



# FINAL REPORT

**Na-Me-Res Annual Traditional Pow  
Wow/Community Festival**

**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**In Recognition of National Aboriginal  
Day/Month Events**

**(145 Hilton Avenue—East of Bathurst and St.  
Clair Avenue West)**



**Na-Me-Res Annual Traditional Pow Wow/Community Festival**  
**Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**In Recognition of National Aboriginal Day/Month Events**  
**(145 Hilton Avenue—East of Bathurst and St. Clair Avenue West)**

Our 2011 Annual National Aboriginal Day event was in celebration of the Strawberry Moon and it was our 8<sup>th</sup> year of hosting this event at Well's Hill Park (145 Hilton Avenue)

**Na-Me-Res Pow Wow Agenda**

- 10:30—11:00 am** Drum/Dancer Registration-At Volunteer Booth
- 11:50 am** Grass Dancers Bless The Grounds
- 12:00 pm**
- Grand Entry
  - Flag Song
  - Post Flags
  - Opening Prayer—Elder Jacqui LaValley
  - Veteran's Song

**Opening Remarks**

- 12:30 pm**
- Executive Director, Harvey Manning
  - ☺ Public Acknowledgement of Sponsors
  - ☺ Volunteer Appreciation Acknowledgement
- 12:35 pm** • President, Circle of Director's, Lori Mishibinijima
- 12:40 pm** • Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, MP Ward 21
- 12:45 pm** • Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21

- 12:50 pm • Reading of Message from Honourable Jack Layton  
Dance Exhibitions
- 1:00 pm—2:00 pm ♦ Blanket Dance  
 ♦ Spot Dances  
 ♦ Specials
- 2:00 pm—4:00 pm ♦ Dance Exhibitions
- 4:05 pm **Traditional Giveaway**
- 5:00 pm Give Away Song and Dance
- 5:05 pm Retire the Flags
- 5:10 pm Feast...EVERYONE WELCOME!!!
- 6:00 pm Clean Up of Grounds, Take Down of Equipment

Ongoing Activities Throughout Day:

- 11:00—5:00 Red Pepper Spectacle-Silk Screening T-Shirts and Hand-Painting T-Shirts
- 11:00—4:30 Fundraising Event—Na-Me-Res Food & Beverage Sales
- 11:00—4:30 Silent Auction-behind the MC Stand
- 11:00—4:30 Information Booth
- 11:00—4:30 Donation Box and Donation Forms—At Volunteer Tent

This year the staff and residents of Na-Me-Res hosted a Sunrise ceremony at our men's shelter at 14 Vaughan Road which began at 5:30 am followed by a breakfast. Giving thanks to our Creator brought sunshine and pleasant weather for our event this year.

It was overwhelming to see the support that our local community as well as the many individuals who travelled from distance First Nation communities as well as visitors from abroad who attended last year and came this year to participate in our **2011 National Aboriginal Day Celebration**.

Some dignitaries in attendance were Dr. Eric Hoskins, MPP Ward 21; Honourable Carolyn Bennett, M.P St. Paul's; Councillor Joe Mihevc, Ward 21; the Honourable Jack Layton presented Na-Me-Res with a congratulatory letter.

Our host drum were the Chippewa Travellers; our Co-Host Drum were our own Eagle Heart singers; again this year the Red Tail Hawk Singers joined our celebration to the delight of our spectators. In addition four additional traditional

drums came to celebrated with us—Red Tail Hawk; Red Spirit Singers; Mino Gilizhigut (Good Day Singers); Tall Pines and Young Nation for a total of 7 drums!!!! Our Head Female dancer was Echo Buswa and our Head Male dancer was A.J. Elliott. Our Master of Ceremonies was Bob Goulais, our Arena Director was Leo Linklater, our Elder was Jacqui LaValley, and our Eagle Staff Carrier was Bernard Nelson (see attached event flyer for detailed bio's on our invited guests). \ Our Master of Ceremonies, Bob Goulais introduced himself and our invited drums, head dancers, arena director and master of ceremonies.

Our Master of Ceremonies called the Grass Dancers to begin our traditional dancing, explaining how the grass dancers are the first dance group called upon to dance on the pow wow grounds to bless the dance area with the special way they dance which pats down the grass for the other dances to follow. The Chippewa Travellers opened Grand Entry. The procession of dancers were lead by our Eagle Staff Carrier, Bernard Nelson, followed by our Veterans carrying in the Canadian, Mohawk Warriar and Native Canadian flags. Behind the Veterans was our Elder, Jacqui LaValley, followed by our Head Female Dancer, Echo Buswa and our Head Male Dancer, A.J. Elliott.

