

**VISITING OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOURS**  
**the Mississauga of Curve Lake FN and the Chippewas of Beausoleil FN**

**On June 19, 2024, the Truth and Reconciliation Coalition in Bobcaygeon opened Gdinuhwendimin at the Beach Park on the traditional territories of the Mississaugas of Curve Lake FN.**

Large stones from a local quarry are placed in a circle. Plants indigenous to this part of Turtle Island are growing around these stones. This arrangement facilitates the telling of stories along the Severn River.

**Dave Gordan** and **David Franks** joined members of the Coalition, two classes from Bobcaygeon Public School who have helped in tending this Garden, and people from the community as well as members from Getsiinyag who belong to an over 55 group and author Drew Hayden Taylor from Curve Lake FN.

Elder Mary Taylor opened the gathering with drumming and singing a song From the Four Directions. Rodeney Smith-Merkley who is a member of TRC-Bobcaygeon, and the Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge provided a history of these traditional territories as shared by the renown Elder Gidigaa Miigizi-bun (Doug Williams) about his grandmother and from his own experiences fishing at this summer camping place. Chief Keith Knott affirmed the youth who had been caring for the plants and received an enthusiastic response from them. Chief Knott also explained how the waterways were used to transport goods and facilitate trade among a host of nations. Elder Mary Taylor noted that June was the month of the Strawberry Moon and recounted the Anishinaabemowin story of the creation of the Strawberry, initiating a ceremonial feast of strawberries. The stones and plants were smudged with Tobacco and Sage. Everyone participated in this smudge.

Everyone was invited to take some Tobacco and offer prayers to Creator/Divine Mystery/Great Spirit. Lunch was eaten together. Afterwards, everyone sang popular songs from the youth of some of the seniors attending this gathering. Gdinuhwendimin means "We are related", celebrating our connections with the earth, waters, plants, trees, all Human Beings, and to all of the other Living Beings in creation. We have a responsibility to care for each other and for Mother Earth. The Mississaugas of Curve Lake FN signed the Williams Treaties in 1923, resulting in most of 94,000 square kilometres becoming available to Settlers and Settler-descendants. Hunting and fishing were prohibited on these traditional territories.

**On National Indigenous Day 2024, the Georgian Bay Native Friendship Centre held a Pow Wow in Midland at the Sainte Marie Park on the traditional territories of the Chippewas of Beausoleil (G'Chimnissing) FN from nearby Christian Island.**

About 2000 students from **Simcoe County schools** attended this event along with **Dave Gordan** and **David Franks** plus two other members of Trinity.

Former Chief Jeff Monague from Beausoleil FN welcomed Indigenous Peoples and Settler-descendants to this event. Former Chief Monague is a veteran and retired language revitalization teacher with Simcoe County District School Board as well as a respected Elder. Many of the gatherings in the Pow Wow Circle were Inter-Tribal Dances so everyone could participate.

With humour, the Emcee provided a great deal of teachings throughout this Pow Wow. After the afternoon rainstorm, a group of Indigenous Students drummed and sang together. We met a grandmother who worked at the Enahtig Healing Lodge, providing a host of supports and services to children, youth, and their families. This grandmother pulled her two grandchildren from school because they were not learning anything from their teachers were not teaching them about Canada's history with Indigenous Peoples. The Chippewas of Beausoleil FN also signed the Williams Treaties in 1923.

**Chippewas of Georgina Island Pow Wow**

**September 28 and 29, 2024**

**Grand Entry 12:30 pm**

Sutton District High School  
20798 Dalton Road, Sutton

A group of children and youth from Trinity will make carpooling arrangements leaving the Trinity parking lot on

**Saturday, September 28 at 11 AM**

In order to have **Orange Shirts** available for participants, please give **Kelly Peters** the size of shirt needed **by Friday, September 5**. The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in Winnipeg will ship our order to Trinity.

David Franks can be reached also at 905-715-9997.