

WEDNESDAY

MAY 21ST
2003

Historic struggle

Think of the new hour-long documentary **Olive Dickason's First Nations** as a companion piece to the documentary on C.D. Hoy (see page 14). Both shows attempt to open up Canadian history to vistas that far exceed the standard white man's vision.

Olive Dickason is a pioneering historian of the Canadian West who gave back to the aboriginals the precious gift of their history. When she decided to study for her PhD at the advanced age of 50, she was told there was no such thing as Native American history because the people had left no written records.

Her subsequent books show the evolution of the First Nations in art, language and adaptation to the environment. This nicely focused study looks at Dickason's life in Winnipeg, her growing up on a northern mink farm, and her B.A. from Notre Dame College in Wilcox, Sask.

She later excelled as a journalist before settling into her second occupation. She has Metis roots on her mother's side and says her work has involved "trying to honour all of my ancestors."

Dawn and Steven J. Deme of Villagers Media made this first-class portrait. 10 p.m. on Vision.

— J.B.



Olive Dickason