Doodems

As interpreted by First Nations Artist Donald Chrétien

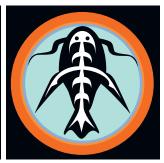
Commissioned by the Grey Roots Museum exhibit, The Good People



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



Crane • Mooshka' 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'coubmoosa 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.



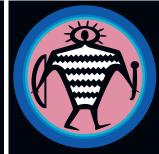
Thunderbirds • BinesiwagThe Keepers of the Rains
and the Watcher of Mother
Earth's need for refreshment
and cleanliness.



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 a
healing property called "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 • PukawissSecond 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.