

Shirley Horn shares a typical day at Shingwauk Indian Residential School.

- 6:00 a.m. A shrill bell rang and woke us up. I made my bed, tidied my area, and washed in a hurry because I had to go downstairs and do morning chores.
- 6:15 a.m. I helped set up the dining room with plates, cups, and cutlery.
- 7:00 a.m. Breakfast was always porridge. After we ate, we cleaned up, wiped tables, took away dirty dishes, and washed them by hand.
- 8:00 a.m. Call to morning prayers in auditorium.
- 9:00 a.m. We were in the classroom for a half-day, three days a

week. We studied religion, literature, English, geography, arithmetic, penmanship, and music.

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch was pasta or rice with tomato sauce. We didn't get a lot of food. Sometimes we had fish. We girls made date squares, simple cakes, and put molasses and corn syrup on our bread. We first used lard for butter but later we had margarine.
- 1:00 p.m. Started on more chores. We worked in the laundry, washing and ironing clothes. We cleaned the building and scrubbed the floors and the play area. We each spent one month sewing jeans and mending socks.
- 4:00 p.m. We finished our chores and had time to play. If it was nice out, we played on swings, and spent time with our friends talking over the day. In winter, we went skating on the rink on

the boys side. The girls went for long walks nearly every day.

- 4:30 p.m. Back to kitchen duty preparing the dining room.
- 5:00 p.m. Supper.
- 5:30 p.m. We did kitchen duty, wiping the tables and sweeping the floors.
- 6:00 p.m. Recreation time. In winter, we had meetings such as Brownies and Girl Guides once a week. We could earn badges. The Girl Guide leader and the supervisor from the school were nice people. They treated us with kindness.
- 8:00 p.m. The junior girls went to bed.
- 9:00 p.m. Intermediate girls said their prayers and went to bed. We also went to church twice on Sundays besides going to Sunday school.



Girls enrolled in Girl Guides and Brownies.

A SURVIVOR SPEAKS

“For us boys, buzzer rings, wash up, breakfast, and chores before school. The routine is not much different from any Indian residential school, just a different part of the country. Prayers during the day, 1830 to 1900 hours, chapel and study time. The routine would repeat the next day for me for the next 12 years.”

—Roy Inglangasuk (Inuit) attended All Saints Anglican Mission (Aklavik Anglican Indian Residential School) in Aklavik and Stringer Hall in Inuvik, both in the Northwest Territories. He is a pharmacist in Pangnirtung, Nunavut. Roy has written a daily journal for more than 50 years.