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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARQUETTE, Mich. --Governor William G. Milliken has declared August 18-24 as "Behweting Ojibwa Week," honoring the Ojibwa Indians' culture and their ancient capital, located where the city of Sault Sainte Marie now stands--and known for centuries as "Bahweting."

"Sault Sainte Marie, once considered the capital of the Ojibwa Nation, will be host to a unique cultural event August 18 through 24," Milliken's declaration noted.

"During the course of this week, numerous events will take place designed to bring attention to the spiritual, traditional and cultural way of life of the Ojibwas, and to focus attention on the past and present contributions of the Native peoples to our nation and society," the Governor stated.

Milliken pointed to the assistance provided by the Ojibwas to white settlers "...in establishing his first precarious footholds in the New World. Native Americans and all aspects of their existence--agriculture, government, trade, religion, arts and economics--greatly influenced the white man and helped to shape the destiny of every nation in the Western Hemisphere."

The week-long event is being sponsored by the Original Band of Ojibwas at Sault Ste. Marie in cooperation with the Organization of North American Indian Students of Northern Michigan University at Marquette and the Student Native Americans for Progress at Lake Superior State College at Sault Ste. Marie.

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