

Learn how glass beads helped First Nations

The Belfountain Heritage Society will be hearing about the Spirit of the Bead this coming Tuesday (April 15) at its annual general meeting.

The Society will present native artisan and educator Naomi Smith, who will speak about how glass beads aided the survival of the First Nations during pioneer immigration

The presentation will take an alternate view of native life around, during and after the War of 1812. The discussion will focus on the different native handiwork that was created during a period of struggle for the First Nations populations in upper state New York, Ontario and eastern regions of Canada.

Smith is from Neyaashiinigiing, Ontario. Her First Nations heritage forged an interest in Native American beadwork, adornment and textiles. She is the custodian of a collection of historical Woodlands and Northeastern beadwork. Her knowledge also encompasses the methodology and designs of the Woodlands and Northeastern material culture. She is the proprietor of Black Tulip Designs, which offers beads, supplies and classes with a First Nations flair.

The presentation will take place at Belfountain Community Hall, 17204 Main St., starting at 7:30 p.m.