

Summer Family Anishnaabemowin & Cultural Camp

Beaucage Park, Ontario

August 20-21-22, 2010

**Glenna Beaucage - Anishinaabemowin Giigdong Resource
Nipissing First Nation**



We survived (literally) our first annual summer family anishinaabemowin/culture camp. It was a great community gathering. We want to thank Larry McLeod for using his experience in facilitating annual culture camps and sharing his expertise with us. The first day went well, and the second day was an experience in itself! Our campers woke up to torrential rains and wind. The wind blew down our makeshift “settlement” and left our supplies in disarray.

We held a meeting at the log cabin in Beaucage Park in the morning to decide what to do. Thanks to a pep talk from Larry, he reminded us that we had many out of town visitors who braved the storm to attend our camp, and that we need to “walk the walk”, not just “talk the talk” when it comes to celebrating culture. It would have been much easier, for everyone local to go back home and watch television. He also reminded us that years ago, when our elder’s settlements experienced storms, they couldn’t just go home, it WAS home.

Some of our weekend fare was: ling, baked sheephead, whitefish, butternut squash, rabbit/corn soup, duck soup....

We learned a lot from this experience. The ones who participated all agree that we are lot richer because of this experience.

Gchi-Miigwech to:

- Arnold Henry who went right back to rebuilding our shelters, keeping the fires going and helping with the sweats.
- Our Sagamok ladies, Catherine Eshkakogan and Elaine Toulouse who cooked on the open fire constantly all weekend. Those ladies are remarkable. They can do anything!
- Patrick Ozawanamik and Elijah Shabogesic for helping Larry build that birch bark canoe. That was awesome. Seeing a pile of birch bark, boards and spruce root transform into a canoe is not something we see often.
- Darlene McLeod for helping us learn some crafts: She built a loom out of wood and used reeds to create a hammock. She also taught us to make birch bark containers.
- To Nancy Rowe and Peter Schuler for helping with the sweats
- To Yvette Bellefeuille for helping with food preparation
- To our local elders: Henry Anishnabie, Marlene Barnes, June Commanda, Sylvia Restoule and Evelyn McLeod for always being available to help restore our language.
- To Melynda Shabogesic for presenting that beautiful regalia display.
- To Little Iron Drum for beating that drum and singing so good for us.

- To the staff at Beaucage Park who went over and above, making us happy and welcome. You guys were great!
- To Nipissing First Nation and social services department for sponsoring this event.
- To our culture committee, lands department, Lawrence Commanda health Center (Recreation) and Rick Stevens for donating items and services to make it more special.
- And.....to Sylvia Restoule for showing her skills at skinning a waabooz, to Mary Lawson, Ashley Couchie and Julie Coote for plucking those ducks (zhiishiib)...their first time.....We were so proud of them.

Our next regular language camp is Saturday November 6th (please see flyer), and our next Summer Family Culture & language camp is the second weekend in August 2011. Mark your calendars now....You will love this.

Enjoy the photos.....