

The SCTC Land Grant Office is hosting a

# Mndaamin (Corn) Ashing Workshop

*Join us at Mshkikiikaan to learn how to process Mndaamin.*

**Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025**

- **Time:** 1-7 p.m.
- **Location:** Mshkikiikaan Ceremonial area  
(6900 E. Remus Rd., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858)
- You will learn how to shuck, ash, clean, dry, and cook the corn with Howard Kimewon while sharing stories, language and teachings.
- Wear your ribbon skirt if you have one.
- Bring a lawn chair and feast bundle if you have one.

## Agenda

- **1-2 p.m.** | Braiding Mndaamin with Kelly Willis, Saginaw Chippewa Ogichidaw Elder, Land Grant Office Extension & Farm Coordinator
- **2-5 p.m.** | Shuck, ash, clean, dry, and cook Mndaamin with Howard Kimewon, First Nations Elder from Wikwemikong
- **5-6 p.m.** | Traditional Mndaamin Slik Tea and corn bread with Saginaw Chippewa Indigenous Chef Sam Anglin, Land Grant Office Traditional Food Educator
- **6-7 p.m.** | Corn Husk Doll Making with Julienne Montour, Mohawk of Kanawake



## Instructor: Howard Kimewon

Howard Kimewon was born in Wikwemikong in 1950. He grew up speaking Anishinaabe, which was his first language. When he was 8 years old, Howard began school. It was hard for him to learn English because it felt strange. Anishinaabe doesn't have r's or l's, so pronouncing words was difficult. If Howard didn't say the words correctly, Sister Alberta would give him a spanking. The priest and all the teachers were Catholic. Howard didn't feel like he fit in; that wasn't his world.

From ages 9 to 12, Howard spent time with his grandma and elders learning about medicines and herbs. He was raised on a farm where they planted potatoes, turnips, and other foods. Howard weeded and cared for the garden during the summer. When he was 9, his grandma bought him a pair of ice skates for Christmas, which started his hockey playing. She would take him to practice and stay until he was done, but she would make him leave right after. Howard's grandma knew the priest had abused some of the boys, so she wouldn't let him stay. He was upset until he understood why she made him leave.

At 15 or 16, he attended school in Ontario. It was a strange place. This school was located in the city, and that was the first time Howard left the rez. It was tough, but Howard spent three years there. While enrolled, he learned both French and English. Afterward, he moved to Saint Catherine, Ontario, to attend a different school. This school was in a smaller town. The environment was different; mainly Hungarians and Puerto Ricans lived there.

Howard played hockey in his senior year of high school until he was 64. After graduating, he moved around, trying different jobs. He learned construction, carpentry, chimney work, block laying, roofing, sheet metal work, and worked on high-rise buildings. This is when Howard gained his understanding of the outside world.

Howard is a fluent speaker who can speak Italian, French, Iroquois, Ojibwe, Cree, and English. His mom advised him to quit his job and pursue something else, like teaching the language. Howard has taught the language at several places, including Bay Mills, Harbor Springs, and the University of Michigan. Brooke Simons learned the language from Howard and went on to teach and help publish the Minnesota Ojibwe Dictionary.

Howard is retired. He enjoys traveling and exploring new places. Howard goes out collecting medicines, food, birch bark, and more. Howard conducts workshops and presentations.

**For more information, please contact:** Kathleen Hart at 989.317.4827 or [khart@sagchip.edu](mailto:khart@sagchip.edu)

\*If reasonable accommodation is needed to participate, please contact Mary Pelcher, 1-989-317-4967, [mpelcher@sagchip.org](mailto:mpelcher@sagchip.org) or [mpelcher@sagchip.edu](mailto:mpelcher@sagchip.edu). Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College is committed to the full inclusion of all qualified individuals. As part of this commitment, Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College will ensure that persons with disabilities are provided reasonable accommodations. \*\*Non Discrimination Statement: Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College (SCTC) and its Board of Regents is committed to providing a non-discriminatory and harassment-free educational and working environment for all members of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College community, including students, faculty, administrators, staff, and visitors. It is the policy of SCTC that no person shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, including harassment, in employment and admissions, in education, or in any program or activity for which the College is responsible, on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion, medical condition, veteran status, marital status or any other characteristic protected by institutional policy or tribal or federal law. \*\*