

Audreen Hourie, Metis Educator and Patriot. **(b. 1943)**

Audreen Hourie is a Métis, born in the Métis community of Grand Marais, Manitoba, on the southeast side of Lake Winnipeg. Audreen was a founding board member of Pemmican Publications (1980) and became Managing Editor in March 2000. She retired from this position in June of 2004.

She had previously worked for the Manitoba Métis Federation in various capacities for well over 25 years, mainly in the areas of research, education and cultural development. Audreen always used her experience to involve Métis people in the arts and was a leader in providing training to Métis people in the book publishing industry.

Audreen Hourie is the Metis daughter of Edward Miles Hourie (b. 1905 at Grand Marais) and May Frances Orvis (b. 1910 at Balsam Bay). Audreen was born at Grand Marais, Manitoba, the youngest of six children. The Michif language was once spoken in the Orvis family but died out with the generation of Audreen's mother. Audreen's father was a commercial fisherman who also trapped but did not like to hunt. It was her mother, May, who owned all the guns in the home did all the hunting for the family and taught her boys to be hunters. She was also an excellent horsewoman, she loved riding and would compete in horse races and often won. Her mother gave Audreen the gift of music and dance. Over the years, Audreen gave numerous seminars and workshops to Metis youth on Metis music and the art of jigging. Audreen is the former Provincial Education co-ordinator for the Manitoba Metis Federation and was interim President of Manitoba Metis Federation while John Morriveau was on sick leave. She was also Vice-President of the Native Council of Canada (1981-1982). As a lead up to the Manitoba Metis Federation land claim court case against the federal government, Audreen worked on the land claims research team both in Ottawa and in Manitoba.

In 1979, Audreen organized and participated in sit-ins at the provincial legislature protesting the high unemployment rates amongst Aboriginal people. In April of 1979, Audreen and other protesters took over the Employment and Immigration Canada offices in Winnipeg and stayed there for nine days. When the government didn't follow through with their promises they did a sit in at the legislature. There were eight leaders from Norway House and 36 other supporters. This protest lasted 28 days. When the government returned to sit in session, they passed what was dubbed "The Norway House Law", which changed the regulations for peaceful sit-ins. After this experience, Audreen took up writing to tell the Metis story and she continues to be active on the front line of those speaking out for the Metis people.

Over the years, Audreen has volunteered to teach Metis culture to Metis youth and numerous other groups. She was the managing editor of Pemmican Publications from 2000 to 2004.

On July 7, 2004 Ka Ni Kanichihk presented a Keeping the Fires Burning Award to Audreen. This award honours Okijida Ikwe or “Big Hearted Women.” Big Hearted Women exemplify the seven sacred laws of honesty, courage, respect, humility, sharing, caring and love by sharing their knowledge, talents and experience to help keep their families and communities strong.

Audreen was editor for *Metis Legacy II: Michif Culture, Heritage and Folklore* with Leah Dorion and Lawrence Barkwell (Winnipeg and Saskatoon: Pemmican Publications and Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2007). This book was nominated and short listed for the Saskatchewan Book Award in two categories. The book also made the short list for the Margaret McWilliams Award in the Popular History category.

Audreen is now retired and living at Kelowna, British Columbia.

Sourced:

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<http://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/07411.pdf>