Our Men's Traditional Dancers, Men's Prairie Chicken Dancers and then our Grass Dancers. The female dancers were lead with Fancy Shawl dancers, then the Jingle Dress dancers and Women's Traditional dancers, followed by the children dancers.

Following Grand Entry, everyone were asked to stand for a victory song and flag song, then the flags were posted. Elder Jacqui LaValley was called upon to give the invocation/prayer. Our Executive Director, Harvey Manning shared some opening remarks, he thanked the sponsors and volunteers as well as the Geoffrey H. Woods Foundation for their generous donation of a new van which was proudly displayed at our event. Our Board President, Lori Mishibinijima shared some opening remarks, followed by M.P. Carolyn Bennett, MPP Eric Hoskins, and City Councillor Joe Mihevic. Our Master of Ceremonies read a message from the Honourable Jack Layton. After the speeches, the pow wow started with an intertribal dance were those in regalia or attendees were invited to dance in the sacred circle.

Throughout the pow wow our M.C. Bob Goulais acknowledged the various sponsors, donors and supporters of our National Aboriginal Day Event.

Between 1 and 2:30 pm there were 4 spot dance contests where participants were awarded with a prize; The Eagle Heart Singers sang a Crow hop song which imitates the foot movements of a crow hopping. Two young girls requested an honour song to mark their first time dancing in regalia as fancy shawl dancers. The Head Dancers were called upon to help dance them out into the dance area for this special occasion, followed by the two new dancer's families, friends and other dancers. After the special song, the two young dancers went around with a basket of strawberries and gave them as a gift to the drummers, dancers, elders and audience.

The Chippewa Travellers were asked to do a two-step song, the Head Dancers were called to lead this song and the M.C. announced this song as a couples dance and all the dancers and audience were asked to participate.

Our special guest performance by the Aztec Dancers was held at 3:00 pm. There were seven dancers—6 ladies and 1 male all adorned with colourful head dresses of Pheasant and McCaw tail feathers. The male started drumming and the ladies started dancing in unison to the rhythm of the drum, following two demonstrations of Aztec dancing the male member of the group explained to the audience the significance of their traditional dance and song.

Around 3:25 p.m. our M.C. called upon our Men's Traditional Dancers to demonstrate their style of dancing while the M.C. explained to the audience that this display of dance is the oldest style of dance for men which is used in storey telling of hunting or of battle. This was followed by the tiny tot dancers; Women's Traditional dancers; Grass Dancers; Fancy Shawl Dancers demonstrating their fancy footwork and meaning behind the dance. This was followed by our Men's Prairie Chicken dance, and our Jingle Dress Dancers, which was explained to our audience. Intertribal songs were for anyone who wished to come and dance whether they were in regalia or not.

Our giveaway was in order of Eagle Staff Carrier, Veterans, Drummers, Dancers, Elders, Childen, followed by our audience. Our giveaway song with presented to all attendees where everyone who received a gift was asked to dance and give thanks. Our traditional giveaway was a grand success with distribution of over 3,500 items to our attendees. The flags were retired and this was followed by our traditional feast. Everyone went home with a gift in remembrance of a fun-filled day of laughter and good times in keeping with our traditions and culture

We fed over 3,500+ people at our Traditional Feast consisting of wild rice salad, green salad, moose meat, mashed potatoes, oven baked scone (cranberry and cheese). Everyone was able to enjoy our strawberry shortcake and this year an additional chocolate/white cake in celebration of Na-Me-Res' annual N.A.D. event.

Our Silent Auction again this year was a success thanks to local businesses and private individuals who support Na-Me-Res. Our food sales of Indian and Vegetarian Tacos and along with corn soup and bannock was a great success again this year.

There were 60 booths consisting of **First Nation's and Indigenous craft vendors** and **information booths** of local Aboriginal agencies ranging from education; health and social issues.

Again this year, Red Pepper Spectacle provided activities in the Children's Activity area, it was a huge success.

Check out Na-Me-Res Facebook for the positive comments and pics of our 2011 National Aboriginal Day event!!!

