

Mary Bea Kenny Biography

Mary Kenny came to the Thunder Bay region in 1976 with her former husband Joel Crookham and their two kids Jason and Sarah Crookham. They had homesteaded in northern British Columbia for a few years. They lived on their trapline on upper Wabakimi Lake for about 5 years, until it was made a park. Jason and Sarah were homeschooled and food was from the land or bought in bulk from Grandma's Health Foods store in Ft. William.

Mary has been married to George Kenny, Ojibway writer from Lac Seul First Nation for almost 25 years. They have lived at Lac Seul where she grew a garden and harvested bush foods.

They now own a 396 acre bush ranch (the old Turgeon Farm) near Dinorwic full of wild foods and medicines. They have two Norwegian Fjord horses, 3 dogs and 3 cats.

Mary was taught about wild plants by her mother Beatrice Bernick Hinmon who grew up in Iowa and Missouri. Her Dad, Don Hinmon, grew up on his grandparents farm in Nashua, Iowa.

She pursued her love of plants and indigenous/folk plant knowledge by taking her HBA at Lakehead University in Anthropology with courses in Botany and her Master of Science in Forestry in Ethnobotany. She is the Environment and Land Use Advisor at Independent First Nations Alliance, a Tribal Council in Sioux Lookout. Mary has been bi-laterally deafened since she was a young woman.

Mary and George Kenny - Blue Sky Ranch Dinorwic, Ontario





1978 Wabakimi Lake