

Media Release :

Mount Stewart hosts National Day of Healing and Reconciliation.

Love, healing and trust are replacing despair, abuse and trauma caused by the federal residential school policy of the 1850's to the mid 1990's.

Since that time, Canada's First Nation people have been telling stories of a painful and traumatic time in the history of First Nations, Aboriginal and Métis people. The impacts of this 150- year history of abuse are experienced to this day and the stories must continue to be shared.

In telling the stories on the annual National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, all Canadians can learn more about this very tragic part of history. Storytelling is particularly important to recognize the strength and resiliency of Aboriginal people who continue to move forward to reclaim their culture and heritage.

First Nations are united and resolute that they continue to heal by celebrating tradition, culture and hope.

The noon hour on Wednesday, June 5th, at the Mount Stewart Consolidated School will be a time to reflect and renew with storytelling, drumming, dancing and face painting. Performers and participants will be from the communities of Scotchfort and Mount Stewart.

The excited students have been preparing for the noontime event for weeks with the Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI and staff at the Mount Stewart Consolidated School.

Co-organizer, Deborah Langston of MCPEI, worked with the school staff last year to create the event for the first time.

"We are pleased to partner with Mount Stewart Consolidated School again this year to reflect upon the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation. Last year was the first time this event was held and was a great success and this year we are confident it will be as well.

Michelle Jay of the Mount Stewart School is co- organizer of the event. She is largely responsible for launching it in 2012."

The annual National Day of Healing and Reconciliation (June 11) is the day that marks the apology to First Nations people by Prime Minister Harper.

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