

Smoke Signals Radio Archive Episode 1994-04-09  
Segment 1  
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*Dan Smoke tells listeners how the sacred teachings of the Great Law of Peace will help individuals, communities, and nations continue down a healing path to heal Mother Earth, and to help nations live in peace and harmony. After, Dan gives listeners details about the First Annual Welcoming the Nations powwow that is happening at the University of Western Ontario.*

Host(s): Dan Smoke, Mary Lou Smoke

**DAN SMOKE:** Aanii! Boozhoo! Sge:no, shekoli! Aniish na? Skanako:ka? And greetings to all of our listeners of Smoke Signals First Nations Radio, here at Radio Western 94.7 FM, London's Real Radio. My name is Dan Smoke, Asayenes, I'm of the **Seneca Nation, Killdeer clan**, and I'm in the studio this afternoon with my wife, co-hostess, Mary Lou Smoke, **Ojibwe Nation, Bear clan**. And we have our technician, Steve Hunter, filling in for Hal Gilpin, and we also have another guest of ours, Monica Baker. And we'd just like to say hello and greetings from all of us here in the Smoke Signals on-air booth right now. Hello.

**MARY LOU SMOKE:** Hi Dan!

**DS:** Yes, Mary Lou! So, I guess let's let us begin by telling our listeners a little bit about what we've been doing in the past few weeks that we haven't been on the air, and we have had some guest hosts filling in for us. I'd just like to, at this time, acknowledge our gratitude, our extreme, deep, heartfelt gratitude to Paul Hogan, Peter Kohl, who have sat in for us and been here for the two-hour time period that Smoke Signals is on the air, and they have been able to entertain and inform the public and the Native community here in **London** about what's been happening whilst we've been away at various functions to attend and absorb and record some of the traditional teachings, some of the culture, some of the music that has been happening in Indian country; that is happening generally in the **Toronto** area that we have been, for the past few weeks, covering. And we have been endeavouring to cover these events so that we can bring them back to you and have them packaged for you, have them ready for you to hear a summary of just a little bit of what we have been able to witness and record in our hearts and minds.

The **Great Law of Peace**, which is the gift of the peacemaker that was given to the **Iroquois Confederacy**, the **Six Nations**, the **Ongweoweh**, who we call, which in our language means *the original people*, or else we refer to ourselves as the **Haudenosaunee**, which means *people of the long house*. There are six different nations, which include the **Mohawk**, the **Oneida**, the **Onondaga**, the Seneca, and the **Cayuga**, and the sixth nation is the **Tuscarora**. So originally it was a confederacy of five nations, but the Great Law of Peace, which talks to the **Iroquois** people and teaches them about peace, power, and righteousness, tells us that we must walk around with a good mind and a good heart, and this teaching is very, very important. It tells us not to walk around with anger. It tells us not to walk around with fear. And it tells us not to walk around with resentment, because for many of our people, many of the Ongweoweh people, many of the **Anishinaabe** people, they have been controlled for large part in our communities by a cycle of violence that is dominated and controlled by anger, fear, and resentment. And these are controlling factors which we are seeing in many of our communities across **Turtle Island** that continue to this day to devastate our way of life. Continue to devastate our language. Continue to devastate our traditional teachings, our customs, and our songs and dances, and the supreme values that were given to us by the **Creator**.

In the Anishinaabe tradition, they have the **Council of Three Fires Great Law of Teachings** as well. It's a council of Three Fires Teachings that talk about confederacy of the Three Fires, which is the **Ojibwe**, the **Odawa**, and the **Potawatomi**, which are all situated from as far north as **Manitoulin Island** to as far south as **Wisconsin** and a little farther south than that in the United States. But their teachings also talk about the teachings of kindness, of sharing, of truth and honesty, and of strength. And again, with these supreme values in your lives, then there's no room for fear and anger and resentment. And so, these are some of the teachings we are trying to bring back into our lives, our individual lives, we are trying to bring back into our family lives, we are trying to bring back into our community lives. And as communities that become empowered, that become decolonized, that become healed, we continue on the healing path as nations together, working side-by-side, coexisting, respecting one another's differences, one another's similarities, we embark on a healing path to heal our **Mother Earth**.

We give acknowledgement and gratitude to the Creator for the fertility of our Mother Earth, and for the new life which is about to begin. So, at this point, we'd like to acknowledge that the **Thunder People** have returned back to this part of creation, and the Thunder People are here to do their work. We welcome back the **Thunder Moon**. The Thunder Moon which has to wake up, has to shake up the Earth, shake up and wake up all creation from the leaves, from the buds that are starting to form on the trees, on the tree nations, to the small birds that we are starting to hear being born now. The bird nation. Their new life is starting to begin anew. And all this life is being woken up, from the **Medicine Bear**, from the bear nation that Mary Lou is a member of, that clan, all the way down to the fish that is living in the water, that is looked after in the water. That new life, that fertility of Mother Earth that is giving new life to all of this creation. And so, these life forces from the **Father Sky**, from our **Grandmother Moon**, from our eldest brother the Sun, and from our Mother Earth, continue to this day to live according to the sacred instructions that the Creator gave them. And so, it is our duty as human beings to bring back those same sacred instructions, to live in peace, to live in harmony, to coexist with one another, to coexist in harmony with these sacred life forces from our eldest brother the Sun, from our Grandmother Moon, from our Father Sky, and from our Mother Earth. This family that we belong to. We have to remember those, we help one another, how we continue to live in good balance and harmony.

