

ECOLOGY OF THE DISTRICTS OF MI'KMA'KI: place-based knowledge

Institute for Integrative Science & Health: www.integrativescience.ca

- 2008 – continuing
- research



Annamarie Hatcher is a Senior Research Fellow with the Institute of Integrative Science & Health. Her current research, in collaboration with Mi'kmaw Elder Albert Marshall, focuses on two projects.

The first is an exploration of modern environmental restoration techniques using the principle of Two-Eyed Seeing. Mi'kmaw ethics are guided by the need to be protectors of descendants seven generations into the future. How does this mesh with risk analysis associated with contaminant burial or the construction of purifying natural wetlands?

Annamarie's second project involves an investigation of the distinct ecological and geological characteristics of the seven districts of Mi'kma'ki .

Traditional Knowledge in this regard is like a puzzle, with the outlines of the pieces governed by natural boundaries.

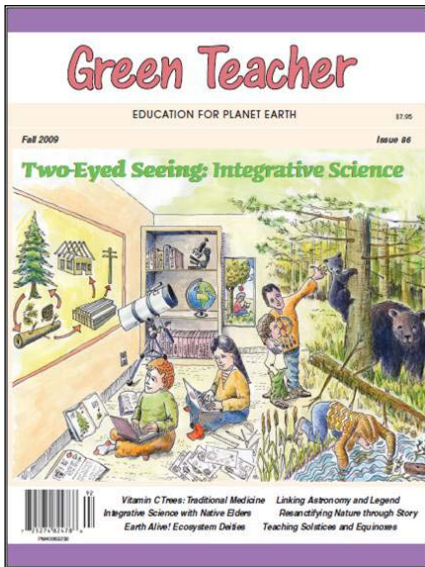
What are/were the determinants of the natural boundaries of the seven districts? How different are/were conditions for subsistence living within and among these boundaries? This exploration will form a framework for subsequent effective incorporation of Mi'kmaq traditional knowledge into ecological impact assessments and environmental management decisions in a systematic, effective manner.



image showing
Seven Districts from:
www.muiniskw.org

Unama'kik	Land of Fog
Epekwitk	Lying in the Water and
Pitukewa'kik	Explosive Area
Eski'kewa'kik	Skin Dresser's Area
Sipkne'katik	Wild Potato Area
Kespukwitk	Land's End
Sikniktewa'qkik	Drainage Area
Kespe'kewa'qkik	Last Land

Annamarie spent three years working with many others on development and integration of curricula for the MS&T (Mi'kmaw word meaning 'everything') courses at Cape Breton University. Some of her research time is spent developing research results into education-friendly products to be used in these classes and in school classrooms around the district. Currently, one of her



fun projects is the development of lessons associated with Mi'kmaw canoes. She is developing materials to teach buoyancy based on the large tumblehome associated with traditional sea-going Mi'kmaw birchbark canoes and on the physics of wood products which had to be used to keep water out, and to glue or sew components together (<http://www.greenteacher.com/contents86.html>).

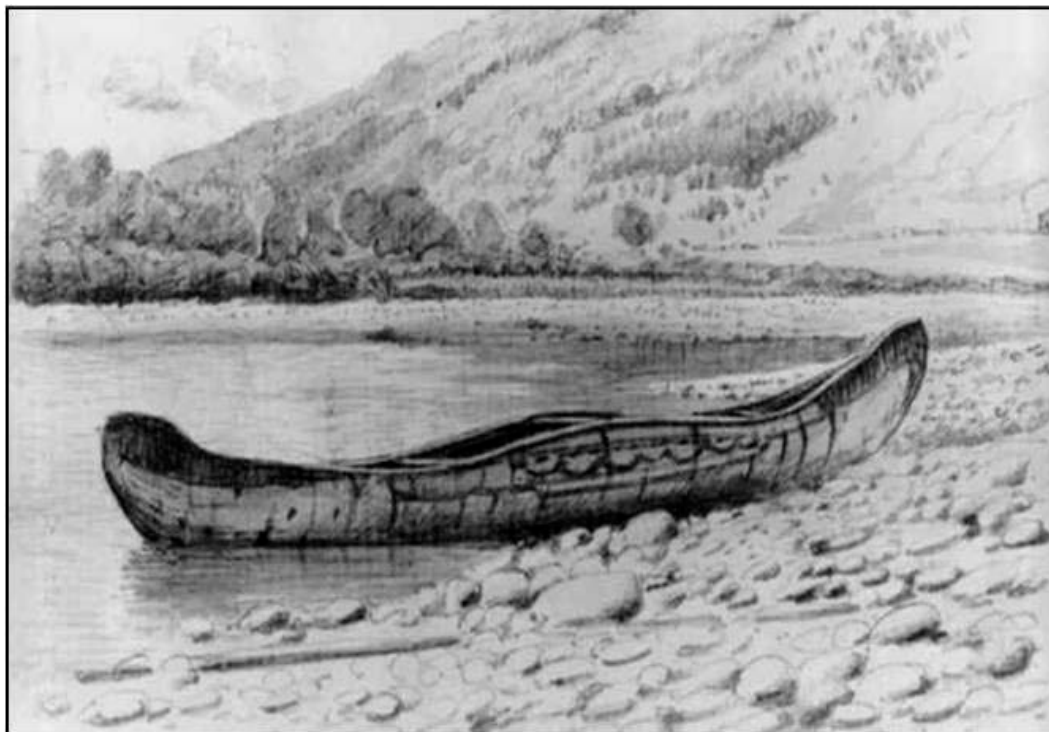


image from: Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Studies 10 Introductory Unit

hrsbstaff.ednet.ns.ca/.../Mi'kmaw%20Studies/Mi_kmaq%20Studies%2010%20-%20Intro.ppt