

Doodems

As interpreted by First Nations Artist Donald Chrétien

Commissioned by the Grey Roots Museum exhibit, The Good People



Turtle • Mishiike
The emblem of healers, the turtle offered its back as a resting place for Sky Woman to deliver her child.



Crane • Moosha' oosi
Told our ancestors about liberty, independence, democracy, individuality, equality, rights, duties and co-operation.



Catfish • Mizyh
Teacher of teachers, master of learning who instructs that the land and all its inhabitants are purveyors of learning and teachings.



Bear • Makwa
Loves and cares for children, the old and downtrodden and later becomes a guardian and warrior for helpless, hapless people.



Marten • Waabizheshi
The patron of providers - hunters, fishers, harvesters, gardeners, all who furnish the basic supplies of food, clothing, shelter.



Bearwalker • Me'coumoosa
Medicine men and women who transform into other life forms as a disguise to get close to their victims in order to inject them with poison.



Thunderbirds • Binesiwag
The Keepers of the Rains and the Watcher of Mother Earth's need for refreshment and cleanliness.



Storyteller • Auttissookaunuk
Keepers of stories and acting as guides for story-tellers, keeping them on course as they create stories.



Otter • Ningik
Sent to our ancestors from the Underworld, to tell them that many plants carry "The Strength of the Earth".



The Starting Son • Maudjee-Kawiss
First son of Winonah. A powerful man of action, a leader who cared for his people, keeping them safe from attack.



The Disowned • Pukawiss
Second son of Winonah. The first actor, a story-teller in motion, choreographer, dramatist and patron of fine dress and fashion.



Cheeby-aub-oozoo
Winonah's third son taught us the quest for the spirit through dreams, visions, purification rituals, fasting, chanting and spiritual exercises.



Nana'b'oozoo
Winonah's fourth son. Part spirit, part man, easily tempted by physical needs. Commits all manners of evil at his worst and blunders at his best.



Pauguk
So coveted his sister-in-law that he killed his brother to get her. His punishment was for his Soul-Spirit to be destined to wander forever.



Weendigo
The greedy monster within us that demands more, eventually overwhelming the needs of mind, heart and spirit, becoming our master.