

Culture ... Arts ... Entertainment

INVERNESS ORAN

Friends United Reconciliation Talks wrapped up last week



Left to right: Hereditary Chief Stephen Augustine, former Nova Scotia Premier Hon. Rodney MacDonald, Friends United artist Halina Stopyra, Cree Nation artist Jasyn Lucas, former Nova Scotia Premier Hon. Iain Rankin, Elena Paul, Friends United Founder Rolf Bouman, television anchor and author Nancy Regan, lawyer Adam Rodgers.

From November 14th – 23rd, the 2nd annual Friends United Reconciliation Talks took place at the Friends United International Convention Centre in Richmond County, Unama'ki (Cape Breton), Nova Scotia, Canada. The first event took place in

2019 and, due to COVID-19, the second event was delayed until this year.

The Friends United International Convention Centre houses the artwork of more than 40 Indigenous artists, and is an important tool for learning about Indigenous heritage, art, and culture. People from all walks of life are being featured in talks, such as Mi'kmaq artists Loretta Gould, Shianne Gould, Darren Julian, and artists from other areas of Canada such as Cree Nation artist Jasyn Lucas and Salish totem pole carver Gerry Sheena. Inuit film and television actor Eric Schweig, who is also a mask carver, has attended as well.

The Reconciliation Talks will be featured on the Friends United website in the coming weeks and months. The Friends United Initiative aims at eliminating prejudice, raising awareness, and facilitating reconciliation dialogue, as this is one of the most important issues in which future generations must be engaged. Former *Live at 5* television host and author of *From Showing Off to Showing Up*, Nancy Regan, hosted the talks.

Also joining the discussions were Hereditary Chief Stephen Augustine of Cape Breton University, Hon. Senator Dan Christmas, former Paqtneq Chief Kerry Prosper (who is also a knowledge keeper for St. F.X. University), Shannon Monk, Karen Bernard, Barry Bernard of the Red Tribe Boxing Club, Port



Love Our Connections by Shianne Gould.

Hawkesbury Mayor Brenda Chisholm-Beaton, former federal cabinet minister Hon. Leona Aglukkaq, former Nova Scotia Premier the Hon. Stephen McNeil, former Nova Scotia premier the Hon. Rodney MacDonald, former Nova Scotia premier the Hon. Iain Rankin, Her Honour Judge Laurie Halfpenny-McQuarrie, Engage NS CEO Danny Graham, lawyer and Port Hawkesbury Rotary Club President Adam Rodgers, Richmond County Warden Amanda Mombourquette,

principal of the Nova Scotia Community College Marconi Campus Carla Arsenault, principal of the Nova Scotia Community College Strait Campus Vivek Saxena, Trina Samson, Omar Tag-El-Din, Kevin Patriquin, and others.

Friends United founder Rolf Bouman says this is a combined effort to learn about Indigenous heritage, peoples, and culture, and going forward to learn from what happened in the past to create a better future.

The main topics of these talks have been inclusivity, bringing people together, reconciliation, education, and leadership.

In recent years the Friends United Initiative has gifted artwork to Nova Scotia Community Colleges, St. F.X. and Cape Breton Universities, the Coady International Institute, Cape Breton Partnership offices in Sydney, the Gladue Court in Wagmatcook, businesses in Acadia First Nation, and provincial gov-

CONTINUED PAGE 16



A Good Scoff

Recipes from the collection of Dorothy Frank



Squash coffee cake (or sweet potato or pumpkin)

Ingredients:

Mix in one bowl. Make streusel:
 ¼ cup packed brown sugar
 ¼ cup flour
 ¼ cup oatmeal
 ¼ cup chopped nuts
 1½ Tbsp. ground cinnamon
 3 Tbsp. cold butter (cut in mix)

Cream together:

½ cup butter
 ¾ cup sugar
 2 eggs
 1 cup mashed cooked squash
 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 2 cups flour
 2 tsp. baking powder
 1½ tsp. cinnamon
 ½ tsp. baking soda
 1 tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. ground pepper
 ¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
 pinch cloves

Instructions:

Mix all the above and pour ½ into 9 in. greased springform pan. Cover with ½ cup applesauce. Alternate creamed mixture with streusel ending with streusel. Bake at 350°F for 50-55 minutes till cake is done. Cool ten minutes before removing sides of pan. Can drizzle with a glaze of confectioners sugar, vanilla and water.

Reconciliation Talks...from page 14



The night light by Shianne Gould.



I wished for you back on a shooting star by Shianne Gould.



Hereditary Chief Stephen Augustine and Friends United Founder Rolf Bouman.

ernment offices such as the Registry of Motor Vehicles and Legal Aid offices, hospitals and palliative care units. In a recent collaboration, Friends United will be gifting to EHS bases across the province Indigenous artwork. This was an idea of Lucas Bouman, who is a paramedic and also works with his father, Rolf Bouman, at Friends United.

