

## CULTURAL MOMENT

### MARCEL LABELLE

Marcel was born and raised in Mattawa Ontario, where he spent his childhood learning how to survive and feed his family in the ways of his ancestors. His teachers were his Algonquin grandmothers and Metis father and mother. When Marcel could no longer provide for his family by trapping he received a gift which led to his creating beautiful birch bark canoes from materials harvested in his back yard (his childhood forest).

Today Marcel is sharing what his Elders and Teachers shared with him and does this in part by presenting at schools and Aboriginal festivals. He has been at the Smithsonian Institute of the American Indian, in New York as well as the keynote speaker at many Aboriginal symposiums and forums. Marcel has been featured at the Canadian Aboriginal Festival, Planet IndigenUs at Harbourfront in Toronto and the Universities of Toronto and Guelph. As time permits Marcel teaches “Living on the Land” at Trent University.

He is recognized by his people as a knowledge keeper and by the Ontario Arts Council as a craftsman. He is also supported by The Department of Canadian Heritage in his efforts to share his knowledge with Aboriginal youth and mainstream society.

His greatest achievement is sharing his life with his lovely wife Joanne who together have a daughter, Janique, and son Marc and four grandchildren.

Marcel can be contacted at

519-848-3804

[mahi\\_gan@hotmail.com](mailto:mahi_gan@hotmail.com)

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