

THE EASTERN DOOR



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1992 - 2013

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THIS WEEK



Celebrating Silver Bear

He has been all over the world with his unique sculptures, and for a limited time you can catch Steve McComber's amazing works of art here.

Page 18

Murder trial moves forward

Derek Beauvais will have to wait a year for his trial as his lawyer prepares to fight a first-degree murder charge.

Page 4

If you legislate it, they will smoke

The Mohawk Council has announced a special meeting on tobacco after preliminary results revealed a large percentage of people in favour of regulations.

Page 8

It's our land, you shmuck!

After a successful yet kooky film relating Native land rights with Jewish dispossession, a filmmaker has brought our fight to the synagogue.

Page 10

Educators vow to fight Ottawa

STEVE BONSPIEL
THE EASTERN DOOR

A newly formed group with a vested interest in local education has taken the bull by the horns and is currently formulating plans to come out swinging at the government's proposed First Nations Education Act in the coming weeks.

At a meeting on Tuesday at the Education Center, the fourth in a series of gatherings to fight Ottawa's proposed act, the diverse group sat around a table, dissecting the act line by line on a projector, writing notes on the side that highlighted key points and "to identify what we need to know," according to Deidre Diome, the Kahnawake Combined Schools Committee's assigned parent rep for the FNEA venture.

The years of educational experience in the room was impressive, and the cross section of members, from the longhouse, the education center, the church, the Mohawk Council, among others, showed how dire the situation is.

"The First Nations Education Council has been working on behalf of all the communities in our region," said Diome. "They have hired a constitutional lawyer and have been analyzing all the drafts. It looks as though this draft is the worst of them all."

The proposed act aims to take control of Native education away from the community, despite the assertion from the Conservatives that it was set up to do the opposite.

A meeting with FNEC assistant director Raymond Sioui last week helped the group to familiarize themselves with different possibilities to fight it locally.

"We know we have to go out and educate our staff, our children, our families and our

Sculpting our history



STEVE BONSPIEL THE EASTERN DOOR

Steve McComber, who also goes by the name Silver Bear, has been sculpting in one form or another for close to 50 years. See story on page 18.

community, but first we have to understand what this document means," she said.

"We are waiting for the con-

stitutional review from the FNEC and we're going to marry that together to come out with documents for the community."

A "frontline hub" of people who will share the information has been formed which helped to create a "draft working document," according to Diome.

"From there a committee will be struck and there will be working groups. We've identified things like networking with other communities, with political parties, consulting our teachers, our staff, our parents, working with the Confederacy people. We have a very ambitious plan in terms of how we want to reach out to the community."

Diome talked about the EPP (Education Partnership Program) where Canada promised more money for signatures from Native communities. Kahnawake did not sign onto it, but instead signed the First Nations Students Success Program (FNSSP) in April 2009. It has since been re-signed in 2012 and is in its second year of the new three-year agreement.

The EPP, according to the ed center's director of finance Louie John Diabo, who is also heading the FNEA project, was voted down by parents at an April 6, 2011 general assembly.

Once positive results were achieved through certain aspects of the EPP in other communities who signed on, Canada justified its success and pushed forward to take further control, Diome said.

Part of the problem, said Diome, is there are communities sub-contracting their education to the province, which takes away the local control of that education. In some of those instances, "there were promises made and agreements signed, and then those promises were not kept," said Diome.

Diome looks at Ottawa's FNEA proposal as "just slashing of money. It's cutting everything to the bare bones so there's no

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Outremont rabbi's prayer book highlights stolen land

DANIEL J. ROWE
THE EASTERN DOOR

The Idle No More movement has spanned the globe and surfaced in some very unlikely places.

Rabbi Shachar Orenstein of the Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue of Montreal is a

member of Idle No More and leads his service with a prayer book – with a dust cover that acknowledges the theft of Native land in North America.

“By placing this dust jacket on my prayer book and by holding a prayer book adorned with this dust jacket, I wish to atone for the

sin of theft because I hold in my hands stolen property,” reads the inleaf of the jacket under the title “Atonement.” “The verses in this prayer book are printed on paper from forests growing in America – the land stolen from the Native Americans,” it concludes.

The rabbi made the an-

ouncement that he would be using the dust jacket last Sunday, November 3 at Le Mood, an educational conference in Montreal attended by Liberal Party of Canada leader Justin Trudeau.

“I put on my prayer book this cover,” said Shachar in a video interview obtained by the Eastern Door. “I really appreciate having this. Every time I go to pray, which in my tradition is three times a day, it raises the question whether we should be even praying using paper that may be coming from stolen sources.”

Filmmaker Marc Halberstadt developed the jacket as part of a developing gallery called “the Most Jewish-looking Jesus in History.” His film *CowJews and Indians* – profiled in the October 25 (vol. 22, no. 42) issue of *The Eastern Door* - inspired Orenstein, who took the step and became the first rabbi to use the dust jacket.

The jacket includes a map with the borders of traditional Haudenosaunee territory in between the countries of Canada and the United States.