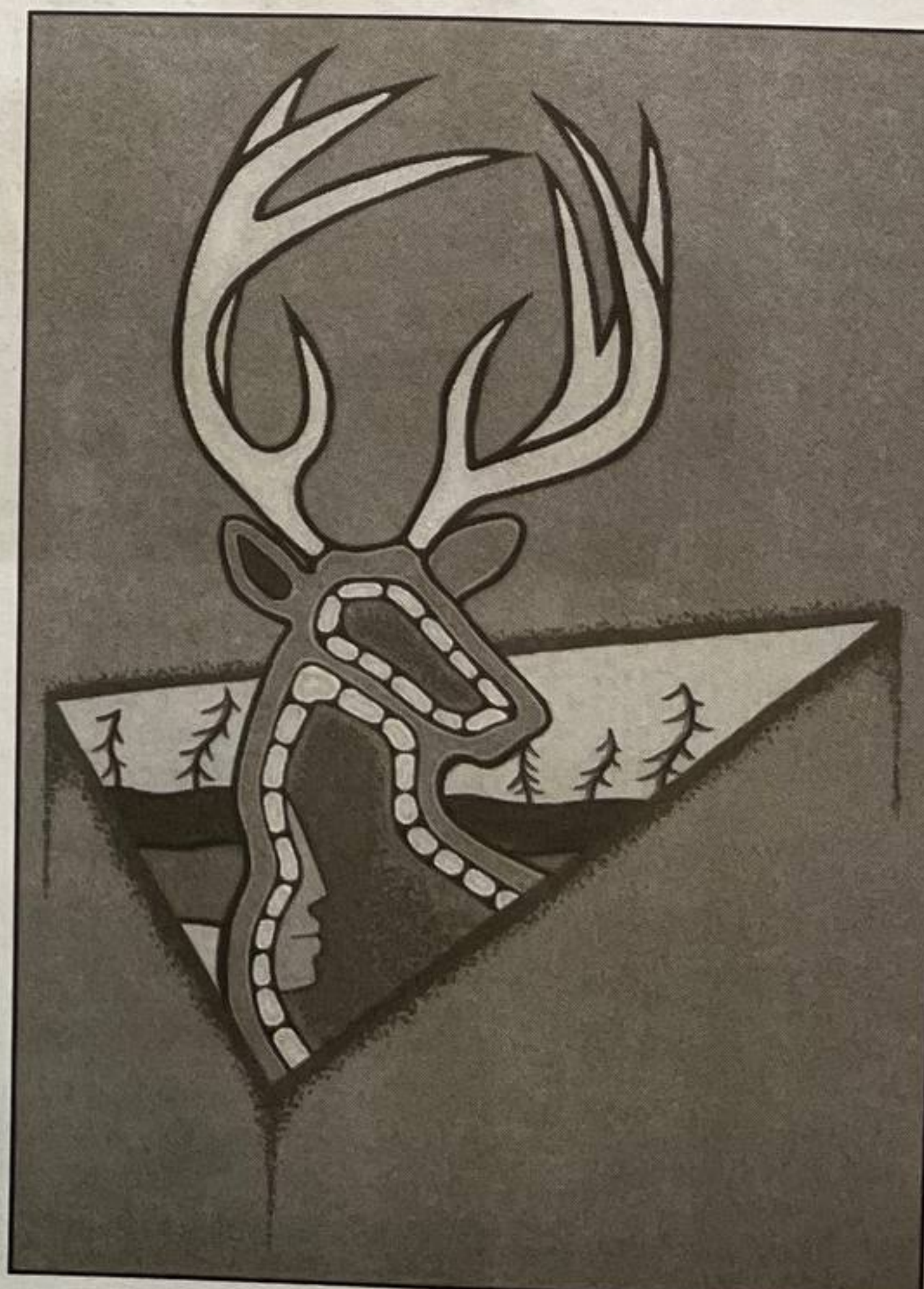
Friends United will also display Indigenous artwork in Halifax hotels for the North American Indigenous Games, which will be hosted in 2023. Another collaboration between Friends United, Loretta Gould, and

the Stanfield International Airport in Halifax is one of the largest Indigenous displays in Canada. The departure hall at the airport features the work of Loretta Gould in a banner that is 400 ft. x 8 ft. Recently Friends United opened an art exhibit at St. F.X. for artists Loretta Gould and Alan Syliboy. A permanent exhibition of 60 paintings is located in the building of the Port Hawkesbury law firm EMM Law.

Friends United is funded by the Bouman group of companies, including Canadian Pioneer Estates Ltd.



Above: *Blood Stream* by Shianne Gould.
Below: *Wild Hunt* by Shianne Gould.



CANADA'S
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Inverness County



COMMUNITIES, CULTURE, TOURISM AND HERITAGE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- **Community Facilities Improvement Program** supports community-led projects which enhance the public use of existing facilities.
- **Recreation Facility Development Grant** assists community groups, municipalities and other 'not-for-profit' organizations to develop facilities in order to increase public participation in sport and physical recreation.
- **Rink Revitalization Program** assist community groups, municipalities and other 'not-for-profit' organizations who operate rinks to invest in the revitalization or upgrading of capital infrastructure to support the sustainability of the facility.

The Municipal Special Projects team invites you to e-mail special.projects@invernesscounty.ca by December 9 to share your application idea and discuss opportunities for municipal support.



**THE DEADLINE TO CONTACT MUNICIPAL
STAFF IS DECEMBER 9, 2022
EMAIL TO FIND OUT MORE**

SPECIAL.PROJECTS@INVERNESSCOUNTY.CA