

Bethel Plans Marketing

Michael Rowan is now coordinating with State Rep. Ray Christiansen and all the council chiefs in the Bethel-Kuskokwim area to attempt to market authentic Eskimo arts and crafts.

A non-profit clearing house is being planned to receive arts and crafts articles with an idea to upgrade the quality and to make sure of the authenticity of the items. The clearing house is planned to be established in Bethel.

"We are interested in getting more of the profits from these items back to the Native people who made them," Rowan said.

The group is also trying to get federal funds to establish a similar clearing house in Anchorage which would also be on a non-profit basis.

In working up the plan, Rowan said that he received much information and aid from Carl Heinmiller of Port Chilkoot.

Rowan is married to former Irene Sparks who was one of the original Chilkat Dancers and who is also actively working in the arts and crafts project.