
The Heartbeat of Mother Earth



There is no greater thing we as peoples can do for our Mother Earth and for our children of the future than to preserve our rich heritage and relationship with this land. All things have responsibilities. The Little Bonnechere River has always had from the Creator a responsibility to run each day. It runs each day to cleanse the Earth, be home to many creatures and provide drink to all things. If it did not meet its responsibilities each day none of us would be here today. Recognise this and smile when you see running water because it is running for you and me.

The culture and heritage of the Algonquins and other First Nations peoples includes among many things the drum. It is said that the beating of the drum is the heartbeat of Mother Earth. In the stories of Aboriginal people it is our responsibility from the Creator to keep alive our traditions including the drum. The stronger our practice of our responsibility including the drum, the stronger will the heart and soul of Mother Earth be. The drum is symbolic of our whole culture. It is said that if we leave the drum, we forego our responsibility to our Mother the Earth whose heart would stop beating. In recognition and thanks for that we will carry the drum to this day.

One of the responsibilities that all people have each day like the Little Bonnechere is to maintain our rich heritage and special relationship with the land around us. An important part of that relationship is to recognize that while the land is there for us each day we too are here for the land. We have responsibilities to let the trees live and the waters flow. Do not let them disappear. The survival of the environment for our future generations alone will stand as testimony as to the strength and richness of our heritage yesterday and today. Our ancestors have all done the job to the best of their ability to preserve the land we as their children now enjoy. We owe it to our children and the Earth itself to do no less. We must make sure there is always room for the land and all its creatures. For the day there is no room for them is the day there is no room for us.

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