

NEW EDUCATION PROGRAMS AT HOMER WATSON HOUSE & GALLERY

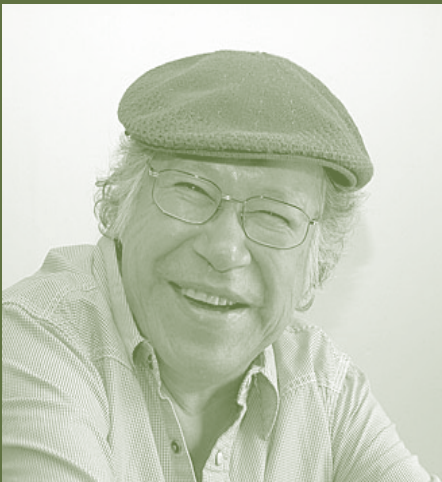
Building upon the strong foundation of our current school programs, Homer Watson House & Gallery is excited to be offering culturally rich and innovative aboriginal museum education programs that are accessible to both native and non-native educational communities.

Homer Watson House & Gallery aims to provide a creative learning and teaching space for active cultural interaction and knowledge exchange. In collaboration with local Ojibwe Elder, Artist & Storyteller Rene Meshake, we are pleased to introduce NEW education programs that are developed for students and teachers to better understand Indigenous Culture through interactive dialogue and the creative process. These programs are created and delivered by published children's author Rene Meshake, to preserve, teach and share the rich Ojibwe language and culture through the engagement and practice of the arts. Students and teachers will experience the oral tradition of storytelling through lively readings circles and discussions. Rene will share his original art, speak in the Ojibwe language, and encourage participation in these hands-on interactive education programs.

For more information on these programs, please call Chandra Erlendson, Director of Education and Public Programs at 519-748-4377 ext. 222 or programs@homerwatson.on.ca.



Canoe Guide, Rene Meshake



Rene Meshake is an Ojibwe author/illustrator, storyteller, visual artist, spoken-word performer, musician and new media artist living in Guelph, Ontario. Born in the railway town of Nakina in Northwestern Ontario and raised by his Okomissan grandmother, Rene has been influenced by Anishinaabe oral tradition, language, arts and culture. He holds a diploma in Graphic Design from Sheridan College and a certificate in Creative Writing from the Humber School for Writers. By seamlessly fusing Ojibwe and English words into his stories, poetry and spoken word performances, Rene communicates his Ojibwe spiritual heritage to the contemporary world. Rene's body of art work and his personal life experiences create a strong, expressive, and entertaining presentation for an ever-increasing audience.

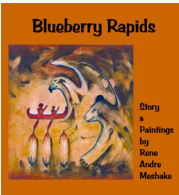
Rene Meshake's books are available for sale in the Gallery Gift Shop or can be ordered online at www3.sympatico.ca/renemeshake/bookstore

INTRODUCING NEW INDIGENOUS CULTURAL PROGRAMS WITH OJIBWE ELDER RENE MESHAKE

Grade Three – Grade Five

Spreading the Word: Story & Paintings

Adisokaun is the Ojibwe word used to describe traditional travelling storytellers who linked communities together by sharing news, stories, songs and events. Rene will share oral traditions through the process of storytelling and painting. Students will gain insight as to how language can inspire the *action to create* visual works of art. Choose one of three books and visual art activities presented below prior to your program visit at the Gallery. A reading book package is loaned to teachers in preparation for their class visit.



Fabric Painting

Inspired by the reading, students will choose symbols and themes to create their own special “kikiweon” wall hanging by painting on fabric.



Painting Miniature Paddles

Students will discover the significance of the paddle to indigenous peoples by painting their own story on a wooden paddle.



Metallic Painting:

A Copper & Silver Cache
Unearth the history and meaning of The Copper Axe while creating unique artwork using metallic paints in copper and silver.

Grade Six – Grade Eight

The Canoe Speaks: Jiimaanike

The Language and Culture of the Birch Bark Canoe



Through a dynamic cultural presentation and introduction to the Ojibwe language, students will have the unique opportunity to experience the wisdom, stories and teachings related to the creation and use of the traditional birch bark canoe with local Ojibwa Elder,

Artist & Storyteller Rene Meshake. This program includes a hands-on visual art lesson in Still Life Drawing with Charcoal.

Grade Seven – Grade Nine

Kinomagewapkong: The Teaching Rocks

Ojibwe cultural beliefs were passed down through oral stories and symbols. Ojibwe Elder, Artist & Storyteller Rene Meshake shares his experience and knowledge of the painted pictographs on the vast granite rock cliffs near Lake Superior and of the petroglyphs that are carved into the crystalline limestone beds near Peterborough in the Petroglyphs Provincial Park. Students will view a 20 minute video and participate in the visual art program Techniques in Underpainting and Rock Art, creating fun pictograms and petroglyphs that symbolize and tell their own personal story.

Indigenous Culture Programs are only available for booking in the afternoon. Each program is 2 hours in length and includes a hands-on visual art program. A minimum of 15 students is required or a flat rate of \$130.00 applies.

\$8.75/student: supplies included

Complimentary admission is offered to teachers and chaperons.

Rene Meshake's children's books are available for sale in the Gallery's Gift Shop.

