

Quilting Artist Alice Olsen Williams

The Heritage Centre is delighted to announce that Alice Olsen Williams, one of Canada's best known and most respected Aboriginal quilting artists, will be a presenter and exhibitor at the Red Lake Woodland Arts Festival.



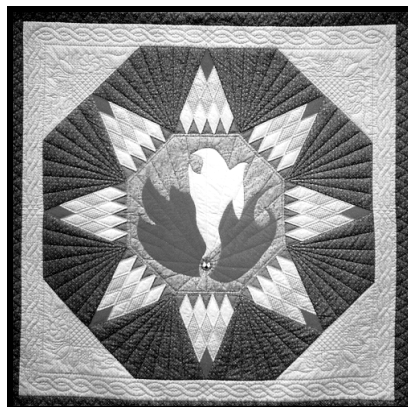
Alice Olsen Williams

Alice grew up at Trout Lake, near Red Lake. Her mother, Sarah, is Anishinaabe, and her father, Einar, was Norwegian. Alice still has many relatives in Red Lake and visits the community regularly.

Alice attended public school in Kenora, boarding with a non-Aboriginal family, and then returned to Trout Lake, where she completed three years of high school by correspondence. She taught school in Thunder Bay for two years, and in 1970, she moved Curve Lake First Nation, near Peterborough, Ontario, where she raised four children and obtained her BA from Trent University. She still lives in Curve Lake and is a frequent

presenter at conferences and symposiums.

Alice started quilting after a four week beginners course in 1980. "I took the course on a lark and haven't stopped since", says Alice. Her quilts have been exhibited at Michigan State University Museum, Wanuskewin Heritage Park, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and many other prestigious museums and art galleries in Canada and the U.S. In 1997, her quilts were featured in a major exhibition called Native Quilting, at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York City. Her story has been featured in dozens of books, magazines, and newspapers stories.



Starblanket and Fires (77''x77'') 1992

In 1999, the Red Lake Museum (now the Heritage Centre), hosted an exhibition of her work entitled **Threads of Life: for my Brother Harald**. The show was dedicated to her brother, who died in a tragic hunting accident in 1998, at the age of 45. Alice spent the summer as artist-in-residence at the Red Lake Indian Friendship Centre, where she taught quilting to women who were experiencing difficulties in their lives. Alice believes that women can find companionship and comfort by sharing experiences and expressing their feelings through the arts.

During the festival, Alice will do presentations about her work and will participate in panel discussions about Norval Morrisseau and the Woodland art movement.

Note to Artists: *If you would like to exhibit and sell your work at the Art Fair visit our website at www.redlakemuseum.com and follow the link to the Woodland Arts Festival page where you can apply on-line or download an application Package. You can also obtain application packages at the Heritage Centre.*

For more information about the Red Lake Woodland Arts Festival, visit our website at www.redlakemuseum.com, e-mail us at rlhc@goredlake.com, or call us at 727-3006.