

★ Ray Kiogima ★

Keeper of the Odawa Language

Born March 18, 1930

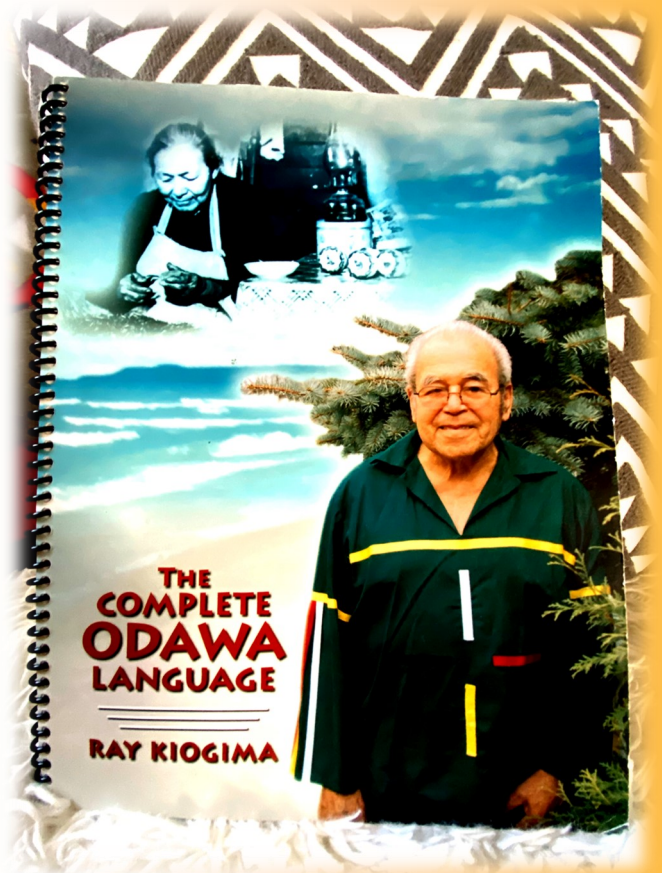


William Raymond Kiogima was raised in Indian Town of Harbor Springs. Ray was a champion of the Odawa language. A lifelong resident of Harbor Springs, Ray helped establish Michigan's first Anishinaabemowin language class in a public school setting, at Harbor Springs High School. He also published books on the Odawa language to help revitalize and preserve our language (see book-cover below).

In January of 2005, Ray was recognized by the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians as fluent Odawa speaker. He credited his Nookimis (Grandmother) Mary Ann for teaching him all about the Odawa language. Mary Ann did not speak English (she is pictured here >>>>).

Ray and his wife Mary Jane (Chingwa) married in 1966. She was a big supporter of Raymond and his passion for the Odawa language.

Raymond walked on July 23, 2014. He will always be remembered for his kindness, and for his lifelong passion for the Odawa language.





Ray was raised in Indian Town of Harbor Springs, Michigan

Harbor Springs is part of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians' reservation

<<<< pictured here



Early photo of Harbor Springs found on Harbor Springs Library Website

