

Strengthening Relationships with our Indigenous Peoples and Communities



What can we do?

- Build and foster relationships with our Indigenous communities and people and work towards true allyship and reconciliation at a municipal level
- Learn about local Indigenous culture, community, and history
 - Who are our Indigenous community members?
 - Does the city currently employ any staff who identify as Indigenous?
 - Does the city have record of Indigenous sites within the urban centre?
- Engage our Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in common projects (living monument, healing garden, education series, celebrations)
- Collaborate with many COB groups (Museums, Mundialization, AGB, Library, Parks, Public Art, One Burlington, Heritage Burlington)
- Create permanent, accessible (free, visible) space to provide opportunities for healing, ceremony, learning and recognition

Where can we start?

- Ask our local Indigenous leaders and community members what we can do together and follow their advice, respecting and honouring culture and tradition
- Honour the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report

Canadian Governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and **municipal** governments to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.

- Keep doing the work

The following are some ideas and inspiration....

Grandmother's Voice

<https://www.grandmothersvoice.com>

<https://www.oakville.ca/culturerec/land-acknowledgement.html>

“Shoulder to Shoulder”

“Grandmothers Voice is as a body of unified Indigenous people creating a safe, secure community that advances education, knowledge, understanding of Indigenous cultures and practices. All individuals, corporations, organizations in public, private and non-profit sectors are welcome to stand shoulder to shoulder with Indigenous Peoples. It is by sharing the knowledge of the Ancestors and their offerings that we discover a new kind of HOPE.

HOPE - How our People Educate is through our Hands Out-reaching Peoples Equity. This serves not only the Original People of our Nation but assists all people and contributes to the self-determination of Indigenous people's path to the Good Life.”

The Moccasin Identifier Project

<https://moccasinidentifier.com>



Welcome to the ONE DISH garden

Honouring the Land and Territory ~ Acknowledging Oakville's Indigenous History

Halton, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of the Original Peoples. From the lands of the Onkwehonwe – Anishnawbec (Real Beings) living in the Great Lakes watershed, an Indigenous voice echoes from very ancient times to the present.

As we gather here on treaty lands, we are in solidarity to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that were here before us and all of the wonderful interconnected elements of creation that exist for us to enjoy today.

We acknowledge and thank the Haudenosaunee of Grand River and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation for being stewards of this traditional territory affirmed in the One Dish covenant.

The "One Dish" welcomes diversity

It is in the spirit and intent of the One Dish covenant that all People collectively care for and respect the land, water, animals and each other in the interests of peace and friendship, for the benefit of not only ourselves but for our future descendants.

The Peacemaker taught the Ancestors to think of this land as One Dish from which all People eat. In ancient times, leaders from warring Peoples joined the Peacemaker in recognizing that all People eat from "One Dish" and agreed for the mutual benefit of all its inhabitants, to leave enough for others and ensure to continue the viability and abundance of the land into the future.

"It was Tekanawite who said it was good that the leaders who travel through the hunting grounds ate from One Dish. And Tekanawite said that the leaders would eat from the bowl but they would not use any sharp instruments, to prevent accidentally hurting each other, and that's what the leaders agreed with."

The One Dish covenant remains the foundational principal that everyone gets to eat, everyone gets to be healed, and everyone gets to be happy.

Today, we will remember the Old Ones who were here long before us. The Onkwehonwe – Anishnawbec cultivated

relationships through teachings about food, plants, medicines and habitats that improve the local ecology and environment. By combining elements of restoring habitats and grounding plant wisdom from Indigenous-based ancestral knowledge of seed, soil, minerals, water and all the things the land provides in a sustainable way, we learn from their Children how to take care of our whole community so future generations will thrive and continue to share in the gifts of One Dish.

The One Dish was recognized by early French Explorer Samuel de Champlain who established friendly relationships and allies with First Nations. His work includes some of the only written account of this area in the early 17th century. One Dish became a foundational principle for Canada's social-passion that everyone is entitled to a good life. This land between the three lakes was recognized as an Indigenous country that Haldimand Proclaimed to British settlers in 1784.

This One Dish garden was designed by MIINIKAAAN ('the SEED' in Ojibwe) Indigenous consultants and allies whose gardens invite curiosity and demonstrate Indigenous Agroecology teachings. By working with an Indigenous-lead garden team, we ensure sustainably sourced seeds and plants. The plant combinations in this garden have been specifically chosen because they provide a habitat for bees and butterflies as they move and migrate. By creating a safe space for these plants to live, we are helping pollinators rebuild diversity for future generations to enjoy.

