

# Elders Spotlight

By Phyllis Lowe

*Editor's Note: Each month we will feature four tribal elders in the Elders Spotlight. If you are interested in participating in the Elder Spotlights, you may contact Phyllis Lowe at 1-800-846-8946, ext. 3166.*

## DORA AMMANN

Hi, my name is Dora Ammann (nee Mosay). I live in Balsam Lake, Wis.

My parents were Archie and Estella Mosay, nee Wakemeup.

My children are Brooke Mosay and Anthony Dan.

I attended Balsam Lake Grade School and Unity High School.

My favorite food is any kind of fish.

We did fun activities when we were young like skating, skiing, swimming, softball and going to races. We walked to Luck Theater for movies.

My first job, right out of high school, was working for Pearson Candy Company in St. Paul, Minn.

My favorite TV shows are "Wheel of Fortune" and "General Hospital."

The most important lesson learned in life is to educate our children so they have survival skills when we are dead and gone.

Today the world is run by computers.

My proudest achievement is my children growing up to be respectful.

My words of wisdom for today's



young people are to educate yourself, spiritually and academically. Learn something new every day.

My hobbies are helping my grandchildren and anyone else who asks and learning our traditions. I love playing with my grandchildren and going to the casinos. Still hoping to win.

## MARYANN MORRISON

Hi, I am Maryann Morrison. I'm from the Sand Lake Community.

My mother was Angeline Oiyotte Johnson. My children are Vernon, Vanessa, Christine, Lisa and Leslie.

I attended Siren Grade School.

My favorite food is bread.

Fun activities in my younger days were bowling and reading.

My first job was helping my parents by picking beans and blueberries.

My favorite TV shows are sports, football and basketball.

A major world change is electricity availability. We did not have electricity or running water when we were growing up.

An important lesson I learned in life is to enjoy daily life, being able to see and able to walk. And always be thankful.

My proudest accomplishment in life



was raising my kids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

*A kind word is like a spring day! Kindness makes you the most beautiful person in the world, no matter what you look like.*

## SHARON WILLIAMS

Hi, I am Sharon Williams. I'm from the Round Lake Community.

My parents were Raymond and Virginia Mosay.

I have three children, Jamie Buck, Jeremy Mosay and Jennifer Williams.

I attended St. Croix Falls Grade School.

My favorite food is a hamburger and fries.

In my younger days, some of my favorite activities were making mud pies, picking agates and playing with Barbie dolls and paper dolls.

My first job was as a librarian in Dresser, Wis., through the WestCAP Agency.

My favorite TV show is "Walking Dead" on AMC.

The most important lesson I have learned in life is prejudice never goes away.

The world has changed tremendously; there is way more technology.

My proudest achievement is seeing my



children succeed to where they are now.

The wisdom I want to pass down to young people today is do what makes you happy and you will never work a day in your life.

Hobbies I enjoy are doing jigsaw puzzles and quilting.

*If the legends fall silent, who will teach the children our ways? -Chief Dan George*

## STEVE FOWLER

Boozhoo. My name is Manoomin Bineshii (Steve Fowler).

I am 58 years old, but my heart feels 20. I'm from the Round Lake Community.

Many years of contact sports and manual labor jobs have worn my body some.

In my youth I traveled to the logging camp in Hayward. I sang with my uncle John Bearheart Sr. I also danced, but feeling the beat of the drum made me feel happy. Sitting at the drum, you feel a sense of excitement and energy.

I remember the knowledge of hunting, fishing and trapping was with my uncle, Sam Bearheart Sr. Yes, the Good Ol' Days.

We moved to Minneapolis. There I found a whole different world. I had to adapt fast. No woods, no lakes, I felt lost. What I had to learn there was "street smart," something you need to know to survive.



Today, I sit home doing crafts and being around my grandchildren.

I worked for the St. Croix tribe for many years. I earn some income when someone buys crafts from me.

But as I tell many, "Being Native you learn to survive." We are still here today.