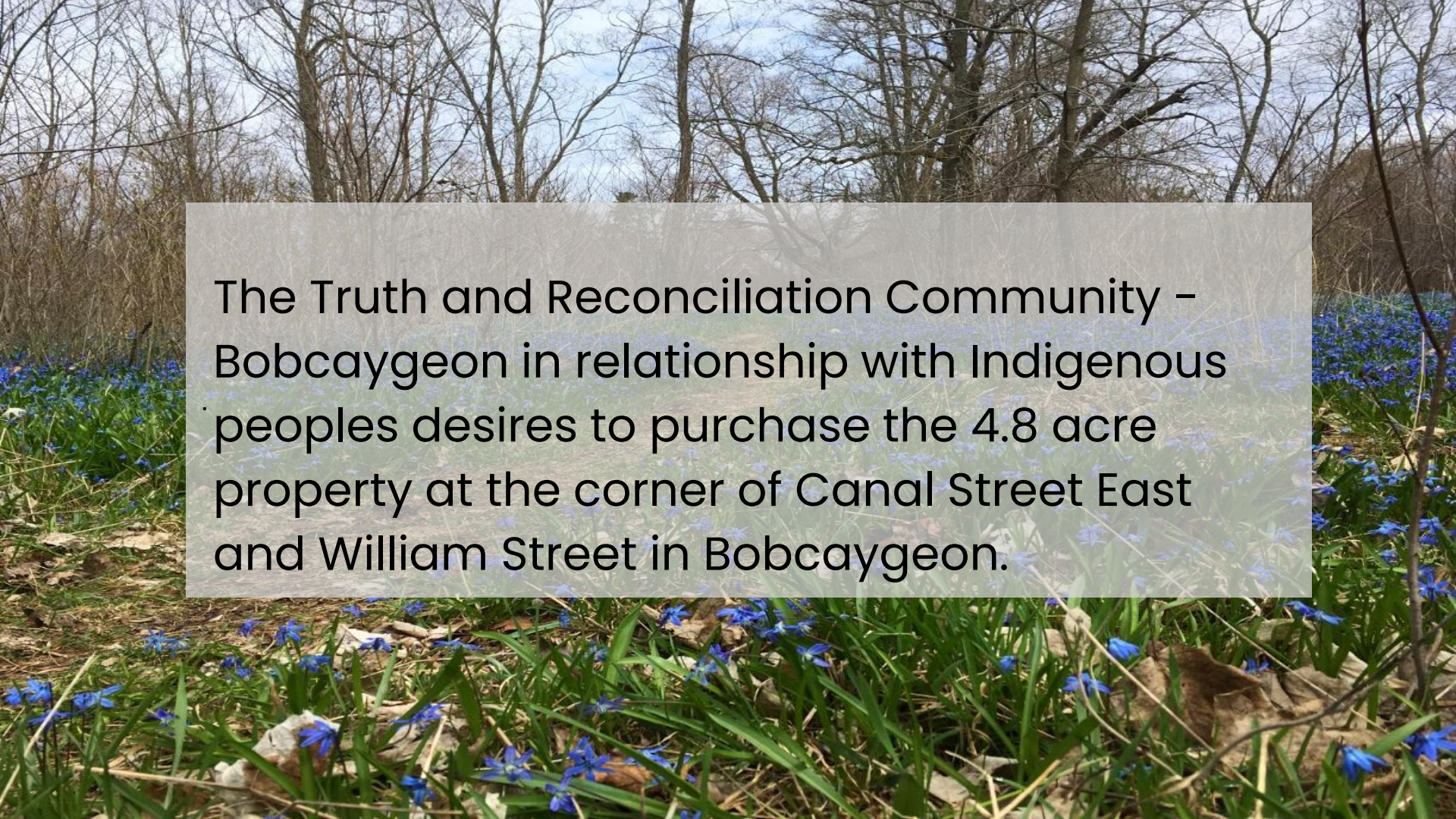
MISHKODEH Centre for Indigenous Knowledge

A proposal by the Truth and Reconciliation Community of Bobcaygeon

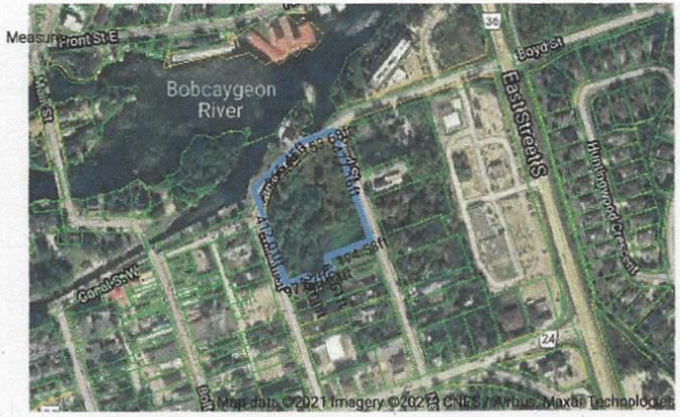
TRUTH and RECONCILIATION COMMUNITY - BOBCAYGEON

