

James (Jim) Mishquart. The Powwow Trail.
Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek (Rocky Bay FN)

Jim speaks about his experiences as a powwow singer and dancer in the 1970s, when many First Nations communities were not practicing these parts of their culture. Jim had the opportunity to travel widely and share the beauty of his culture.

Length: 3:06 minutes

Summary: Jim introduces himself in Anishinaabemowin and also states his Ojibwe name, his clan and his community. Jim comes from Rocky Bay First Nation (Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishinaabek). His Anishinaabe name is Crosswind and he is from the deer clan.

Jim talks about how Rocky Bay has been very rewarding. When he started singing and dancing in the mid 70's there were no drum groups in his area. The only place they had powwow at that time was up at Mount McKay (Fort William First Nation), they started that powwow in the early 70's with the help of Richard Lyons who had a group called the Lyons Dance Troupe. Jim and a couple of his friends joined that dance troupe. They were able to travel to different communities promoting powwows and sharing the beauties of the Anishinaabe culture. They attended Expo 1986 in Vancouver and also did a tour in the United Kingdom. They also travelled to a lot of communities and a lot of schools in the city, promoting song and dance. In the mid 70's there were very few powwows and no drum groups. Now, when you look at it in 2018, all the First Nations communities along the North Shore (of Lake Superior) have their annual powwows and a lot of communities have their own their drum groups. Even some of the northern communities are starting to have these things.

Jim and his wife were a powwow family and they travelled all over through the summers with their children, down to the States and to Southern Ontario and out west towards the Manitoba border. It is nice to see a lot of communities interacting in a positive manner. Our culture is coming back strong. It is a good way of life.