**All in all.....it was a success and we look forward to hosting yet another successful event in 2012.**

**In closing....To all the supporters of Na-Me-Res 2011 Pow Wow.....*Chi Miigwetch*** (Thank You) for your generous contributions to our event. With heartfelt gratitude, Na-Me-Res Pow Wow Committee

**In Unity & Friendship**

*Blanch White*

Fundraiser/Communications Officer  
Na-Me-Res (Native Men's Residence)

Tel: 416-651-6750, Ext. 2233 Fax: 416-652-0338

Website: [www.nameres.org](http://www.nameres.org)

Registered Charitable #119050516RR0001

## **Pow Pics Na-Me-Res 2011 Annual Traditional Pow Wow/Community Festival:**



**Grand Entry**



**Grand Entry—Dancers Enter the Circle**



**Host Drum—Chippewa Travellers**



**Co-Host Drum—Eagle Heart**



**Special Drum—Red Tail Hawk Singers**



**Elder—Jacqui LaValley**



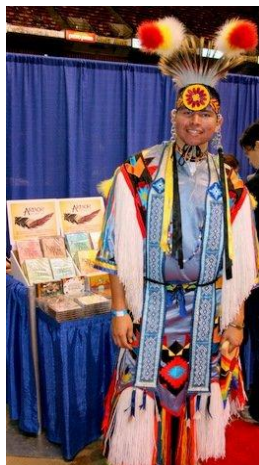
**Master of Ceremonies—Bob Goulais**



**Arena Director—Leo M. Linklater**



**Head Female Dancer-Echo Buswa**



**Head Male Dancer—A.J. Elliott**



**Eagle Staff Carrier—Bernard Nelson**



**Male Traditional Dancer Demonstration**



**Jingle Dress Dance Demonstration**



**Fancy Shawl Demonstration**



**Attendees Having a great time**



**Attendees and Dancers visiting info and craft booths**



**G.H. Wood Foundation donated van in background...  
traditional jingle dress dancer demonstrates to the crowd**



**Traditional Craft Vendors and participants enjoy the day**

## Spectators Enjoying the Day!



**Toronto Multicultural Calendar Blog**  
*Creating One World in Toronto*

**146. June 25 Toronto Pow Wow**

Posted on June 26, 2011 by torontomulticulturalcalendar

Saturday's Pow Wow at Wells Hill Park made up for my disappointment about our big Pow Wow having moved to Hamilton. The park setting was more fitting for a First Nations' event than the big, man-made Sky Dome. The park was more crowded, but it was more intimate and green.

Master of Ceremonies Bob Goulais set a very welcoming tone. He asked for no photography during the opening spiritual part of the event. Such announcements had been lost in the impersonal Sky Dome. Without the distraction of a camera separating us from people, I could concentrate on the ceremony. Jacqui LaValley's prayer in the Anishnawbe language was beautiful.



Pow Wow Dancers. Image©Ruth Lor Malloy 2011



Dancer Rick Macrae. Image©Ruth Lor Malloy 2011

I stayed for the first hour and then went back for the last. Goulais encouraged everyone to get up and dance. In return for letting us take pictures, he said we had to join the fun. Okay, it was a joke but he made his point. He also got people dancing by giving prizes for being in the right spot at the end of each dance. By the end, there were more people dancing than watching. At the end, everybody got a prize.

I was able to find and talk with some of the more elaborately-dressed dancers. It's true. Face-paint can be threatening. Unusual clothing can be intimidating. In spite of exterior appearances, I found that these were friendly, helpful people.

The printed program also helped. It gave short bios with portraits of the more prominent people at the Pow Wow and an explanation about Pow Wows. "They are fun events but they are also sacred," it read. This event was very well

organized.

I was sorry more non-Natives didn't accept the Na-Me-Res' invitation to the Pow Wow. It included a free dinner. The Na-Me-Res is a 63-bed temporary residence and rehabilitation centre for homeless men. Volunteers at a booth accepted donations but I didn't hear any requests for such. Its web-site is: <http://nameres.org/>.

Fortunately the weather co-operated this year. Last year, it rained so hard I gave up and went home. Weather was never a problem at the Sky Dome, but this pow wow goes on rain or shine. I hope others will join it next year.



Links to announcements and photos of our 2011 Annual Traditional Pow  
Wow/Community Festival:

[www.toronto.ca/diversity/eventds-aboriginal-day.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/diversity/eventds-aboriginal-day.htm)

[www.amik.ca](http://www.amik.ca)

[www.toronto.linkingboomers.com](http://www.toronto.linkingboomers.com)

[www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca](http://www.aboriginalaffairs.gov.on.ca)

[www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

[www.punjabimedia.com](http://www.punjabimedia.com)

[www.littlepaper.com](http://www.littlepaper.com)

[www.bridelin.ca](http://www.bridelin.ca)

[www.Blog.TorontoMulticulturalCalendar.com](http://www.Blog.TorontoMulticulturalCalendar.com)