- Our purpose is to foster and develop respectful relationships among Settlers, Indigenous neighbours and the Land.
- We encourage and support one another, and anyone who will join with us, in moving towards restitution and decolonization.
- We are learning, educating and working towards reconciliation locally within the Settler community and in relationship with the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg.
- We are actively engaged in learning about and honouring Treaties, both locally and in the wider Canadian context.
- We continue to work towards restitution of wrongs as we respect the values and cultures of Indigenous communities.

1. INTRODUCTION



The Truth and Reconciliation Community - Bobcaygeon in relationship with Indigenous peoples desires to purchase the 4.8 acre property at the corner of Canal Street East and William Street in Bobcaygeon.


Front St E
Bobcaygeon River
Boyd St
East Street S
Huntingwood Crescent
Canal St W
36
24
Map data ©2021 Imagery ©2021 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies

Front St E
Boyd St
Main St
Bobcaygeon River
East Street S
Huntingwood Crescent
ARN 165102800225600
PIN 631290138
Canal St W
36
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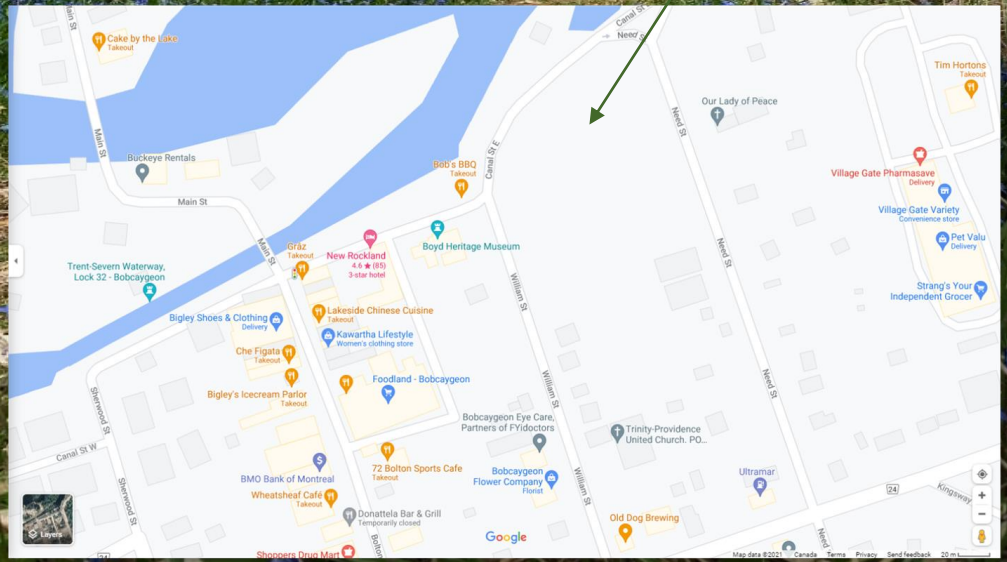
Map data ©2021