- All the herbaceous plants will spread over and fill in the garden
- The species chosen are suitable for full sun, and will survive extreme cold weather and also tolerate some drought.
- The gardens will provide flowering nectar plants from spring through fall, and Milkweed is included, the important larval host plant for Monarch Butterflies.
- Juniper is also included because it brings some winter greenery to the space.
- The seed heads from perennials should be left and not cut back since they give a winter feature as well as feeding the birds.
- Tall grasses provide shelter for over-wintering insects to survive.

Plants in the One Dish garden

Learn the names of the plants and trees in your area to find out what their benefits are and how to care for them!



Nebaneyaa nikewyaag
Prairie Smoke
Gum triflorum



Ode'imín
Wild Strawberry
Fragaria vesca



Mashkodeshask
Prairie Sage
Artemisia ludoviciana



Ziinda'aagan
Tall sunflower
Helianthus giganteus



Nameshkoohns
Virginia Mountain Mint
Pycnanthemum virginianum



Ininiwizh
Common Milkweed
Asclepias syriaca



Gozigwaakomin
Serviceberry
Amelanchier canadensis



Gaagaakiwaandag
Creeping Juniper
Juniperus horizontalis



Gimaa Kwezhsn
New York Ironweed
Vernonia noveboracensis



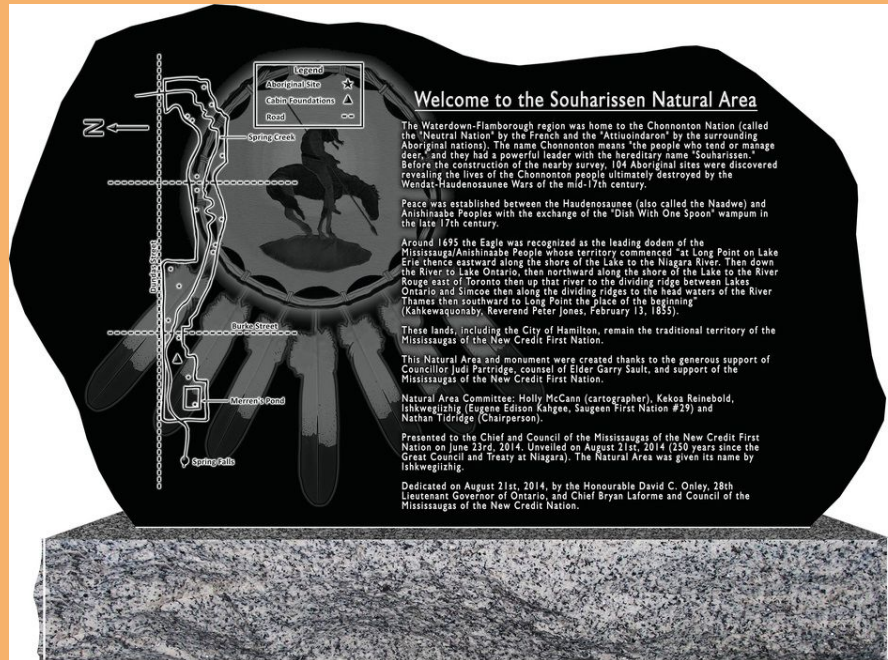
Did you know? Glacial Lake Iroquois existed at the end of the last ice age approximately 12,000 years ago. After a period of climate change, the subsequent melting of the pre-historic glacial lake resulted in a sudden lowering of Lake Ontario to its present level. Known as Iroquois Ridge, the existence of this ancient shoreline marked on the topography of the land we know today is visible from the Peterborough area all the way to Halton Region south of Dundas Street.

Thanks to the many educators and advisors of the community that made this garden come to life including Halton Environmental Network, Grandmother's Voice and Tohohaken Michael Daxtater (Uncle Mike), Miinikaan Innovation & Design, Oakville Public Library and the Town of Oakville's Parks & Open Space and Facilities & Construction Management departments. The Town of Oakville created the garden with funding through the Iroquois Ridge Community Centre accessible parking and walkway improvement projects.



Souharissen Natural Area, Waterdown

<https://www.tidridge.com/souharissen-natural-area-waterdown.html>



**BOULDER: BLACK 48X24 POLISHED FACE
ALL LETTERING AND DESIGN LASER ETCHED
RENDERING BY: MIKE R.**

Eagles Among Us Monument at Battlefield Park, Stoney Creek



Thank you!

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