

Mi'kmaq heritage centre



Photo by Adam Cooke

Featuring artwork and artifacts from First Nations cultures across Canada, the Mi'kmaw Cultural Centre in Cleveland allows visitors to view such items as the tiny native drums featured in this display case.



Photo by Adam Cooke

Originally designed as a fish hatchery and now serving as a Mi'kmaw Cultural Centre under the Friends United initiative, this Cleveland building is capable of hosting meetings and similar functions for groups of any size, in an environment designed to showcase Canada's many First Nations cultures.

by Adam Cooke
The Reporter

CLEVELAND- Once home to a local fish hatchery, a building in western Richmond County has emerged as a meeting place, a home for aboriginal art, and a tribute to Canada's First Nations.

The Mi'kmaw Cultural Centre, located on Highway 4 in Cleveland, is operated by Auld's Cove businessman Rolf Boumann, the owner-operator of *Canadian Pioneer Estates* and a co-founder of the Friends United Arts Initiative. Boumann originally conceived the building as a storage facility for a publishing house and a home for the works of aboriginal artists that partnered with the native of Germany on his Friends United art displays and books, but suddenly found it growing beyond his initial expectations.

"The artists were looking for a display case, so we put a small room in there first, but it got bigger, and then it got even bigger," Boumann recalled.

At the request of Assembly of First Nations

regional chief Morley Googoo, who sits on the advisory board for the Friends United initiative, Boumann set up the Cleveland building to host meetings of aboriginal initiatives.



Photo by Adam Cooke

Reflecting the beauty and diversity of Canada's northern cultures, these five paintings are found near the entrance to one of the Mi'kmaw Cultural Centre's many meeting rooms.



Troy MacGillivray

New CD Release
'Tune Poets'

with Allan Dewar & Jake Charron

Nov 8 @ 8 pm

Celtic Music Interpretive Centre
Judique - \$10 at the door

www.troymacgillivray.com



Photo by Adam Cooke

This is one of many creations of Cape Breton Mi'kmaw artists on display in the Cleveland cultural centre.

unveiled to the public



Photo by Adam Cooke

Multi-media presentations are among the many meeting options available to users of the Mi'kmaw Cultural Centre, which is not yet open to the general public but is targeted to welcome casual visitors in the foreseeable future, according to centre operator Rolf Boumann.

The development also caught the attention of Shirley McNamara, the area's municipal councillor, and other levels of government seeking to use the space for private discussions on various issues.

"We've had meetings in there - small ones, so far, with only 30-40 people," Boumann noted.

"But the meeting places have certainly become known much faster than I expected."

While Boumann and his associates are not ready to open the Cleveland facility to the public, they are currently undergoing the necessary steps to welcome visitors to the Mi'kmaw Cultural Centre on a regular basis.

"Before I can do it, I would have to look at fire regulations and what the building inspector would say," Boumann pointed out.

"But I hope to do that down the road."

Once that time arrives, Boumann is confident that those in attendance will be touched by the care that he and his colleagues have taken to display aboriginal artwork and artifacts from all regions of Canada.

"Most of the artists had tears in their eyes when they saw the facility for the

first time, because they didn't expect anything like that at all, especially in a location out there," Boumann recalled.

"So when I saw these tears in their eyes, I saw that it was the right thing to do, because I was very proud that somebody recognized the importance of the work and genuine effort for everybody to have a chance to see it down the road."

The significance of the

cultural centre has also hit home for Boumann's associate Dominique Fisher, a native of Frankfurt who has spent three years in the area and now designs finished prints of many of the works on display in the Cleveland venue.

"I work very closely with the artists... and for me, when I see the artists coming in and they're so proud to see their artwork, it's just perfect," Fisher beamed.



Photo by Adam Cooke

A regular meeting place for aboriginal leaders, this meeting room features a display of the many artists that have contributed to the Friends United initiative.



Photo by Adam Cooke

Visitors are greeted by many paintings depicting the aboriginal devotion to wildlife and nature, such as this effort from Canada's northern cultures.

NOW IS THE TIME TO SWITCH!

PAY \$0 TO SWITCH¹ AND GET OUR FASTEST SPEED FOR ONLY \$49.99/MTH FOR THE FIRST 6 MTHS!¹

HURRY OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 10, 2013.

"More savings. Bigger allowance."



CALL XPLOARNET AT 1.855.333.7333 OR YOUR LOCAL DEALER BEFORE THIS OFFER ENDS!

The Home Doctor - Antigonish 902.318.9100
Bradley's Entertainment Center Ltd - North Sydney 902.794.2131

CALL NOW, OFFER ENDS DECEMBER 10, 2013
1.855.333.7333

XPLOARNET
Faster Internet. Where you live.

Offer ends December 10, 2013 and applies to new customers who agree to a 1 year term commitment on XplorNet 4G Share or Stream Unlike Residential package. Month 7 regular price plan resumes \$29.99 on 30Mbps Share and \$29.99 on 10Mbps Stream plan. Installation to be completed by December 31, 2013. Connector is placed in a limited state area monthly bandwidth is exceeded. Please see Internet Usage Management Policy on xploarnet.com for details. *\$50 Activation fee is waived on a 1 year term commitment. XplorNet is a trade mark of XplorNet Communications Inc. © 2013 XplorNet Communications Inc.

10 547 48 99 Admnl Oct 2013



989 XFM

Nothing But Hits

Remembers
Our
Veterans
Past
and
Present



www.989xfm.ca