Cake by the Lake
Takeout
Main St
Buckeye Rentals
Bob's BBQ
Takeout
Canal St E
Need St
Our Lady of Peace
Tim Hortons
Takeout
Village Gate Pharmasave
Delivery
Village Gate Variety
Convenience store
Pet Valu
Delivery
Strang's Your Independent Grocer
Trent-Severn Waterway, Lock 32 - Bobcaygeon
Graz
Takeout
New Rockland
4.6 ★ (85)
3-star hotel
Boyd Heritage Museum
William St
Bigley Shoes & Clothing
Delivery
Lakeside Chinese Cuisine
Takeout
Kawartha Lifestyle
Women's clothing store
Che Figata
Takeout
Bigley's Icecream Parlor
Takeout
Foodland - Bobcaygeon
Sherwood St
Canal St W
Bobcaygeon Eye Care, Partners of FYidoctors
Trinity-Providence United Church. PO...
BMO Bank of Montreal
72 Bolton Sports Cafe
Takeout
Bobcaygeon Flower Company
Florist
Ultramar
Wheatsheaf Café
Takeout
Donattela Bar & Grill
Temporarily closed
Old Dog Brewing
Kingsway
Shoppers Drug Mart
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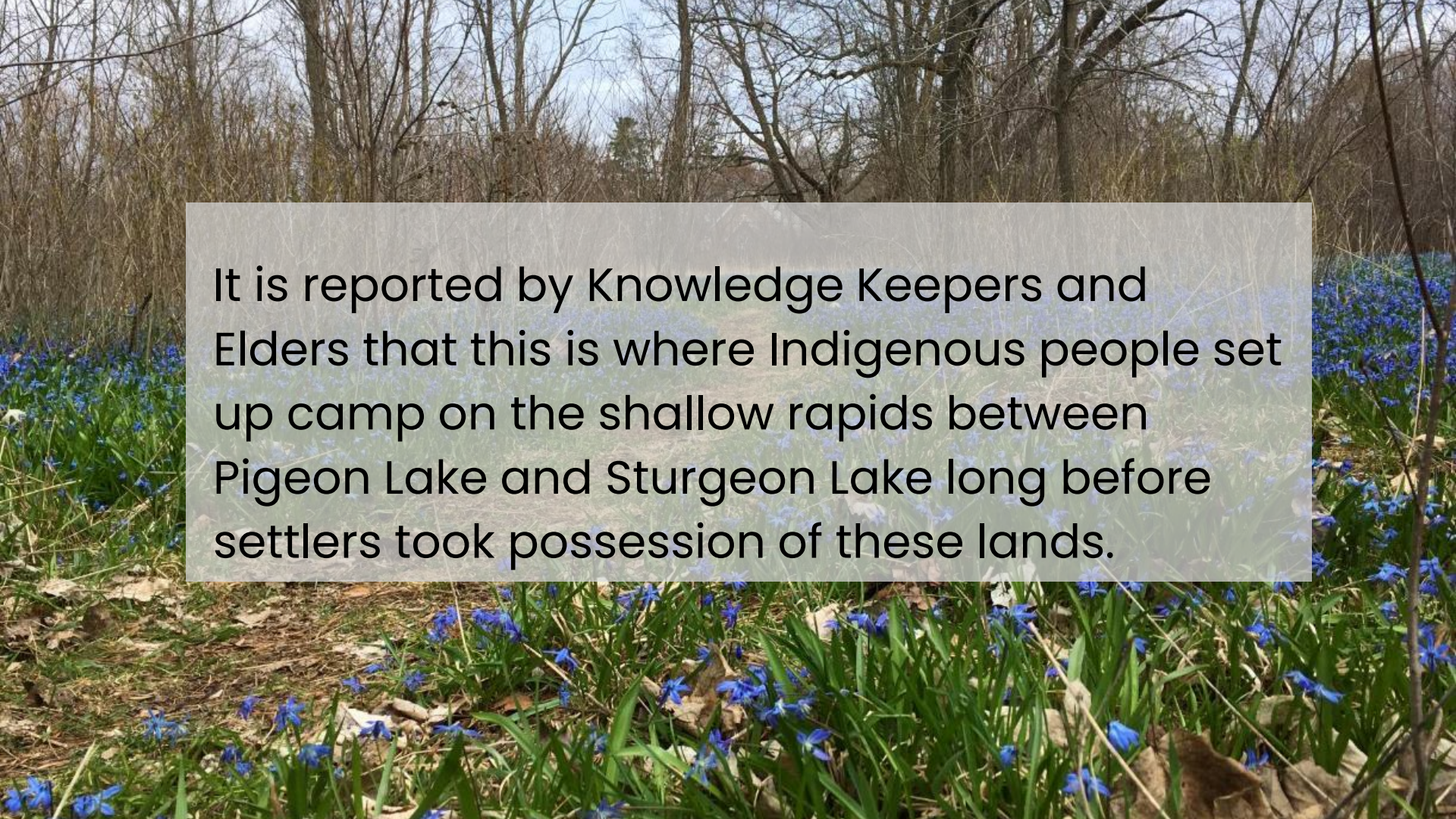
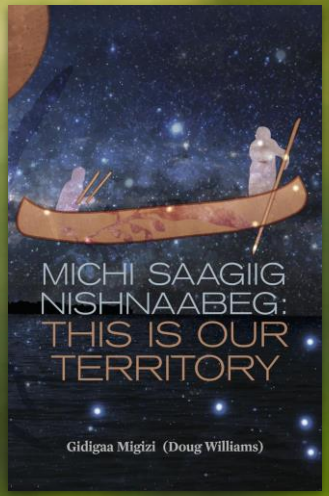


It is reported by Knowledge Keepers and Elders that this is where Indigenous people set up camp on the shallow rapids between Pigeon Lake and Sturgeon Lake long before settlers took possession of these lands.

