

# The Turtle Mountain Métis Elder Project

During the summer of 2009 the Turtle Mountain–Souris Plains Heritage Association conducted interviews among the Elders of the Turtle Mountain Métis Community.

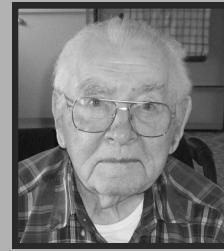
Participants in the project included Métis elders, their spouses and neighbours, with birth dates ranging from 1919 to 1944. The Elders told stories that reflect life as it was lived in the Turtle Mountain bush, 20 miles from the nearest town. These 21 voices – both Métis and European settler – tell a story of community and interdependence.

The following pages refer to the “Metigoshe community” which encompasses those families and individuals who settled towards the western end of Turtle Mountain, especially around Lakes Metigoshe, Dromore and Sharpe. This community is unique for its concentration of Métis who chose

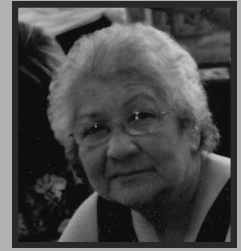
to settle permanently on Turtle Mountain after a long history of familiarity with the region. Though the Europeans were the first to establish permanent homes in the bush, Métis settlers were not far behind. These Métis bush folk made their homes on Turtle Mountain, generated good feelings with their European neighbours and became an integral part of the community.

We would like to extend an immense thank you to those who shared their life stories with us and inspired the following pages. Their time and willingness to open a window into the experiences of this unique community is invaluable.

- TM-SPHA Board Members



Allan Shereski



Annie (Gosselin) Harvey



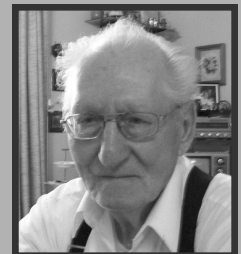
Betty (Somers) Canada



Betty (Pratt) Carey

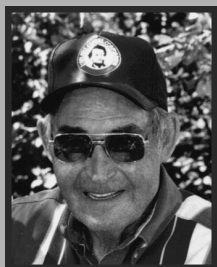


Cecil Canada



Dave Wall

## Contributors



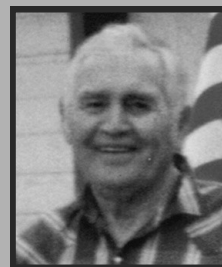
Edward Canada



Elmer McCorrister



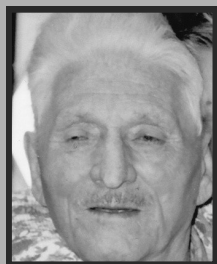
Esther (Bylo) Canada



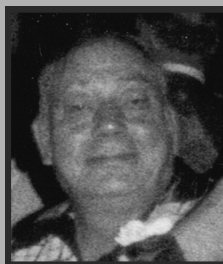
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Harold Alberts



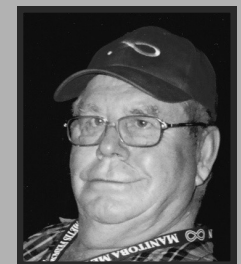
Harvey Conway



Jean (Hastings) Goodon



Ken LeForte



Lorne Conway