Continued on page 16



COURTESY MARC HALBERSTADT

Rabbi Shachar Orenstein reads from his sacred prayer book, while drawing attention to land stolen from the Haudenosaunee.

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Quinones and Deer closes its doors after 23 years

TIMMY NORTON
THE EASTERN DOOR

As the word spread on social media that Q&D's Crafts was closing many people stated that they didn't know it was still open. "Yes we have been doing business all along," said Linda Deer, the D in Q&D.

It is a bit of a shock to some, first Evelyn's Convenience closed, and now Q&D's, and Rabaska's is gone forever after the building was torn down recently.

Deer reminisced about the business that was started with her sister Patricia Quinones 23 years ago and was meant to be their retirement business. "My sister passed away 12 years ago," said Deer. "So I just kind of kept it going over the last 10 or 12 years." Deer added that running the store without her sister was never the same.

The store had an ominous opening as it was meant to debut in July of 1990. "Well we all know what happened in July of 1990," said Deer, referring to the Oka Crisis. "So the store had its official debut in October of 1990."

At one time Q&D's offered



TIMMY NORTON THE EASTERN DOOR

Q&D's is selling off old memories and outdated stock at rock-bottom prices throughout November.

sewing and craft classes as well as creating decorations for weddings. "My sister Patricia designed a lot of the decorations and centerpieces for wedding tables," said Deer.

Deer said that she and Patricia did decorating for weddings along with selling everything under the sun for crafts people. Deer hired Anna May Goodleaf to continue to run

Q&D's. "I was very lucky to have Anna May," said Deer. "She was very dedicated." Unfortunately Anna May passed away in October so Deer decided to close the store down.

"The store had steady customers," said Deer. "Anna May didn't sit in the store from 9-5, people would just call Anna May at home and she would head over to the store and the customer would pick up their supplies."

Deer said that almost everything in the store will be 25 percent off and maybe even more. She wants to get rid of everything. Ribbons, buttons, bows, material, beads and much more are on sale. The big blow out began yesterday. The sale will go on throughout the month of November, from Thursday to Sunday.

Deer said that some of the stuff may end up in the garbage but she hopes not and hopes to sell everything she has by the end of November.

"I don't have any plans for the building," said Deer. "I will not be opening another business because my husband and I are retired now and we like to go camping anytime we want; you can't do that if you are running a business."

Q&D's is located near the old Evelyn's store and is attached directly to Deer's home.

Timmy@easterndoor.com

Prayer book

Continued from page 10

"When we see that not only the language, appearance and religion of the Indians was attacked, but also their land; we want to restore the map. We want to give an honest map," said Halberstadt. "The new map, realizing now that we're living on and profiting from a theft of Haudenosaunee territory... Once we see the Haudenosaunee map, the next step is to place that on our prayer book."

The gallery-in-progress involves a series of steps that will present "images of 'Jesus' which might have made the Holocaust fabulously ironic, and which presents the same 'Jesus' as a new visual parable for Native Americans," according to Halberstadt. Jesus in Hebrew is Y'Shua.

"Just as there is a three-way attack on the language, race and religion of Y'Shua, there is an analog-

Refuting all Territorial Claims of The United States of America and Canada

The above map of Haudenosaunee Territory is merely one example of a diversity we have created and stolen from. Whenever we live in America, our federal maps, unlike the one above, violently and fraudulently erase the Native American territories to the Americas and pretend that it is their land to begin with.

The U.S.A./Canada maps we see in any automobile glove compartment, or on the wall of history classes, are examples of the discredited "discovery" theories for colonial imperialism. These colonialist waters and their map-making imperialism have sought to erase the laws of history and memory—the boundary lines and laws of the indigenous peoples—and to underpinning a "discovery" doctrine, which is taught to school children as the truth.

The polemical method of these cartographers, who presented false impressions about the history and legitimacy of the rightful territories of this continent, is analogous to the method of those who forge their name on artwork as if their signature were the signature of the rightful owner of that artwork.

PRAYER BOOK

The verses in this prayer book are printed on stolen paper.

PRAYER BOOK

By placing this dust jacket on my prayer book and by holding a prayer book adorned with this dust jacket, I wish to atone for the sin of theft because I hold in my hands stolen property. The verses in this prayer book are crafted on paper from forests growing in America—the land stolen from the Native Americans.

Even though I personally didn't steal America from the Indians, America has been passed on to me by those who did—and I am now in receipt of stolen goods, including this prayer book.

PRAYER BOOK

Upon these three grounds in Heaven—the best place from the Haudenosaunee.

COURTESY MARC HALBERSTADT

ous attack on the language, race, religion – and land! – of the Native Americans," said Halberstadt.

Rabbi Orenstein explains that the Jewish tradition involves a commandment that says a good

deed that's done through a transgression should not be done.

Halberstadt gives the analogy this way: "if I stole something from you and then gave it to charity, there's a question of whether

my fulfillment of the commandment of charity has been invalidated because I did a sin to do it."

"My invitation to clergy - not only clergy but people of faith, people of conscience – in the Americas

as well as Europe, is to take a look at this and consider putting it on their prayer book," said Orenstein.

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