

Miigwetch

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council
Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Administration
Bead & Powwow Supply, LLC
City of Mt. Pleasant
CMU Events & Staff
CMU Native American Programs
Culligan
Eagle Staff, Flag & Pipe Carriers
Isabella County Transportation Commission I-Ride
Jingle Dress Dancers
Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Ogitchedaw Society
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' Tribal Council
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians' Ogitchedaw Society
Sam Staples
Sweetgrass Productions
Women of Tradition

Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Departments & Organizations

Anishinabe Ogitchedaw Veterans & Warrior Society, Behavioral Health - Nog-da-win-da-meg, Education Department, Elders Advisory Board, Elijah Elk Cultural Center - 7th Generation Program, Housing Department, Information Technology/SCIT Media, Native Connections, Nimkee Public Health, Planning /Environment Department, Public Relations, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort/Food & Beverage/Marketing, Soaring Eagle RV Park, Soaring Eagle WaterPark/Nbakade Restaurant, Tribal College Extension, Tribal Fire Department, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Tribal Libraries, Tribal Observer, Tribal Operations Utilities /Maintenance Department, Tribal Police Department, Women of Tradition, Youth Council and Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

MIIBS Committee & Honoring, Healing & Remembering Planning Committee

Jonathan Ayling, Nick Bacon, Raymond Cadotte, Aaron Graveratte, Colleen Green, Tera Green, Anita Heard, Glenna Jenkins, William Johnson, Sarah Jones, Daisy Kostus, Amanda Lewis, Shannon Martin, Mariann Pelcher-Wright, Erik Rodriguez, Robin Spencer, Shuna Stevens, Dr. Sarah Surface-Evans, David Syckle II, Kateri Walker

Silent Auction Donors

Laura Carter, Michelle Colwell, Donna Dunlap, Bonnie Ekdahl, Audrey Falcon, Esther Helms, Anna Hon, Independent Bank, Glenna Jenkins, William Johnson, Amanda Lewis, Shannon Martin, John McMillan, Isabelle Osawamick, Angela Peters, Sagamok Mobil, SCIT Housing Department, SCIT Tribal Administration, SCIT Planning Department, SCIT Public Relations, SECR Marketing & Entertainment, SECR Spa, Sandy Smith, Snowbird Singers, Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort, Soaring Eagle Waterpark & Hotel, Waabooz Run, Ziibiwing Commercial Services

HONORING, HEALING & REMEMBERING

Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School

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.

Thursday, June 6, 2019 • 7am-4pm

Miigwetch (Thank you) for joining us on the 85th 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 Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan's Anishinaabeg Child & Family Services, Behavioral Health, Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School Committee, Tribal College, Tribal Historic Preservation Office, and Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Native Connections, Central Michigan University, Isabella County Transportation Commission I-Ride, United States Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food & Agriculture

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 April 20, 2011, 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 on 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.

"The Boarding School Era is a very difficult subject to discuss and understand. The most difficult issue for me is that these children were taken from their homes and sent away with the intention to return, but often times not with the resources. Some children lost their lives and that is what this event represents. We honor those young souls and recognize them as Anishinabe people, which is the exact opposite of the intentions of the boarding school. I believe this is an opportunity to bring peace to those lost and to let them know their people are still strong in their culture and still thriving today." - **Chief Ronald F. Ekdahl, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan**

AGENDA

Mission Creek Cemetery:

7am - Sunrise Ceremony - *George Martin & Steve Pego with the assistance of Ogitchedawag & Women of Tradition*

*MIIBS (Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School) site:

8am - Breakfast

9:30am - Pipe Ceremony

10am - Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle begin. All proceeds to benefit the MIIBS Project.
(Both fundraisers end at 4pm)

10:15am - Grand Entry & Flag Song: **Min Odé**

- Opening Prayer: **Isabelle Osawamick**, Anishinabe Outreach Specialist, SCIT
Anishinabe Language Revitalization Department

- Student Roll Call "Remembering the Deceased"

- Welcome: **Chief Ronald Ekdahl**, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
Robert O. Davies, CMU President & City of Mount Pleasant Official

12:00pm - Lunch

12:30-1pm - 30-minute Guided Tour of the site

1-1:50pm - Keynote Addresses: **Christine McCleave & Sarah Jones**

2-3:30pm - Keynote Address & Musical Performance: **Kelly Jackson**

3:30pm - Jingle Dress Healing Dance & Celebratory Round Dance

4pm - Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle end

- Give-Away

- Traveling Song: **Snowbird Singers**

Visit the
Ziibiwing

Center

Booth

Donations will be accepted at the Ziibiwing Center Booth for items commemorating "Honoring, Healing & Remembering" All proceeds go to the *MIIBS Committee to fund future events

- HHR Commemorative Buttons - \$1 donation
- "American Indian Boarding Schools" - \$5 donation



FELLOW TRIBES:

Please consider making a financial contribution to the 2020 event. Current budget is \$7,500. Call 989.775.4750 for more information.