The intent of our group is to work with Indigenous People to set up a Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and carry out land-based language learning. This would be of benefit to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. As Bobcaygeon is already a thriving hub of the Kawarthas, this will attract even more visitors to the City of Kawartha Lakes and could be an important model of how community can engage in true reconciliation.

2. OUR JOURNEY



In 2015, Curve Lake Elder Gidigaa Migizi (Doug Williams) walked this land with members of the Truth and Reconciliation Community - Bobcaygeon and shared stories of its use as a *mishkodeh*. He could see a Cultural Centre here.

On May 27, 2021, the remains of 215 Indigenous children were detected, children who had been buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in BC. Truth and Reconciliation Community - Bobcaygeon decided to commemorate the lives of the 215 children with the "**215+ Taken**" Art Installation.

River stones were painted orange in the spirit of the “Every Child Matters” orange t-shirt campaign. Over 50 community members helped us paint the stones.

Anne Taylor, Curve Lake First Nation Language Coordinator, helped us open the art installation in a good way. She shared difficult stories of how the Indian Residential School system has impacted her and her family and friends. In fact, as Anne says "**There is not an Anishinaa-beg person who has not been impacted by the residential school system in some way.**"

“**Indigenous women have laid their hearts on the ground,**” said Anne, and, “**it is time for settler Canadians to step up as never before**”.

All Canadians need to know Canada’s real history and be aware of what systemic and discriminatory obstacles continue today.

When we were first looking for a place to display the art installation, we wanted to lay them on this special land. That led to a conversation with one of the owners of the land, Shiraz Jetha. As soon as TRC-Bobcaygeon members shared Doug Williams' story about the *mishkodeh*, he wanted to know more.

Listening to Anne Taylor at the opening of the art installation, Shiraz was very moved. He says he wanted to do something good for the community. He has offered us the opportunity to purchase this land for the ‘Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge’.

The anticipated collaborators for THE MISHKODEH CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- ➔ Truth and Reconciliation Community - Bobcaygeon
- ➔ Curve Lake First Nation
- ➔ Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes
- ➔ Kawartha Works Community Co-operative
- ➔ City of Kawartha Lakes

The boards of both **The Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes** and **The Kawartha Works Community Co-operative** have confirmed their support for the project and can serve to assist the community in implementing the project through fundraising and project management.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF KAWARTHA LAKES

Kawartha Works Community Co-operative

The Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes and The Kawartha Works Community Co-operative can work with the City and Curve Lake First Nation to leverage community involvement through financial and operational support. Both the City and CLFN are ‘registered qualified donees’ under the Income Tax Act and that would facilitate using the fundraising ability of the Foundation to support the project.

The Donor fund through the Community Foundation will permit sustainability which will be used for ongoing costs of maintenance, etc.

We have met individually with members of Curve Lake First Nation;

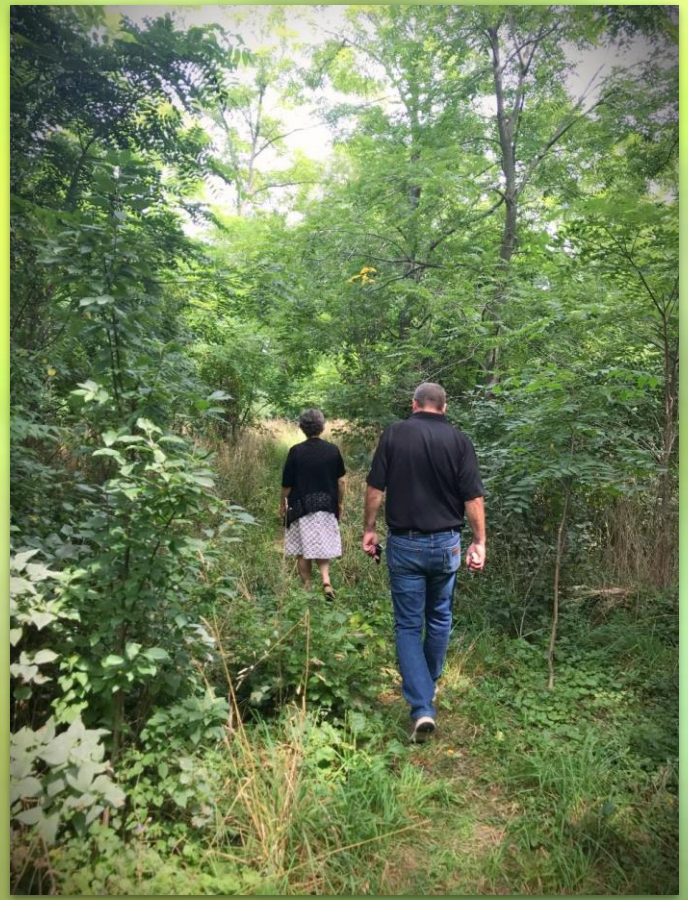
- ➔ Chief Emily Whetung
- ➔ Chief Operating Officer Katie Haddlesey
- ➔ Language Coordinator Anne Taylor
- ➔ Elder Gidigaa Migizi (Doug Williams)
- ➔ Cultural Archivist and Youth Engagement Officer Jack Hoggarth
- ➔ Councillor Jeff Jacobs
- ➔ DJ Fife

