Kluskap's Fight with Winter

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One of the Kluskap stories describes a time when it was winter all year round. Kluskap and the Spirit of Winter had a battle. Kluskap lost and it became winter year-round. A related story talks about how Kluskap had to take his people south and recruit the Spirit of Summer to come back to Mi'kma'ki. After the four seasons returned, there was a remnant piece of ice on the Cobequid mountains. The erosional features on the top of the Cobequids attest to ice covering them in the late glacial period more than 11,000 years ago. Does this story stretch back that far? The climatic history of the region possibly relating to this story can be found at http://www.mikmaweydebert.ca/home/ancestors-live-here/debert/an-ice-age-world/.



Ice coverage across Mi'kma'ki, 21000 calendar years ago.



Gerald Gloade's imagining of the Spirit of Winter. Courtesy of Gerald R. Gloade.

Image left: glacial maximum at 21,000 years ago. The ice was at least a km thick! **Bottom left**: glacial retreat has begun, and water levels are high from ice melt and isostatic rebound at 15,000 years ago. **Below**: isostatic rebound is outpacing ice melt with raised land areas throughout Mi'kma'ki at 11,000 years ago. Slide shows of the climatic history of Mi'kma'ki can be found on the Mi'kmawey Debert website. Maps courtesy of Dr. John Shaw, Bedford Institute of Oceanography.



Ice coverage and exposed land areas, 15,000 calendar years ago.



Ice coverage and exposed land areas, 11,000 calendar years ago.