

opinions

2 DOUBLE DEUCE ROAD HOUSE
1560 Hollis Street around the corner from Maritime Centre

from Kitchener

Strange Days & Leather Uppers

Tragically Hip meets electric Dylan

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Windsor, Ontario

The Tea Party

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The Gluetones & The Purple Groove Monsters

Fri. Oct. 16th \$3

Saturday nights

are the Double Deuce

CKDU 97.5 FM

alternative top ten countdown
• door prizes
• no cover!



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OCT. 8, 9, 10TH

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WE ARE THE PEOPLE COLUMBUS DISCOVERED

Before the arrival of Europeans to the Americas 500 years ago, indigenous people were learning to live in great harmony. They had developed a great system of democracy. Their chiefs became leaders who worked and spoke for the people and not for themselves.

The way of life for the indigenous people of 500 years ago was very spiritual. They had learned that there was a great force they called the Great Spirit and the Creator. They learned the Earth could give them everything they needed to survive. They learned the Earth had cycles. It gave life to winged beings, four-legged creatures, fish life and plant life. These indigenous people felt a great reverence and love for the Earth and in so doing gave it the name "Mother Earth".

In one of the first meetings between the Mohawk people and the French explorer Samuel Champlain and his men, the Mohawks were massacred and subjected to 'scorched earth' tactics where whole villages were burned to the ground and everyone was killed or left to die. Today, we are still trying to explain to our French brothers and sisters that we only want justice and fair treatment. People cannot rape, pillage, destroy, and attack this earth and her children and still expect to live happily ever after.

Our Mother Earth and the indigenous people are under assault now and have been for 500 years. Our children and elders are under extreme pressure. We have the highest suicide, prison, alcohol and social casualties in Canadian history among our children. Yet we still look to our white brothers and sisters for justice with a common goal of solidarity for our sacred Mother Earth.

I believe that if the next five years (not 500) are not more productive and positive towards the indigenous people of the Americas, this planet will die.

It has been said to us in our prophecies that Mother Earth will be sick, very sick. The Hopi prophecies warn of atomic radiation. Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) prophecies tell of environmental degradation. Cree prophecies tell of Europeans coming with a great wind. All prophecies are connected to the Earth; all the indigenous values are connected to the Earth; all things to the indigenous people are connected to the Earth.

Our understanding is: if we take care of Mother Earth then she will take care of us. Our white brothers and sisters must learn our one-with-the-earth philosophy: "We are part of the Earth, the Earth is part of us." When all colours from the four directions come together for the Earth, then we will begin to heal.

Indigenous people have an understanding of the rivers, the earth, the animals and the medicinal herbs. The sun is our brother; the moon is our grandmother; our grandfathers are the stars so we give thanks to all our relations from the natural world. We are called indigenous because we have watched the sun rise from the same place for many years.

The penitentiaries, mental institutions, ammunition factories, chemicals, greenhouse effect, deforestation, desertification, acid rain, and global warming are the evidence of a lost society. Is this the meaning of discovery?

The indigenous people of the Americas were once strong—free, with clean air, fresh water and a rich food supply.

Today we still give thanks to our gracious Mother through our many thanksgiving ceremonies. Many of us have alcohol and the gun. Our chiefs and elders have kept and passed on our traditions from generation to generation. Sometimes they were forced to do so secretly.

We will never forget our responsibilities towards our beautiful Sacred Mother Earth. We will never forget our sacred pipe, sweet grass, tobacco, sage, rattle drum songs and dance.

We are the people Columbus discovered.

Danny Beaton

Turtle Clan, Mohawk Six Nations

Advised by Chief Richard Maracle, Rastaweheerondah, Bear Clan, Mohawk Nation; assisted by Lindsey Mitchell
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