

Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers

The Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre is pleased to announce that Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers will be performing at the upcoming Woodland Arts Festival, thanks to a special grant from the Ontario Arts Council Aboriginal Arts Projects Program.

Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers, whose name means “tree with five needles” in Ojibway, are based out of Brantford, Ontario. The troupe consists of five dancers, singers and storytellers dedicated to sharing their gifts of song, dance and stories.

For the past eight years, the troupe has performed for over 35,000 guests nationally and internationally, at venues such as the Kanata Native Traditional Village, the Royal Ontario Museum, the Toronto Festival of Storytelling, Pier 21, Halifax, the Buffalo State College, Buffalo, New York, and many other locations. The troupe’s leader, Aaron Bell, was the National Canadian Storytelling representative for the 2007 Canadian Book Week Tour and has released two CDs, “How the Oceans Became Salty” and “Painted Imagination”, with sales in Germany, France, Spain, Canada, USA, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland.

The troupe will perform traditional dances, tell stories, and conduct arts and crafts workshops for children and adults on designing regalia and making dream catchers and necklaces. “Having White Pine Dancers participate in the festival will provide opportunities for audiences to experience outstanding performances by a professional troupe and to interact with the performers”, says Michele Alderton, Director/Curator of the Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre.



Three members of the White Pine Dancers

This will be the troupe’s first visit to Red Lake, and they are very excited about participating in this unique event. “Until recently, the White Pine artists were not aware of Red Lake’s rich art history, so this will be a learning opportunity for them as well”, says Alderton.

White Pine Dancers were chosen to perform at the Woodland Arts Festival because of their ability to engage audiences and their reputation for being well organized, energetic and passionate about what they do.

“Our audiences always come away with a smile on their face, a smile in their spirit and a smile in their hearts”, says Aaron Bell.

For more information about the Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine Dancers, visit their website at www.ojibwaystoryteller.com

For more information about the festival contact the Heritage Centre at 727-3006, email us at rlhc@gorelake.com or visit our website at www.redlakemuseum.com.