

On the banks of Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung, or Long Sault Rapids with Art Hunter

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Time: 3 minutes 34 seconds

Transcribed by Tasneem Badshah and Christina Pasqua, 2020-2021.

00:06-00:20

Art: My name is Art Hunter. I am from Rainy River First Nations, and yeah, I've lived here all my life. Proud to be a Rainy River First Nations member.

00:20-01:00

Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung, the place of the long rapids, it means — it helps me identify with who I am and where I come from, and it's a very special place to me. It's a very spiritual place, where I can come and think back and reflect on my forefathers, my grandmothers, my grandfathers, and how they lived and just to feel the spiritual energy that's, you know, it's very special to me in that way.

It helps me identify with who I am.

01:00-02:38

First and foremost, I'm not Art Hunter, I'm Giitaagiizhig. That's my spirit name. And my father was born at Hungry Hall in around 1914. And my father and my mother fished the Rainy River. And growing up, I remember coming through here and seeing the big hills and asking what they were. And all my mother said was, "There are people buried in there." And so as I got older, I heard stories of how the seven reserves came to be, how Manitou Rapids came to be. I heard my dad talking about Hungry Hall, and I wish I would've listened to him more at that age, because he had a lot to share about Hungry Hall itself. The Paskonkin Reserve is where he was born. So I didn't learn about this occurrence, you know, that happened way back then, until I got older. And I'm still learning about it. But I think the younger generation would benefit greatly. It would help them get through life a little easier if they know who they are, who their families are, where they come from, and just to get out and appreciate the beauty of this place. That's what it means to me.

02:38-03:34

It's always been a dream of the people, of the elders of the past, to be able to share our story and so Kay-Nah-Chi-Wah-Nung... I consider myself to be so lucky to have this place. To have people from all over the world come here, visit, and learn about who we are, and not just the people here, Rainy River First Nations, but all Indigenous people and to try and bridge those gaps between Indigenous people and the non-native people. And so even coming here and working here, it's been so good to be able to share our story with other people. That's the really good thing, and makes me feel good.

(END)