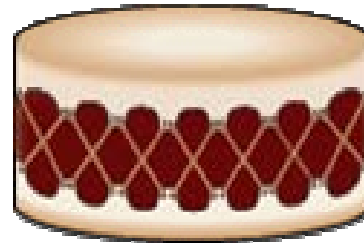


# NATIVE CULTURAL AWARENESS



*Medicine Wheel*

The Medicine Wheel is indicative of many different cycles which include; four directions, North, South, East and West; four elements, Earth, Air, Fire and Water; four medicines, Tobacco, Sage, Cedar and Sweet Grass; four seasons, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter; four colors representative of all people; and the cycle of life, Infant, Adolescent, Adult and Elder. The wheel is ever evolving and teaches new lessons and truths as we walk through life. It teaches that all lessons are equal as well as all talents and abilities. All living creatures will eventually experience each spoke of the wheel and will know the truth. It represents truth peace and harmony. The circle is never ending, life without end.



*Drum*



Drumming symbolizes the Heartbeat of Mother Earth. Through song and chants we offer prayer and show honor and respect to the Creator and all people.

Before you take your first drumbeat you must offer tobacco and prayer to the drum and the Creator. Four honor beats are given and then you commence with drumming and song.



**Our Museum is open Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Located within the  
Micmac Cultural Community  
Education Center  
7 Northern Rd  
Presque Isle ME 04769  
Phone (207) 764-1972**



**Interpreting the  
Significance of our  
Cultural Traditions**

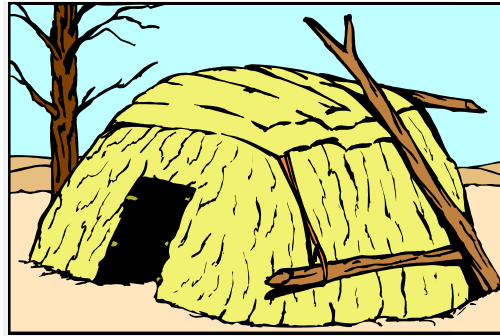


*Tobacco Bundle*



Tobacco is a sacred medicine that is offered to the Creator, Sacred Fire, or Spiritual Leader before a prayer is made.

To purify processed tobacco, the tobacco is placed in paper then buried in Mother Earth (ground) for four days to allow the tobacco to be purified before it is used in sacred ceremonies.



*Sweat Lodge*



The Sweat Lodge is a symbol of Mother Earth's womb. Once inside the Sweat Lodge, you are inside the womb where spiritual ceremonies take place. When the ceremonies are completed you leave the lodge spiritually cleansed and healed.

There are four elements that are used in the Sweat Lodge: mineral, the stones used for the sweat; fire, the Sacred Fire used to heat the stones; water, to be poured over the hot stones; and air, the steam and vapor that rises to fill the Sweat Lodge. You must have all four elements working together to have a successful Sweat Lodge ceremony.



*Sacred Fire*



The Sacred Fire is used for prayer and ceremonies. Before making the fire the ground must be purified with sweet grass.

Once a Sacred Fire is lit it must stay burning until the prayer or ceremony has been completed.

When praying at the Sacred Fire you offer Tobacco for your prayer. When the Tobacco burns it will carry your prayers to the Creator.

