

PRESS RELEASE

October 26, 2022



It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness that we share the passing of our Traditional Elder

Joseph Henry Mathews
“Chief Iron Bear”

Sunrise - July 16, 1959
Sunset - October 25, 2022

Elder Joseph Henry Mathew has begun his journey to the spirit world at the age of 63; Father, Grandfather, Uncle, Brother, Friend, Ceremony Knowledge Keeper and Teacher.

He will be sadly missed by his children Joseph Jr. Mathews (Melanie Neeposh), Tanya Audrey Mathews, Tess McEachern (Sean), Lorelei Mathews, Tyler-Joseph Singer (Dannah Ellison) and Lance Black, his grandchildren Etrayu, Ulrich, Kiyrie, Elora, Bear, Odae, Danis, Juju, Taylor J., Aaliyah, Darius and Violet, his brothers and sisters Robert Archibald (Kimberly Nolan), Roseanne Archibald, Charles Archibald, Bruce Archibald (Pauline Trépanier), Francis Archibald (June Black) and Gloria Archibald, many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was predeceased by his father Frank Archibald, mother Veronica Archibald, brother Ronald Archibald and sister Margaret Mathews.

His love for our traditional ways was the cornerstone of his beliefs and work he did with Ontario Federation of Friendship Centres, Ininev Friendship Centre, Meequam Youth Residence, Montieth Correctional Complex, Wahgoshig Development Corporation, National Native Alcohol and Drug Addiction Program with Peawanuck First Nation. He also worked with surrounding First Nations including Beaver House First Nation, Taykwa Tagamou Nation, Timiskaming First Nation, Eagle Village First Nation (Kebaowek), Mushkegowuk Council, Peawanuck First Nation, Wahpahkay Women's Circle, Keepers of the Circle, and Wahgoshig First Nation (now AAN) Chief and Council. Henry held many certificates in his field of study and received many honors for his knowledge, dedication, compassion, and commitment to helping his/all people.

He loved Mother Earth; nature, hunting, fishing, cooking, sports, music and ceremony all which he shared freely with people of all ages. Henry stood tall, proud, humble and was respected across Turtle Island. His love for the land resounded in his prayers, teachings, stories and ceremony.

The family will be receiving friends at Irvine & Irvine Funeral Home, 70 Seventh Avenue South, Cochrane, on Thursday October 27th, 2022 from 2:00 pm to 9:00 pm. On Friday October 28th, 2022, Henry will be taken to his homeland for his final farewell in Peawanuck First Nation. On Saturday, October 29, 2022, his wake will continue in Cochrane at the funeral home from 10:00 am with Funeral Service at 12 noon and the burial will follow at the Cochrane Catholic Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to
Irvine & Irvine funeral home
For information: 705-272-3239

May you all be surrounded in memories of love and light.

