Ontario History

Telling our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Histories from Hudson Bay By Louis Bird

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Forging Freedom: In Honour of the Bicentenary of the British Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade
Volume 99, numéro 1, spring 2007

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1065801ar
DOI: https://doi.org/10.7202/1065801ar

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Éditeur(s)
The Ontario Historical Society

ISSN
0030-2953 (imprimé)
2371-4654 (numérique)

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Citer ce compte rendu
https://doi.org/10.7202/1065801ar
**Telling Our Stories: Omushkego Legends and Histories from Hudson Bay**


This delightful volume of Omushkego (Swampy Cree) stories is one of Louis Bird’s ongoing contributions to the recording of his people’s unique culture and orature, or oral literature. Louis Bird, an Omushkego elder from Peawanuck, Ontario, has spent three decades gathering the stories of the Omushkegowak from the western shores of James Bay and Hudson Bay. Having begun his life’s project by trying to memorize the legends, myths, and personal histories related by elders, Mr. Bird soon began experimenting with ways to record this rich tradition in more enduring formats. After using a tape recorder for many years, in the 1990s he established a relationship with researchers at the University of Winnipeg who collaborated in recording Mr. Bird’s stories digitally, transferring his old audiotapes onto CD-ROMs, and making some stories available on the internet in both Cree and English. *Telling Our Stories* is the most comprehensive written version of Louis Bird’s work that has been published, though the stories in it are still only a selection. Many of his recordings are held at the Centre for Rupert’s Land Studies at the University of Winnipeg, and of these a significant portion are also available on the Centre’s website. This internet resource is tremendously important, retaining as it does the orality of the genre, the sound of the speaker’s voice, and of course the original Cree-language version. The book is best enjoyed in conjunction with the website. That said, much of
through Water, Ice & Fire: Schooner Nancy of the War of 1812


Through Water, Ice & Fire is a biography of the Nancy, a sailing vessel that played an important role on the Great Lakes during the War of 1812. Barry Gough has fleshed out in great detail the Nancy’s story that he began to tell several years earlier in Fighting Sail on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. By placing the activities of one ship at the centre of his narrative, Gough draws our attention away from more familiar players in the War of 1812 such as Tecumseh, Isaac Brock, Oliver Hazard Perry and...