

**The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians
Anishinaabemowin Program**



Will be hosting its 14th

“E-MKO-WAA-TAA-GO-ZI-JIG 14”

(Sharing Their Knowledge 14)

Leelanau Sands Showroom

Peshawbestown, Michigan

Friday May 15, 2026, 8-5pm

Saturday May 16, 2026, 8-5pm

Sunday May 17, 2026, 8-1pm

This is a free event for anyone wanting to learn Anishinaabemowin Teachings from a wide array of fluent speakers.

For more information contact the
Isadore Toulouse 231-534-7252 or Isadore.Toulouse@gtb-nsn.gov

“Anishinaabemtowaadaanig gdi-binoojiimaanig”

(Let's speak the language to our children)

Emkowaataagozijig 14

(Sharing Their Knowledge 14)

Friday

8:00-9:30 **Breakfast (Kizhebaa-wiisini-daa)**

8:00-9:00 **Registration**

9:00 **Opening Ceremonies**

- **Opening Prayer TBA**
- **Welcome Address**
- **Introduction of presenters**
- **House-keeping Isadore Toulouse**

Riser A

Riser B- Crafts

Riser C

9:30 - 11:00	Rhonda Hopkins	Georgina	Brian Peltier
11:00-11:15	Break		
11:15-12:30	Martina Osawamick	Georgina-Cont.	Gerard Sagassige
12:30-1:30	(Naakwe-wiisini-daa)		
1:30-3:00	Elizabeth Stevens	Myna/Theodore	Lisa Osawamick
3:00-3:15	Break		
3:15-4:45	Elizabeth Osamick	Myna/Theodore Cont.	Bernice Trudeau
4:45-5:00	Group – Closing of the Day		

“Anishinaabemo-daa Enso-giizhigak”

(Let's Speak the Language Everyday)

Emkowaataagozijig 14

(Sharing Their Knowledge 14)

Saturday

Riser A

Riser B- Crafts

Riser C

8:00-9:00	Breakfast		
9:00-10:30	Bernice Trudeau		Lisa Osawamick
10:30-10:15	Break		
10:15-12:00	Elizabeth Osawamick		Gerard Sagassige
12:30-1:30	(Naakwe-wiisini-daa)		
1:30-3:00	Rhonda Hopkins	Gertie Manitowabi	Brian Peltier
3:00-3:15	Break		
3:15-4:45	Martina Osawamick	Gertie Manitowabi Cont.	Elizabeth Stevens
4:45-5:00	Closing of the Day		

Sunday

Riser A

Riser B

Riser C

Floor

8:00-9:00	Breakfast				
9:00-10:30	Elizabeth Stevens	Gerard Sagassige	Martina Osawamick	Gertie Manitowabi	Georgina Toulouse
10:30-10:15	Break				
10:15-12:00	Lisa Osawamick	Brian Peltier	Rhonda Hopkins	Elizabeth Osawamick	Myna/Theodore Toulouse
12:00	(Naakwe-wiisini-daa)-Lunch for the Road Closing of the Emkowaataagozijig-14.				

Emkowaataagozijig 14

Spring Symposium
Friday May 15, Saturday May 16, Sunday May 17, 2026

Presenter Biography

Rhonda Fox-Hopkins



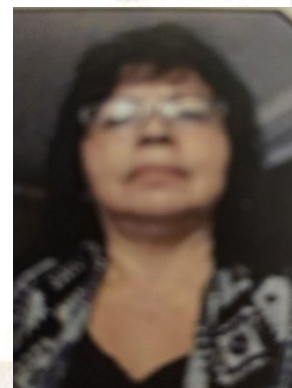
Rhonda is from Wikwemikoong Unceded Indian Reserve, Manitoulin Island Canada. She is a fluent speaker and is well-versed in how the culture is embedded in the language. A language teacher for over 30 years, her knowledge is limitless in transferring literal translation to protect Anishinaabemowin. She is highly supportive of experiential and inquiry-based learning in formulating and valuing the teaching one acquires on their personal life journey

Workshop: Minookimik Dibaajimoowinan (Spring Stories)
Rhonda will share her memories of these stories that has been passed down to her from family events.

Gertie Manitowabi

Gertie Manitowabi is Odawa and is of the Beaver Clan. Her Nishnaabe nooziwin is Waawaasagoonaa Kwe. She was born and raised in Wiikwemikoong First nation, on Manitoulin Island, Ontario. She has learned traditional teachings all her life and is a fluent Anishinaabemowin speaker. Gertie teaches traditional craft making, shares traditional teachings, is a traditional dancer, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

Workshop: Wiingashk Zigaakoogaans (Sweetgrass Pin) In this workshop Gertie will demonstrate the process in making a sweetgrass pin. She will talk about the process of picking sweetgrass and the meaning of the four-color teaching of the ribbon used in the sweetgrass. This is a hands-on activity.



