

# Famous seer Ted Silverhand visits Manitoulin

by Robin Burrige

M'CHIGENNG—Seer Ted Silverhand has travelled the world sharing his gift and performing readings for icons such as Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Cher, La Toya Jackson, and during his visit to Manitoulin earlier this month, he performed a reading for me.

Mr. Silverhand, a member of the Tuscarora Sixth Nation, was born in Dunn, North Carolina. He comes from a long lineage of seers including his mother, grandmother, great grandfather and an even longer

he would die," she added. Ms. Silverhand said that Elvis had been sad and confused with drugs and that he would often call their house early in the morning for spiritual guidance but he knew his time was near and he wanted to pass on.

When I asked about Johnny Cash, Ms. Silverhand told me an amazing story of when Mr. Silverhand had been flown to Mr. Cash's house in Jamaica to do readings at his birthday party. When the seer sat down with Mr. Cash he saw a black cloud around the

the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation in M'Chigeeng.

Mr. Silverhand still returns to the Island once a year to take in its beauty and perform readings. Ms. Silverhand even said that when hers and her husband's life on this earth end, they have plots on Manitoulin and plan to have their remains buried here.

When it was my turn to venture into the cottage adjacent to Lillian's Crafts in M'Chigeeng where Mr. Silverhand was performing reading, I became very

noted that I wore a ring on my thumb, which meant that I was halfway independent, but not wanting to be fully independent. He then began telling me everything that he saw about me and what the spirits said about me. What he said about me is too personal to share with all of Manitoulin, but he described me to my core and we spoke of different things I was feeling.

Mr. Silverhand often said 'we' when he was speaking, because he was saying what he saw along with his spirit guides. I was told that I would have a long life on earth, but that the major lesson I was to learn in this life was to learn to love myself.

He described a childhood conversation I had had with my best friend and my dream at the age of 12 and told me that the reason I had wanted those dreams was because that they had been my reality in a past life.

He described my 'artsy personality' and told me that I would one day write a book. The idea would come to me in a very unusual way, but I would be on Manitoulin when I decided to write it.

I was warned to be careful when I drive, because although I will look back on my life one day and see how lucky I had been, I could get into an accident in the next year if I was not careful. He even described

a situation that occurred a couple weeks ago in Sudbury when I almost hit another car because I did not check my blind spot.

My totem animal is the bear, I learned, and Mr. Silverhand asked me about my stomach problems and told me they were because of stress and recommended that I drink raspberry tea to help elevate the stress.

After he was done telling me everything that the spirits wanted to share with me, I was given the opportunity to ask questions.

The session concluded with him telling me that one day I would return to see him and I would bring with me my future husband and future children.

I felt like I was in a haze the rest of the day. It was a lot to take in, but despite my mother's cynical explanations for everything the seer told me, I know that he was the 'real deal' and I feel honored that I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Silverhand and for him to have shared his gift with me.



A publicity still of seer Ted Silverhand with his totem animal, the bear, in the background.

photo supplied

list of antecedents that dates all the way back to the 1700s.

Mr. Silverhand first discovered his gift when a spirit guide named Bedobin, meaning 'first light', came to him as a child. Bedobin introduced him to his spirit counsel and counsel of elders who showed him his gifts and told him of his life's journey.

Prior to my reading with Mr. Silverhand, his wife Brenda Silverhand met with me to tell me about her husband, his special connection with Manitoulin and his gift.

"He is not a physic," she explained. "When you meet with him it's a spiritual conversation."

Ms. Silverhand explained that seers are a traditional part of aboriginal communities. They would give "spiritual insight to the elders of the tribe such as when to plant, hunt, go to war, and even the innocence or guilt of a tribe member." When he performs readings, he speaks with the individual and his spirit guides; that's why she said she refers to it as a 'spiritual conversation.'

I asked her about some of Mr. Silverhand's celebrity clients. She told me that her husband had been Elvis Presley's personal seer for the last two years of Elvis' life, "and, yes, he told him

house and urged him to sell his Jamaican home. Mr. Cash became enraged because it was his family's favorite home and was especially a favorite place for Mr. Cash's wife, June.

The following spring, Mr. Cash phoned the seer to apologize and explained that on Thanksgiving weekend, his Jamaican home had been broken into by thieves and though no one was hurt, many family items had been taken, including most of Ms. Cash's jewelry.

After hearing Mr. Silverhand's brushes with fame, I was curious how the North Carolina seer had first come to Manitoulin Island.

Ms. Silverhand said that her husband had initially visited Manitoulin over 25 years ago to attend a pow wow. During his visit he met and connected with Ojibwe Cultural Foundation founder the late Mary Lou Fox who became a very influential person in his life. Ms. Silverhand said that Ms. Fox was a 'spiritual mother' to Mr. Silverhand.

Ms. Fox had a vision to create a cultural centre for Anishinabek people. The seer came back to visit Ms. Fox three times a year; each time using his gift to help raise funds for his spirit mother's vision which became the new offices of

nervous. I had never met a physic, let alone a seer, and I was not sure what to expect.

When he shook my hand, I felt instantly at ease. Ms. Silverhand had explained that it would feel as comfortable as meeting with my own grandfather, and it was.

He brushed me with a sacred red-tailed hawk feather and performed a prayer that he would share the information he received accurately and that my heart, mind and spirit would be open to hear the words that were given.

Ms. Silverhand explained ahead of time that the seer traditionally uses a sacred eagle feather for men and a red-tailed hawk feather for women just to be safe because the eagle feather cannot be used on a woman if she is on her 'moon cycle.'

He began the reading by telling me about my hands and the meaning behind how I wore my rings. He said that it was good that I wore my large turquoise ring on the middle finger of my left hand because that was my money finger and my left hand was for receiving, but my right hand was for paying bills and that I never wanted to wear my ring on my middle finger, right hand. He

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