We are presenting to Chief and Council on September 13.

We are currently in the process of incorporating the ‘Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge’ as a vehicle to implement the project.

3. OUR VISION

The Mishkodeh - a place to gather, an open door for the building of new relationships, a centre for all - right in the heart of Bobcaygeon, the gateway to the City of Kawartha Lakes.



GOALS

1. To enhance Indigenous presence within Bobcaygeon and the City of Kawartha Lakes.
2. To convey to residents and visitors the long and rich history of Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg in the Kawartha Lakes and emphasize they retain a vibrant presence here today.
3. To facilitate land-based language learning.
4. To provide examples of how Indigenous peoples have sustainably used natural resources of the region to inspire others to be responsible environmental stewards.
5. To celebrate the inventiveness, creativity and strength of the city's Indigenous populations in the face of colonization.
6. To contribute to the process of Truth and Reconciliation.

LAND-BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING

"Land-based learning is education, community and skills building or training that takes place outdoors in particular places of local significance, often on traditional Indigenous territories. Teachings can include land-based language learning, harvesting, hunting, trapping, fishing, medicine gathering, bush survival skills, and traditional land-based scientific knowledge and culture and often involves Elders and Knowledge Keepers as teachers. The importance of building relationships and the bonding that occur on the land is emphasized both with participants and educators as well as relationships with non-human relations."

The National Centre for Collaboration in Indigenous Education

→ RESPECT

It is important to honour and respect wishes and vision of First Nations peoples for the future use of the land.

→ RELATIONSHIPS

It is important to contribute to the well-being of the communities surrounding the land, in relationship with the land and in relationship with each other.

→ RECONCILIATION

It is important to acknowledge the truth of the past, honour Williams Treaty and Treaty 20, recognize and support the deep connection Indigenous peoples have with the land, and support the reclamation of identity, language, and culture.

→ RECIPROCITY

It is important to act as within a circle in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples care for one another and the land, without an endpoint in mind.

“Since the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation report 6 years ago, we have learned as a country that we need to learn the real history of Canada. Embracing this truth makes us stronger as a nation, unites Canadian society, and teaches our kids that we must always do our best, especially when it's hard. My view is that reconciliation is a way of life and requires work every day. Reconciliation is getting to know one another.”

Governor General Mary Simon

”The last 150 years aren’t as much worth celebrating as we think. But the new 150 years can be years of building an actual nation. Imagine if Indigenous people were part of us and we them, how incredibly cool it would make us? That’s what’s missing as we celebrate donuts and hockey over and over and over again.”

Gord Downie of the Tragically Hip

BENEFITS FOR THE CITY OF KAWARTHA LAKES

- ➔ to provide meaningful contribution to sharing local history
- ➔ to encourage respect for Indigenous history and reconciliation
- ➔ to provide an education resource for local residents, including youth and our schools
- ➔ to create jobs
- ➔ to be a visitor and community economic driver for Kawartha Lakes and Bobcaygeon

TIMELINE

Sept 13

Present to Curve Lake First Nation Chief and Council

Oct 31

Purchase the land by raising $2.5 million

July 2022

Transform the Bobcaygeon Library space to a Anishinaabemowin Language Nest

?

Miskodeh land in use

?

Centre for Indigenous Knowledge established

FUNDRAISING

We will be actively seeking funding from community grants, foundations, churches, unions, many other organizations, and individuals.
The public giving can be facilitated through the Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes. They are the vehicle to consolidate the public component.

The Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes can assist community fundraising and issue tax receipts with the requirements of the Income Tax Act.

How the City of Kawartha Lakes can help

We request the City of Kawartha Lakes' support for this initiative.

1. Use of current library space
2. Collaboration on the Canal Street Redevelop-ment
3. Deepening relationship with local First Nations
4. Possible bridge financing for the fundraising goal
5. Appropriate zoning to reflect education and park uses of the property which will impact property taxes

Miigwech

We look forward to working collaboratively with you on this project.