Lisa Osawamick

Lisa is a proud member of Wiikwemikong Unceded Territory of the Anishinaabe Nation, a grandmother, and a dedicated helper with over 35 years of experience in the field. She is a Registered Social Worker and holds a Master of Social Work in the Indigenous Field of Study from Wilfrid Laurier University. Known for her deep passion for supporting others, Lisa walks alongside individuals on their journey toward Mino Bimaadizwin. Since 2019, she has led her own practice, Zaagidwin Counselling and Consulting, where she continues to offer culturally grounded care and guidance.



Workshop Title: Working with Giishkaandag Medicine:

Teachings, Connection, and Practice. This workshop offers a meaningful introduction to working with cedar medicine grounded in respect, relationship, and traditional teachings. Participants will be guided through the cultural and spiritual significance of cedar, including its traditional uses in everyday life and ceremony. This workshop will also include practical teachings on how to work with cedar safely and appropriately on your own—such as preparing cedar for use, incorporating it into personal practices, and understanding protocols around offering, harvesting, and gratitude. Through storytelling, reflection, and experiential learning, participants will leave with a deeper understanding of cedar medicine and feel more confident in respectfully integrating its teachings into their own wellness journey.

Brian Peltier



Boozhoo, my Anishinaabe Noozwin is “Egednaamezit” and my clan is the Deer Clan. I am an Odaawa Anishinaabe. I am married and a father of 2 boys. I speak and write in the Anishinaabemowin and a former Councillor for the Wiikwemikoong Unceded First Nation Territory. I have work extensively for the Wiikwemikoong Heritage organization for several years and continue to work diligently in revitalization efforts with the language. I am very passionate about my language and culture, and I am even more proud to share what

I have learned with my fellow Anishinaabek because we are all Anishinaabek as one big family.

Martina Osawamick



Martina Osawamick an Anishinaabe kwe, Ojibwe/Odawa from Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory is known as Oginii Kwe (Rose Woman) and is of the amik/beaver Clan, makwa/bear and ma'iingan/wolf as her helpers. She is a survivor of the Residential School in Spanish. She is a proud “Nokomis” of twelve grandchildren and a great grandmother to three. One of Martina’s priorities has always been her passion for preserving, maintaining, and revitalizing the Anishinaabemowin language. Nokomis Martina utilizes Indigenous knowledge and ceremonies as a core component in her cultural teachings. She is the (Elder)

Nokomis at Cambrian College in Wabnode Students Services in Sudbury for the past 11years, working part time and teaching through online platforms. She has also worked part-time for the Nswakamok Friendship Centre for the last six years. Nokomis Martina was asked to participate with the RHTLF as the Grandmother Advisor in 2021.

Workshop: Ezhi-bi-mwiidoong Mshkiki Mshkimsens: Waa-zhibinaayiing Eshkiniigjig wii-kendimoowad- Nbwaakaawin miiniwaa waa-shi naagdoowendiswaat!

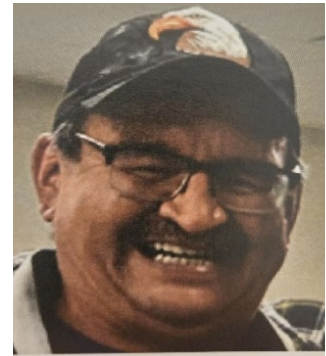
Carrying your Medicine Pouch: Empowering Indigenous Wisdom and Self Care!

Ga-zhitoonan mshkimdensan wii-kediming aaniin enji-bimwidooyiing nanda Mshkiki mshkimdesan, iw sa nwaajgewin naagdoowenjgewin, eyaawyaayin, miinwaa iw Anishinaabe Aadizoowin. Ga-kendan kinoomaagewin, miinwaa ga-ndakendaanan iw sa waa-zhi-niiganzidooying mental, emotional miiniwaa physical miinwaa Mindoo-aadizoowin ezhiyaayin nongwa sa ezhi-wewiibsemigak bimaadizowin nongwa akiing. Maanda debaajmowin miiniwaa zhitoong mshkimsensan, eshkinigjig dakendaanawan waa-zhi zhitoong wii- mino-zhiyaawaat miinwaa ezhi-dibendaagzowaat.

In this interactive presentation we will explore the significance of carrying a medicine pouch as a symbol of self-care, identity and connection to Indigenous heritage. Drawing on traditional teachings and personal experiences, we will explore the importance of prioritizing mental, emotional, and physical and spiritual well-being in today’s fast-paced world. Through storytelling, hands-on activity and guided reflections, participants will learn practical ways to create their own medicine pouch with pride and purpose.