**DS:** And so, we want to acknowledge that this was the invocation given not too long ago, about quarter after 12, about an hour ago over at the **Alumni Hall** right up here at the **University of Western Ontario**, where a First Nations gathering is taking place. These gatherings are commonly called **pow wows**, and the **Native Students' Association** of the University of Western Ontario is putting on a First Nations gathering and a presentation for the Native community, as well as the non-native community, and we invite everybody to come on down to Alumni Hall right now where they will be drumming and dancing and singing up until about 5:00-6:00 this afternoon. And during this time period, we will be hearing oral presentations on some of the histories of the Oneida, the **Onyota'a:ka** First Nation, on the Ojibwe First Nation, as well as the **Delaware Lenni Lenape** First Nations, and the Potawatomi First Nations. So, all this is taking place over at Alumni Hall, and I have a summary of what is exactly happening over there. The **host drum** is the **White Eye Singers** and they come from **Walpole Island**, and **invited drum** is the **Delaware Nation Singers**, and later on this afternoon, we will be hearing from the **Onyota'a:ka Traditional Women's Singers**. Okay? So this is put on by the **First Nations Student Association and Friendship Society** of the University of Western Ontario. It's also a new endeavour of the **First Nations Services Department**, of which our good friend and sister, **Vivian Peters**, is the person to see in regards to the hiring and the employment equity here on the university community. But as I was talking before, the historical accounts by the original people will be taking place. The persons that will actually be doing these historical presentations

are...**Darryl Stonefish** will be talking on the Lenni Lenape. The Lenni Lenape originally migrated from the state of **New Jersey** and **North Carolina** and travelled up this way as they were being persecuted by the **American** people, and settled in what is known today as **Moraviantown**, which is just down Highway No. 2. They also settled over by the **Chippewas of the Thames**, across the river from the Oneida First Nations. **Bellinger Brown** will be talking a little bit about the Onyota'a:ka and how they came up to be where they are presently situated just outside of London.

**Marcia Simon** will be talking a little bit about the history of the Potawatomi, and how they came to be settled down at what is now **Sarnia** over to **Detroit**, all around down in that area. And **Chief Del Riley** of the Chippewas of the Thames will be talking a little bit about the Anishinaabe history, and Del will be explaining how the Anishinaabe have always traditionally existed in this area, have always been part of this territory, have always lived here, and have always had a covenant with the Iroquois Confederacy, with the other Three Fires First Nations, as well as the Lenni Lenape who are another distinct First Nations in this area. And they were all coexisting and respecting one another's differences, each other's language, each other's different traditional teachings. But they continue to coexist side-by-side without trying to change one another, without trying to make an Ojibwe into an Iroquois, or a Lenni Lenape Delaware into an Ojibwe. And they continue to respect one another's differences. So, we had the Grand Entry at quarter after 12. And from my understanding, it is a free event. Admission is free, but donations for the potluck are welcome. Please bring any food that you would like to donate to this potluck dinner, which will probably be taking place about 5:00 this evening.

So, there are a number of dancers over there now. There will be some traditional events being taken place when **tobacco** is given. Tobacco is the medium of the First Nations people. It was given to us by the Creator so that whenever we wanted to speak to the Creator, whenever we wanted to acknowledge to the Creator our gratitude, then we would present that tobacco. And that tobacco is also the protocol which we still observe to this day, where whenever that tobacco is presented, then something sacred is going to be happening. Something traditional. And we still continue to acknowledge a traditional giveaway, a traditional eagle feather commemoration. A traditional honour dance commemoration that takes place when that tobacco is given to a drum, then that drum, if they accept that tobacco, then they will honour that person, for what that person is asking a special song for. And that will be taking place over at the Alumni Hall pow wow as well. So whenever you see anything like that taking place over there, tobacco being given to a drum, and then the drum accepting that tobacco, then the master of ceremonies, who is **Dean George**, the MC, will explain exactly what that tobacco was given for and he will speak on behalf of that tobacco, and he will explain, you know, why it is this is taking place.

So we want to just let you know that this will be...if you see this and you don't understand what is happening, Dean George, the MC, will be explaining for you so that you understand why that tobacco was presented. So that will be taking place too. I understand that there will be some blanket dances. And these blanket dances are for travel, to cover travel expenses of some of the drums that may arrive and be part of the pow wow but did not let the coordinator of the pow wow know in advance, so that their expenses would be covered. So the blanket dance is for anyone who wants to contribute to those travel expenses, for bringing that drum, for bringing those singers to this pow wow. So that is why that will be taking place. But from my understanding, there will be some blanket dances this afternoon.

**DS:** And our good brother from the west coast **Salish Nation, Peter Kohl**, is here right now to join us too, so I'd just like to say hi Peter. And right now, we're going to have a musical break, and we're going to listen to **Joanne Shenandoah** of the Oneida Nation. And she's going to be

joined by **Paul Ortega** of the **Apache First Nations** down in **Arizona**. And this comes from their album ***The Loving Ways***, and this song is entitled "**Indian Love Song**." Joanne Shenandoah, Paul Ortega, here on Smoke Signals.