

New graphic novels combines modern and traditional stories

JORDAN STANDUP
THE EASTERN DOOR

Cree writer David Robertson's new book "7 Generations: Stone" is not only unique because it is presented in a comic format, but also because it features a story within a story.

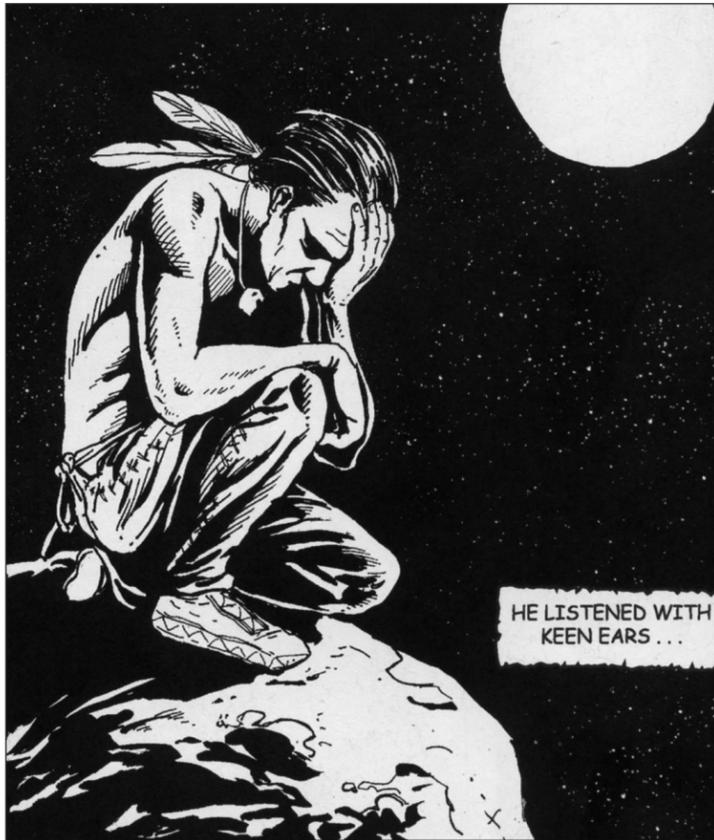
The book, which is the first of four in a graphic novel series, begins with a mother driving home frantically to reach her adult son after she discovers what appears to be a suicide letter. When she arrives at home, she is shocked when she finds her son sprawled out on his bed in desperate need of medical attention.

As she attempts to convince her son of the importance of life, she shares with him a story of their Cree ancestors.

This is when the book becomes extremely interesting because from here on out, the story bounces back and forth between a mother helping her son and a Cree warrior out to avenge his brother's death.

The mother uses the story of their Cree ancestors to show her son that he is perfectly capable of overcoming whatever terrible thought process has consumed him.

Both stories are equally as



COURTESY HIGHWATER PRESS

Panel from David Robertson's new comic book which parallels traditional stories with modern day realities.

interesting and keep readers thumbing through the book's entire 30 pages, which takes no longer than half an hour to read.

The overall message of the book shows that traditional teachings can be applied in today's times and that the stories

of our Native ancestors are significant and as relevant as ever.

This must-read was written by Robertson and illustrated by Scott Henderson.

Robertson was born to a Cree father and non-native mother in Brandon, Manitoba but

lived in Winnipeg most of his life.

"I've always written since I was in grade three," Robertson told The Eastern Door via phone interview earlier this week.

"I started out writing poetry for a long time, then kind of starting writing short stories, then books and now the graphic novels."

Robertson said he has found that graphic novels appeal to an even larger audience.

"I always found it was a great way to reach students, with this subject matter specifically," he said. "I really have a keen interest in making sure Aboriginal history is taught more effectively in schools. That's kind of where I was headed with doing this series."

Robertson also explained his inspiration for the book.

"I was thinking about this story for a long time; a multi-generational story that allowed me to tell different items of Aboriginal history in one big encompassing story," he said. "I've had this idea of using this history as a backdrop to a modern story and really showing how history for this young man (the lead character of the book) impacted where he is today."

Robertson believes that history, to some extent, informs

us where we are and that history informs where we are going tomorrow.

"My inspiration beyond that was really having a way that students could learn as a foundation from important pieces in our history and hopefully have that lead into more textual learning in terms of history," Robertson said.

He also spoke about why he chose to write about suicide.

"I realized that suicide is a huge issue in our communities for our youth, especially in our remote communities. It's something that I wanted to tackle and I wanted to investigate some of the reasons why this is happening to our youth," he said.

Robertson said the second installment in the series could be released in July.

"I'm excited about it. I've written all the scripts so they're all done and now it's just getting the artwork done," he said.

Those interested can purchase the book at www.portageandmainpress.com in the Aboriginal literature section.

jordans@easterndoor.com

Masters in Manufacturing and Installation

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL

Doors • Windows • Kitchens • Bathrooms • Balconies

LANCTOT CENTER
Professional & Friendly Service Serving Kahnawakehrónon

- IN-HOME FREE ESTIMATES
- TURN KEY PROJECTS
- COMPLETE RENOVATIONS

150 Boyer, St. Isidore
450-454-2145
www.pfverdun.com Band Card Accepted

Kahnawake Junior Fire Brigade 2010

The Kahnawake Fire Brigade is pleased to announce that we will be holding the 2010 version of the Kahnawake Junior Fire Brigade.

Anyone interested in learning about what it is like to be a firefighter will have the opportunity to do so this summer.

Maximum number of students 20 per session Ages 9 to 17.

Two 3-week sessions with the following classes:

- Basic Firefighting Skills
- Auto Extrication
- CPR / First Aid
- Water Safety and Rescue
- Search and Rescue
- High Angle And More...

Sessions will start on the following dates:

Ages 9 to 12	Ages 13 to 17
July 5-July 23 (08:30-15:30)	August 2 -August 20 (08:30-15:30)

Session subject to change depending on number and ages of students interested

Program Cost: \$60 per student
Student Registration Deadline: **Friday, June 18, 2010 @ 16:00**

Student Applications can now be picked up at the Kahnawake Fire Brigade between 08:00 and 18:00.

For more information please contact:
Raymond Lepine or John Rice
at (450) 632-2010.

This is a Brighter Futures Initiative