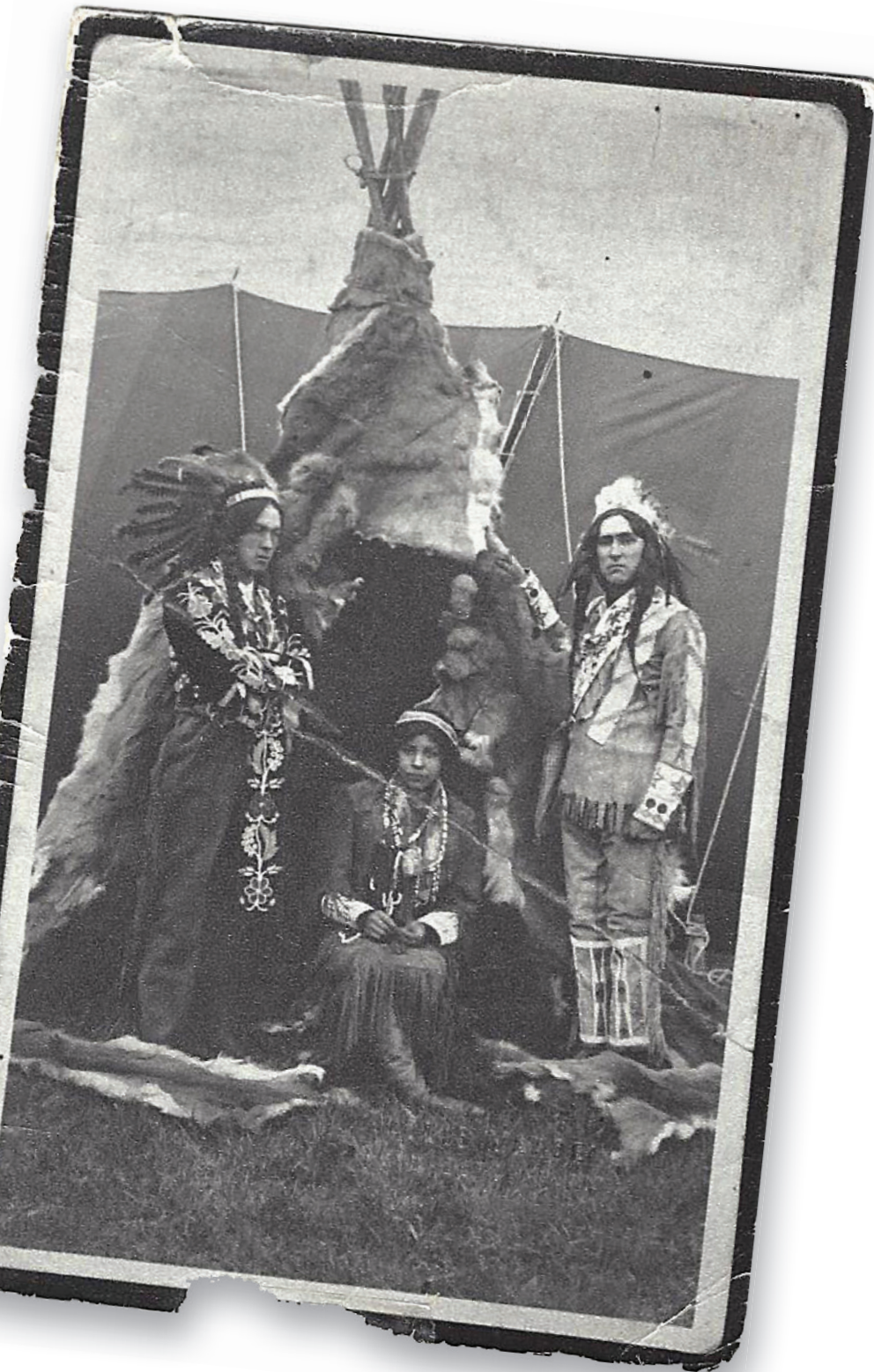


To be a Sky Walker

A Native Son Marks the Path of God's Leading with an Annual Gift



My grandmother and her three sisters were born on the Tyendinaga Reservation in Deseronto Ontario. The Mohawk people were traditionally hunters and fishermen that resided on both sides of the St. Lawrence River. The young became the iron riggers that were instrumental in building bridges and sky scrapers on both sides of the border. Fearless as they walked the narrow steel beams, they were nick named "The Sky Walkers."

My great uncles were Sky Walkers. The genes must have a memory: My daughter, a gymnast, was awarded "Most fearless Athlete" at her club's annual awards dinner—the first and only time the award was ever given. At that moment, if pride is sinful, I was certainly guilty. But my "guilt" is balanced by the understanding that I and my children owe a debt—not a monetary one, but one of gratitude.

I live for the interaction with God that comes through pushing the confines of my own faith.

A New Life Off Reserve

In the late 1930's, the Reservation director came to my great grandfather's home in broad daylight to take my grandmother away to a residential school. Great grandfather ran as fast as he could to the nearest town, where he promptly sold his and his entire family's Indian rights back to the Government. Evicted from the Reservation, they moved into the town of Port Hope, Ontario and the kids were raised as White people. "No one is going to

Larry's great grandpa Blaker (far right) as part of display at the Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto. The patriarch who left the Reserve and gave up his treaty rights to save his daughters from Residential School prayed at every meal in his native Mohawk language.

Larry Wilkins is a second generation First Nations Adventist. Larry owns a clinical spa in St. Albert. He bears witness to his relationship with God not only by closing his business on Sabbath, but also by his commitment to make a significant annual gift to the Conference's mission school, Mamawi Atosketan Native School.



Larry Wilkins

Larry's gift marks his gratitude and faith, and lights the path for others. He's found that his commitment to an annual gift makes a big difference—to the students who attend the school, yes, but also to the way Larry looks at his relationship with God.

call us dirty Indians," great grandmother Clara declared. No one did.

I am the second generation to be born off of the Reservation. My father sent me to Kingsway College for Grade 13, then to PUC, where I received my BSc. I cannot say enough good things about the Adventist school system. I will also be forever grateful for my great grandfather's dedication to the family unit and for his bravery, which kept my grandmother from experiencing the atrocities associated with the Residential School system. Unknowingly, my great grandparents gave their descendants the greatest gifts: faith and opportunity.

Faith and opportunity are what Mamawi Atosketan Native School is all about.

Larry's grandparents, Lawson Chase and Emma (Blaker) Chase.



A New Venture in Partnership with God

God makes the rich and the poor, and to those who are given much, much is expected. I am not a wealthy man nor may I ever be, but I can do the will of God with what I have, and receive His blessings as He sees fit. I live for the interaction with God that comes through pushing the confines of my own faith. I do not give in order to get, nor do I give out of obligation. I give because I want to experience the hand of God in my life right now. Giving more grows my faith.

Sometimes we must be brave like the Sky Walkers and stretch our faith, especially in the face of adversity. Life is not without challenges, but He has never once let me down or lied to me through the words of his prophets. While I deal with people every day, I only do business with God.

His word is good. I am living proof.
— Larry Wilkins, Owner
External Affairs Clinical Spa, St. Albert

See the inside back cover for the experience of current student Eldenia Potts at Mamawi Atosketan Native School, Larry's Alberta Conference ministry of choice.

A video introduction to Mamawi Atosketan Native School, can be viewed at www.albertaadventist.ca/means&meaning.

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