

Waabi-ma'iingan (Grey Wolf) Traditional Teaching Lodge

They say a picture is worth a thousand words. We are hoping that from these pictures of our 2010 Elders and Youth Gathering entitled: "VOICES FROM THE PAST, FOR TOMORROW", you will get a sense of the love, healing and inspiration you will find inside our Lodge. The 'Lodge' is a *cohesive loving* group of individuals working for the Creator to bring Her messages to all the people seeking Spiritual guidance and looking to share cultural teachings. There are 2 Spirits that guide our Lodge.



1 This lodge was 60 feet long by 18 feet wide and we had more than 50 communities represented within the Lodge

Grandmothers' Council that provides guidance to the Lodge. The mandate of the Lodge is to be inclusive providing a safe and welcoming environment for every one of every ethnic background and all ages. The Vision Statement of the Lodge is:

"With the help of the Creator, we will bring all four Nations together to promote: love; respect; courage; honesty; wisdom; humility; and truth. With an army of helpers, we will achieve these teachings through gatherings sharing knowledge and creating awareness."

Last year at the Elders and Youth Gathering, the youth were so *inspired* by the presence of SO MANY traditional Elders; it brought tears to their eyes when they were speaking. They have been experiencing discrimination and racism at their school and within their community and had been searching for so long for Elders to provide them with the guidance that they needed. They indicated that the Elders that they have in their communities did not have healing in their lives and

Waabi-ma'iingan (Grey Wolf) is the Spirit who governs and protects the Life Teachings left to the earth beings. Every society and nation has an inherit right to these teachings; teachings of universal knowledge and unconditional love, a way to living a healthy balanced lifestyle.

Ozhaawashko-giizhig (Clear Blue Sky) is the Spirit who governs the sky and its beings. It is She that sends a message through *Waabi-ma'iingan* to guide the people to live life in beauty. She is the one who calls us to the Lodge.

The Lodge began on October 11, 2005 and was incorporated on September 15, 2006 as a non-profit (we are not yet registered as a charity). Currently the Board of Directors is made up of individuals both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and we always welcome new Board members! We also have a



2 This was at the end of Lodge when we all greeted each other, you can see the many youth that attended from all over northern Ontario

therefore did not have the knowledge or capacity to be able to pass along the teachings that they require. They stated that with this Gathering and the presence of so many traditional Elders, they felt that they now had hope. The youth told us *exactly* what they need: teachings, their culture, their Spirituality, their dignity, their language and most of all they need HOPE for the future!



3 This was the sweat lodge that was in a more private setting

The Lodge supports a variety of other activities: working with incarcerated youth (in both an open detention setting as well as a secure setting); high school students; two neighbourhood programs; we host a Sharing Circle every second Thursday; we work with two sweat lodges in our area; we host two ceremonies each year to honour the changing of the seasons (spring and fall in Thunder Bay); we host an Elders and Youth Gathering before the Fall Ceremony; we bring in Traditional teachers and healers for individuals to access; we participate with local Intenders Groups; we support the Thunder Bay National Aboriginal Day Committee; and we work with local professionals to promote healing and wellbeing.



4 Mayor Candidate Keith Hobbs and Morgan Dunphy

In a short period of time between April to December 2010, with minimal resources (through the Cultural Strategic Investment Fund), we were able to touch the lives of 1,662 adults and 651 youth for a total of 2,313 people from all walks of life!

For further information or to find out how you can get involved, please contact Cindy Crowe at:

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5 Left to Right, Helaine Dufoe (my mom), Cynthia Coons (my first born) and Cindy Crowe (me)