

# Cultural Memory Timeline Imbedded in the Mi'kmaq Legends of Kluskap



A group of interested people gathered on the beach in front of Ottawa House and listen to Gerald Gloade, who earlier on September 17th gave a presentation at the Fundy Geological Museum, Parrsboro. (Fedak Photo)

By Gerald Gloade

(On September 18th, Gerald Gloade conducted a presentation at the Fundy Geological Museum, Parrsboro which was followed by an interpretive walk on the beach at Ottawa By-The-Sea Museum. We asked Mr. Gloade to provide an overview of his presentation. His overview is presented below).

In Debert, Nova Scotia, there is a complex of three archaeological sites as well as numerous other surface finds that date back more than 11,100 carbon years. The information and artifacts recovered from Debert tell a fascinating story about indigenous life at the end of the last Ice Age glaciations.

With large portions of the sites still undisturbed as well as the scientific quality of the original excavations, the Debert area is the oldest directly-dated archaeological area in Canada, and the sites are among the most important in North America.

The more than 4,600 artifacts that were found tell the story of the people who settled in this area. Taking a look at the material that was used to create these tools, a great number of these tools are made from materials not local to the area.

The Place Names men-

tioned in the Kluskap legends identify the places where materials were gathered and fashioned into the stone tools found at Mi'kmawey Debert. The land changes that have taken place confirm of the "Cultural Memory Timeline", taking us back to a time in Mi'kma'ki when our ancestors lived and told the stories of these changes in legend form.

Imbedded in the Kluskap legends is information about our past. They speak of a time and place that does not exist, but once did. They tell the tales of animals that do not live here, but once did. One story refers to a battle that took place between Kluskap and the God of Winter, Kluskap lost, and it was Winter here, year round. This was the case here during one of our many "mini-ice ages!"

In the Legend of Five Islands, the story speaks of the creation of a landform that remains today. The events that opened the Bay of Fundy took place 6,000 years ago. The series of physical events that have taken place over the past 13,300 actual calendar years has shaped Mi'kma'ki into the Nova Scotia of today. Our ancestors were living here when these events were

played out. Legends are made of those things. It's part of our Cultural Memory Timeline.

Numerous sites located throughout Nova Scotia are mentioned in the Legends of Glooscap, the majority of these places are found on what's known in Nova Scotia, as the Glooscap Trail. Sacred sites, sites that were the homes of the Characters spoken of in these Legends. Blomidon, Glooscap's

camp site, 2 km across the Bay, Partridge Island, the Home of his Grandmother, the grandmother symbol is yet another Sacred symbol. Partridge Island is also the referred to as Glooscap's Grandmother's cooking pot.

You can still watch the cooking pot boil today. The air trapped in holes of the Amygdaloidal Basalts gets pushed out twice a day when the tide raises, making the water appear to boil, as in a cooking pot!

Legends of Glooscap creating an amethyst necklace for his Grandmother from the rocks gathered at this Island, Amethyst is still found there, created by the cooling of volcanic rock located in the seams of ancient fault lines that cemented Nova Scotia into the shape it is today. Many of the Legends of Glooscap refer to rocks, the throwing of rocks or of rock formations.

## Biography - Gerald Gloade Mi'kmaw First Nation

Gerald R. Gloade is an artist and educator who is currently the Program Development Officer for the Mi'kmawey Debert Project based in Truro, Nova Scotia. He started his career working as a Graphic Designer for the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources' Communications and Education Branch more than 30 years ago. The focus of his work with the Province moved from forestry education and graphic art to sharing his culture and history in the landscape and environment of Mi'kma'ki with audiences of all ages.

Located near a cluster of twelve 13,300 year-old Paleo Indian sites, the Mi'kmawey Debert Project's primary goal is to build a Mi'kmaw Cultural Center to protect the sites and share their stories. As an

artist, educator and Mi'kmaw storyteller, Gerald guides the development of visitor and educational programs for the future cultural centre. His stories and interpretations of the Kluskap legends in particular have captured many audiences. This new position has taken Gerald and his wife Natalie, and their 2 sons, Gerald Donovan and Kyle, on the road throughout Mi'kma'ki, revisiting the many sacred places found in the Kluskap legends.

Over a span of many years, Gloade has made presentations around the world including: Sydney, NS; St John's, NF; Dublin, Ireland; Ottawa, ON; Gatineau, PG; Vancouver, BC; Thunder Bay, ON; New York, NY; Washington, DC; Maryland and a presentation to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip.

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## Parrsboro Film Festival

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very interesting session called: "How to Make A Film for Free". The discussion will be led by Gary Blackwood, the director/writer for a feature entitled "The Seer". The premise here is this: they had a script, equipment, volunteer actors who were trained, and community support. As Gary Blackwood puts it, the question was, "Could they make a 'halfway decent' film for no money?" And they did! (This session is free for everyone.)

To take things to an exciting conclusion, on Sunday afternoon, Parrsboro Film Festival 2016 wraps up with two more well-crafted and engaging features. "It really is a power-packed and evoca-

tive set of films", says festival co-organizer Lori Lynch, "we have chosen cinematic work with heart, humanity and plenty of food for thought".

Parrsboro Film Festival: Reaching out to the world through stories that matter. If you missed it at Cannes, if you missed it at TIFF, see it at Parrsboro.

Festival Passes: \$48 tax incl.; Individual Tickets: \$10-25 tax incl. Online Ticket Purchase: [www.parrsborofilmfestival.com](http://www.parrsborofilmfestival.com)

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Patricia Burke Co-Chair of the Bernie Burke Memorial Golf presented a cheque for \$500.00 to Lisa Ward, past chair of the SCCC Foundation on Wed. Sept 21, 2016. The Golf Tournament donates each year to support the facility in Parrsboro. The Care Centre in Parrsboro is dear to the heart of the Burke family where Bernie, Eleanor, Donalda benefitted from the Palliative Care Program. Past Chair Lisa Ward thanked the Golf Tournament for their generosity to the centre for many years. (Submitted)

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