

MIIGWETCH

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council
Tribal Administration
Owens Soft Water, Inc. of Clare
2015 MIIBS Field School Students
Isabella County Transportation Commission I-Ride
CMU College of Humanities & Social & Behavioral Sciences

Sam's Club
Sam Staples
Denny Adams
Coyne Oil/Citgo
Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans
Mt. Pleasant Commerce Center

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Departments & Organizations

Behavioral Health, Housing, Environment & Planning Department, Information Technology, Soaring Eagle Waterpark - Nbakade Restaurant, Nimkee Public Health, Public Relations, SCIT Media, Elijah Elk Cultural Center - Seventh Generation, Tribal Education, Tribal Fire, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Observer, Tribal Operations Maintenance, Tribal Police, Youth LEAD, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

MIIBS Committee & "Honoring, Healing & Remembering" Planning Committee:

Sgt. Scott Bailey, Frank Cloutier, Lois Dockery, Michael Fisher, Guadalupe Gonzalez, Craig Graveratte, Colleen Green, Marcella Hadden, Anita Heard, Sarah Hegyi, Beatrice Jackson, William Johnson, Daisy Kostus, Patrick Lawton, Kathy Lett, Amanda Lewis, Don MacDonald, Shannon Martin, Thomasine "Ruby" MeShawboose, Chip Neyome, Alice Jo Ricketts, Eric Rodriguez, Barry Skutt, David Syckle, Robin Spencer, Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans, Skye Wekwert

Silent Auction Donors:

Central Michigan University, Fusion Fitness Boot Camp, Kitigikwe Goods, Mission Street Bigby, Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum, Nimkee Fitness, Sagamok Shell, SCIT Gaming Commission, SCIT Housing Department, SCIT Planning Department, SCIT Public Relations Department, SCIT Tribal Youth, Soaring Eagle Casino Marketing, Soaring Eagle Waterpark, Wabooz Run, Michelle Colwell, Bev Evans, Audrey Falcon, Sharonne Fogel, Glenna Genereaux, Marcella Hadden, Esther Helms, Tamera House, William Johnson, Amanda Lewis, Shannon Martin, Angela Peters, Karen Showalter, Robin Spencer, Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans

"In honoring and remembering, we begin to heal from the devastating effects that our children endured. During the Boarding School Era our children did not have a choice. Today they are blessed in knowing this will never happen to them."

*--Steve Pego, Tribal Chief
Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe*

"HONORING, HEALING & REMEMBERING"

Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

Friday, June 5, 2015 • 7am-4pm

www.sagchip.org/miibs • miibs@sagchip.org

The Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School operated from June 30, 1893 to June 6, 1934 with an average enrollment of 300 students per year.



Miigwetch (Thank you) for joining us on the 81st anniversary of the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS) closing as we recognize the suffering, strength, and resilience of the children through a day of memorial and fellowship.

Sponsored by the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School Committee, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, Central Michigan University, Isabella County Transportation Commission (ICTC) I-Ride and the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

Safety & Rules

- 1.) Due to the presence of lead and asbestos contamination, for your health & safety **PLEASE STAY AWAY FROM THE BUILDINGS.**
- 2.) Please respect & stay within the designated areas.
- 3.) **DO NOT** leave your children unattended.
- 4.) In the event of an injury or emergency, Tribal Fire & Tribal Police are onsite.
- 5.) Listen for announcements that direct you to refrain from taking photographs or video during particular portions of the program.
- 6.) **DO NOT** litter. Trash & recycling receptacles are available throughout the area.
- 7.) No pets allowed - service animals permitted.
- 8.) The only fire allowed onsite will be the Sacred Fire.

History of Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

To fulfill part of the 1855 Treaty with the Anishinabek in Michigan, the United States Congress established the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School (MIIBS). Anishinabe Three Fires Confederacy lands were taken, and in exchange government officials promised to provide an education to all American Indian children. The 1855 Treaty became the basis for the 1934 Comstock Act legislation which pays for the college education of American Indians in Michigan. Today, it is known as the Michigan Indian Tuition Waiver.

The Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School consisted of 37 buildings on 320 acres of land, with an average enrollment of 300 American Indian students per year in grades K-8. The school operated from 1893 to 1934. Daily life was very regimented. Like other American Indian Boarding Schools, students were forbidden to speak their language, honor their culture, and practice their spirituality. The students performed work such as laundry, farm work, cleaning, and other manual labor for the majority of the school day. They also received basic academic instruction for the remainder of the day.

State of Michigan Land Conveyance

Public Act 208 was signed into law by Governor Granholm and became effective on October 25, 2010. The act authorized conveyance of a tract of land (the former Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School campus) to the City of Mt. Pleasant and Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. For \$1 each the City was offered 311.14 acres and the Tribe was offered 8.86 acres, which included six historic boarding school buildings and the Mission Creek Cemetery. The City and the Tribe were given 180 days to render a decision on whether to accept or reject the conveyances.

The Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council launched a community-based participatory feasibility study on January 29, 2011 to address Public Act 208. Tribal Council charged an Advisory Group of internal experts to rigorously assess community interest and identify key factors to consider in order to provide the Tribal Council with enough relevant information to guide their final decision.

On Wednesday, April 22, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council voted to accept the land conveyance. The official \$1 deed transfer from the State of Michigan to Tribal Chief Dennis Kequom took place Monday, April 25, 2011 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways.

The former MIIBS Advisory Group became a sanctioned committee by Tribal Council in October 2011 and continues to meet regularly at the Ziibiwing Center.

Program

- 7:00am Sunrise Ceremony at Mission Creek Cemetery - Steve Pego
- 8:00am Breakfast (Provided at MIIBS site)
- 9:30am Pipe Ceremony - Steve Pego
- 10:00am **Grand Entry & Flag Song** - *Min Ode Singers*
Silent Auction and 50/50 begin
- 10:30am Roll Call, Remembering the Deceased
- William Johnson and Daisy Kostus - MIIBS Committee Members
- 11:15am Honor Song - *Min Ode Singers*
- 11:20am Opening Prayer - Isabelle Osawamick, Anishinabe Outreach Specialist, ALRD
- 11:25am **Welcome** - Steve Pego, Tribal Chief, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Dr. Tim Hall, Associate Dean, CMU College of Humanities
- Nancy Ridley, City Manager, City of Mt. Pleasant
- 11:45am **30-minute Guided Tour of the Site**
- 12:00pm Lunch (Provided by Nbakade)
Music by *Spirits Rising* - Joe Reilly and Allison Radell
- 1:00pm **30-minute Guided Tour of the Site**
- 1:30pm **Keynote Address** - Dr. Theresa Turmel, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario
- 2:30pm Unveiling of Beadwork - Summer Peters
- 2:45pm Poetry - Gordon Henry
- 3:00pm Jingle Dress Healing Dance - Melissa Montoya, Yebishawn Oldshield,
N'Daunis Pego and *Min Ode Singers*
- 3:15pm Round Dance - *Min Ode Singers*
- 3:30pm Silent Auction and 50/50 end
Give-Away
- 4:00pm Closing Prayer - Daisy Kostus -MIIBS Committee Member
Traveling Song - *Snowbird Singers* and *Min Ode Singers*

Miigwetch & Baamaa Pii!

Visit the Ziibiwing Center Booth

Donations will be accepted at the Ziibiwing Center Booth for several items commemorating "Honoring, Healing & Remembering" (HHR). All proceeds go to the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School Commitee to fund future events.

- *"American Indian Boarding Schools: An Exploration of Global Ethnic & Cultural Cleansing Supplemental Curriculum Guide" • \$5 donation*
 - *HHR T-Shirts • donation \$5 each*
 - *HHR Commemorative Buttons • \$1 donation*
- Silent Auction and 50/50 raffle run from 10:00am to 3:30pm. Proceeds benefit the MIIBS Project.**



**ZIIBIWING
CENTER**