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My name is Louis Bird and this is the way I am going to tell a story of the legends of the Omushkego. The name of the lake is when we tell a story about the XXWabagamushusagaganXX on the on the cape Henrietta Maria, to remember the story about the Inuit attacking the Omushkego people on a certain place in that in that area. The lake that we are talking about is situated on one of those hills that run parallel to the sea. And this was a long time before the European came into the scene. And there was no guns and other European trade goods. And this raid from the Inuit warriors attacked the group of Omushkegok people, mostly women and children and the elders, while the men were hunting. And this was just a temporary summer camp when this happened. So the Inuit descended from their hiding place and attacked the camp, killing all the elders and the children and the women. And also being so excited by killing, they began to act very strangely and very savagely which led them to cut the breast of the women who were feeding who were nursing the children. And by doing that they throw away these glands into the water and turn the water white. And therefore the lake was called XXWabagamushusagaganXX. Even to this day it is it is called the same. But not because there is a color of the milk of the woman breast, but it is because it contains some small, a small leaches which stir the bottom of the lake. The reason we have the good memory of this story is, is because one of the young woman, one of the young men, sorry, was able to jump into lake and hide under the hanging moss of the lake, which he was able to breathe. And while this is happening, he heard and saw something fall into the lake and these were the breasts of the women who were nursing children, and saw the water turn to white. And the young man was able to survive, and relate the story to his to his people. That is that is one example of the story.

XX[Cree version here.]XX

This is one of the stories that, that has been passed on to us by our our elders. Which took place in the Cape Henrietta Maria. And this story is called XX(inaudible)XX. It is called because of the story that took place. It actually mean "Milk White Water Lake". So in in time passed we people used to experience the raids from other people from other tribes in that area. And the area is a summer summer camp where the Omushkego used to stay every summer. And usually some tribes will come up suddenly appear and they arise and attack them in their summer camp. And it so happened this day these were believed to be Inuit people appear from nowhere, from from the bay and walk up to the camp and attack the unsuspecting people in the summer camp. Mostly they were elders, women and the children. Because the men were out hunting for their for their daily activity. Being in the woods and also for the sheer enjoying of hunting. So it was that time they were, the Inuit people attacked camp. And by frenzy you call the word when they start to kill, they begin when they scream and kill and run around and try to kill everybody they see, the old people and the children, and when they saw the women running with the children, men with the nursing, nursing women. When they killed they cut the breast of the women for some reason, and then they throw these breasts into the water, into the lake, which in turn, turns into milk white water, and also blending with other blood that they throw away. And it was very, very vicious, or very sad story. And the story came because one young man who was not yet old enough to hunt with the hunters was left behind, and he managed to run into the lake, jump into the water, and come up behind the hanging moss of the water, of the lake, the bank of the lake. And there he breathed and listen to the screams and killing of the camp, of his camp. And here the children being slaughtered and women running around and screaming.

At the same, same time, he heard something fall into the water right close by him, and see the water turn red, and also blending with white stuff, there he saw. They were the woman breast that were thrown into the lake, which turns water in white. And thus called this lake XXChoshoshwabagamushusagaganXX, which means milk, white, water lake. Presently if you look at this lake, you will see it as is described. It is not because there is milk in it, it has been find out that there are leeches in that lake which stir the

bottom of the lake because the lake is very shallow, and it looks like a white water. And that is the symbol of the story, which we call short stories.

XX[Cree version]XX

This next one is an example of a story about the respect of our environment in the Omushkegok territory. The forest is the home of the animals, and the waterfall and the fish which provide the food for the human beings. And therefore when the forest fires is set, or forest fire is occurred in the area, it destroys the home of the water fall in the spring for those who came to nest in the in the Muskeg area near the Creeks and near rivers. And it is also kills the animals that live there, for example the rabbits and small animals which will cannot outrun the fire. And also affected the fish who who use the creeks and small lakes for their, for their feeding ground, when the forest fire is is on the, is occurred, all these are destroyed, and it take, and it also takes away the the food for the people who live there, and it also endangers their life. And for, for example when there is a forest fire the birds that nest even though the parents can fly away, the goslings suffocated, the little ducklings also suffocated in the area, even the Loons, small Loons and may other small water fowl who nest on the Muskeg area. And the small animals, like minks, and weasels, and squirrels and rabbits, they all cannot outrun the fire. They perish with the forest fire. And when the fish are there the fire is so extreme and all that in the bush and in the small creeks with plenty of of wood along the river banks they too get affected by the forest fire even though they are under water. And for this its affect all the living things and it destroy the land temporary. And it also, and it also endangered the human life. And for that reason, it is always important to teach the children never to play with fire.

XX[Cree version]XX

This is a third example of a historical story which; took place in somewhere in Hudson or James Bay. And it's supposed to have been true. But we don't know exactly where and when, and then the story is about when the Omushkegos first saw the, the white man. In this one they saw, one person saw the object sitting on the, on the highest reach of the height water.

The object sit there that looks like a, a, a large, a large large moss, or mutt with the trees on top. So he walks close he saw that it was not, it was man-made object, and he begin to hide. He went back to report to his friends and he says there is something out there which I saw. They all went, went to look at it, and study it for a few days. Finally they saw the human figures moving on top, they know there is humans in there. So they were afraid to show themselves. They decided to use one man, to use him as a bait. Or as a decoy. So the people there can see him.

So it so happen this man who is a decoy, did actually show himself upon the ridge of the bank. And the people in the in this object, did actually show and walk up towards him on the on, on the mutt, on the sand. And wave at him, wave at him to show him that he, they saw him. And beckon him to come close. So he did walk up close to them, and he saw that they were not hostile, and he begin to show his greeting, his own way. So they begin to communicate with each other by sign language. The white men pointing at their boat, that it's stuck, he understand that, and that they needed some help. The Omushkego understand they wanted the help. So he was allowed to return to his friends, and he says these people need some help. They want some help because they are stuck there. They want to bring their boat back into the water. So they went to see. And they went to work for them, helping them by gathering the large the large logs of driftwood which pile on the shores, and carry to their to their boat, and help them to make a some sort of a run, and the wood to use as rollers. And each time when he water comes, before the water comes, the the boat people usually take their anchor out out in in towards the bay and attach with their own lines, the lines they use, and then winch themselves towards the bay when the water comes in with the help of the rollers there at the bottom. This took time and finally they reached the deepest water where the tide comes, and finally drift their boat and sail away. And that's one of the story that took place in, in terms of the first contact of the white people. And the stories are there similar in many other places which, can be told.