
No scrolls or canvas-drawn pictures
Relate the wonders of our yesterday.

*"Scholars, you will find our art
In names and scenery"*

Land names,
Titles of seas,
Rivers:
Wipe them not from memory.
These are our monuments.

Fast flowing rivers.
These are our sketches
Committed to our memory.
Scholars, you will find our art
In names and scenery,
Betrothed to the Indian since time began.

How frustrated the searchings of the educators.
Let them find

Breathtaking views--
Waterfalls on a mountain,

Native Language Teachers

In late summer, a group of Passamaquoddy language teachers gathered for a workshop with Miqmaq language teachers to learn various methods of instruction.

One method of instruction was the Metallic Method, used by the Miqmaq teachers, who helped to inform the other language teachers of this method,

which utilizes visuals to teach language retention.

The Historic Preservation Office organized and funded the workshop to prepare the teachers for the upcoming school year and the ANA language project/grant.



Group photo of Native Language Teachers. Photo by D. Soctomah

Passamaquoddy Tribe
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Caribou Petroglyph

Passamaquoddy Historic Preservation Office

What are Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO)?

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers are officially designated by a federally-recognized Indian tribe to direct a program approved by the National Park Service and the THPO must have assumed some or all of the functions of State Historic Preservation Officers on Tribal lands. Tribal historic preservation has emphasized the importance of the oral tradition, as well as consulting Tribal elders and spiritual leaders with special knowledge of the Tribe's traditions. They also have given emphasis to the importance of protecting "traditional cultural properties," places that are eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because of their association with cultural practices and beliefs that are rooted in the history of the community and are important in maintaining the continuity of that community's traditional beliefs and practices. Incorporating Tribal cultural values into the historic preservation program has been consistently cited as a priority. Finally, the need for assuming the responsibility for reviewing Federal undertakings that may affect historical properties and the importance of archaeological survey work was consistently mentioned as essential. Tribal Historic Preservation Officers advise Federal agencies on the management of Tribal historic properties and strive to preserve their Tribes' cultural heritage and preservation programs.

Donald Soctomah, THPO

To the Passamaquoddy, the sacred drum was the means of communicating with the Great Spirit in all things as this Passamaquoddy "Song of The Drum" illustrates:

"I sit down and beat the drum, and by the sound of the drum, I call the animals from the mountains. Even the great storm answer to the sound of my drum.

I sit down and beat the drum and the spirit-of-the-night comes and listens to the sound of my drum. Even the great wind-bird will cease chopping and answer to the sound of my drum.

I sit down and beat the drum, and the spirit-under-the-water comes to the surface and listens to the sound of my drum, and the wood-spirit will cease

The Song of the Drum

chopping and answer to the sound of my drum.

I sit down and beat the drum and the great apuhtumkin will come out of the deep and answer to the sound of the drum. The lightening, thunder, storms, gales, forest-spirit, whirlwind, water-spirit, and the spirit-of-the-night-air are gathered together and are listening to the sound of my drum."

(Passamaquoddy at the turn of the Century 1890-1920, Soctomah, Donald. pp 73 and 74)



Joanna Dana and Blanche Sockabasin with a sacred Drum