

Peter
SUTHERLAND
THE VIEW
FROM HERE



tommix75@hotmail.com

First Nations lived in harmony with seasons

In the forested regions that now comprise Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime provinces lived a large group of Indians who spoke several different dialects of the Algonkian language.

The various tribes were the Ojibwa, Algonquins, Malecite, Montagnais, Micmac, Swampy Cree, Mistassini, Maskapiand and Beothuk. The Beothuk inhabited Newfoundland as well.

The Algonkian people moved about hunting and fishing in their own areas. Some of the southerly tribes grew maize, beans, and squash,

Of course they fished the lakes and rivers using quite a number of implements such as nets, spears, traps and hooks.

Similar to the Plains Indians they dressed lightly during the summer while in winter they switched to leather and fur robes. Because these tribes moved from place to place they built shelters that were easily dismantled. These were called wigwams. They were dome-shaped constructed of wooden poles, covered in birchbark and reeds. They ate and slept on a floor of spruce boughs covered in furs, hides or reed mats.

Transportation was mainly by water. This led them to invent the birchbark canoe. In winter when the lakes and rivers froze over they stored their canoes and strapped on their snowshoes.

During the winter if a group decided to move they would take down the homes and transport their belongings on sleighs that were similar in some ways to a toboggan.

Sometimes there were conflicts among the tribes but they were small and short in duration.

Overall life was peaceful. They had adjusted to the seasonal rhythms of their environment.