Gerard Sagassige

Boozhoo, my Nishnaabe name is Shkaabaawis Sagassige Giizis also known as Gerard Sagassige. My mother came from Curve Lake First Nation in Southern Ontario and my father came from the Serpent River First nation along the North Shore of Lake Huron. I currently work for the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians as the Traditional healer. During my spare time he visits with his children in Hastings Ontario and on most weekends during the summer months he will be MC'ing a pow-wow somewhere.



Workshop: In this workshop Gerard will talk about the elements of nature. Why must we honor and respect all these elements in our everyday lives.

Elizabeth Osawamick



Biography: Liz Osawamick (Giniw Miigwan) is of the Anishinaabe and Odawa Nation and is originally from Wiikwemikoong Unceded First nation located on the Manitoulin Island. She is of the beaver clan. She is currently teaching Anishinaabemowin at Trent University. Liz utilizes Indigenous knowledge and teaching songs and ceremonies as a core component in her teaching methods and community work facilitating various language Immersion programs and cultural teachings within First nation communities. She is in her 11th year as President for Anishinaabemowin-Teg Inc.

Workshop: Binoojiinh Nigamowin (Children Songs) In this workshop Liz will demonstrate how she creates her songs by incorporating the simple methods of repetition.

Elizabeth Stevens

Ojibwe/Boodwe'aatomi ookomis ndaaw. Kettle and Stony Point FN ndibendaagoz.

I am a Ojibwe/Boodwe'aatomi Grandmother who is a member of the Kettle and Stony Point FN, Ontario. It is important to seize opportunities to share knowledge, our Indigenous World View, our life experiences and challenges of preserving Anishinaabemowin.

I am determined to improve every day by participating in transformative environments with others seeking to speak Anishinaabemowin. Commitment to the preservation, promotion and revitalization of Indigenous Language requires daily intention to fan the flame and keep the language and culture alive.

Title: Miinkaanensan (Seeds)

Ancestors have provided seeds of wisdom to guide and ground us as we travel to the future. What role does Anishinaabemowin play in accessing the Wisdom and how do we share the knowledge. How can language serve as a bridge to strengthen our communities. (Beginner Anishinaabemwin level)



Myna & Theodore Toulouse



A husband and wife team teaching the process of birch bark & quill work. They come from the Sagamok First Nation and both are now retired. They travel across Ontario and Michigan conducting workshops on making quill boxes, quilled medicine wheels. Myna has won awards for her quill work in both Canada and the United States of America. Ted harvests

the material (bark and quills) for Myna's craft making. Both are fluent in Anishinaabemowin speakers.

Workshop Title: Quill box, Medallion, or Earrings. Facilitators will demonstrate the process of making a simple quill box, medallion or a pair of earrings. Each of the participants will get to create a masterpiece of their own to take home with them.

Georgina Bebamikawe-Toulouse



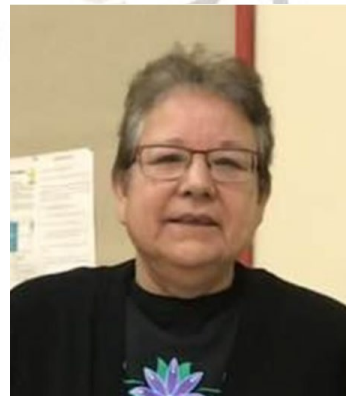
Georgina is a graduate of Ontario College of Art with a major in print making. She owned and operated a successful screen-printing studio, Bebamikawe Studios in Wikwemikoong on Manitoulin Island. She is also a sculptor, print maker, painter, business owner and fabric artist. She was commissioned to make a Bronze sculpture of Tecumseh located on Walpole Island. Her fabric art includes quilting, embroidery of native designs, dance regalia and one of a kind pieces. With her fabric art, she has designed native dolls in honor of her mother who attended residential school.

Workshop: Shiishiigwon (Making rattles) This workshop is a hands-on workshop where the presenter will show the participants how to make a rattle using birch bark as the outer layer.

Bernice Trudeau

Gaatenjgekwe ndizhnikaaz. Bernice Trudeau ndo zhaagnaashi noozwin. Wikwemikong debendaagwaz. Pane gwa gii bi anishnaabem eta gaa binji kognigowaanh. Baamaa zhaagnaashiimowin ngii noondaan e'maajii kinomaagegwazyaan. Mii owi.

I introduced myself with my spirit name because that is who I am and feel more connected to. My English name is Bernice Trudeau and I am from Wikwemikong First Nation. I only spoke our language where I was raised. It wasn't until I started school that I learned how to speak English. I will share a little about what I have done and continue doing in regard to helping others preserve our language.



I taught language classes at Georgian College in Barrie for six years before deciding to move back home after moving off for forty-two years. I now teach at various immersion camps for several different organizations throughout the year and help out when asked at other language camps, organizations and zoom sessions.

Workshop: In this session, Bernice will introduce simple phrases and small conversations starters to help build confidence in speaking Anishinaabemowin in everyday situations. Perfect for beginners or anyone looking to refresh their language skills





