



Misko-Aki (RED EARTH)

CONFLUENCE *of* CULTURES

An Innovative Approach to Indigenous History

District 7010 Fireside chat, July 13, 2022



Honouring Indigenous People; HIP

HIP facilitates partnerships between Rotary and First Nations

- Focusing on truth and reconciliation
- Guiding Rotarians on a path that builds awareness, teaches indigenous culture and history and builds relationships by working together
- Only focusing on initiatives that meet needs set out by indigenous elders
- Drawing on the shared values of Rotary and Indigenous communities

Misko-Aki; Confluence of Cultures

Muskoka Steamship and Discovery Center - Gravenhurst

REVITALIZATION: *The Muskoka Story: a microcosm of Canada,*

1. Misko-Aki: Confluence of Cultures,

2. Evolving Muskoka: living on the edge of the Shield,

3. Wanda III: Preserving the past and sustaining the future.

- Gravenhurst Exhibit opening in 2023 +
- A digital version that can be adapted to other regions
- Total cost of the Misko Aki exhibit is \$1.3 Million
- Fundraising from communities, foundations and three levels of Government
- Multiple campaigns for specific elements of the project
- HIP and 7010 propose a ROTARY campaign for Misko-Aki artefacts and commissions

Misko-Aki; Confluence of Cultures

OBJECTIVE:

- The objective of the Misko-Aki: Confluence of Cultures exhibit is to increase the understanding, knowledge and appreciation among Indigenous and non-Indigenous visitors by revealing Indigenous history, culture and sustainability values.

MISKO-AKI: PROJECT BACKGROUND:

- Inspired by Dan Longboat “Restoring our Relationship with the Natural World “
- The Muskoka Steamships and Discovery Centre seeks to contribute to build Indigenous relationships and the relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people in Muskoka and Canada.
- Our commitment is Indigenous Stories told and curated by Indigenous peoples.

Misko-Aki; Confluence of Cultures

Creative Team:

- Tim's creative and advisory team bring a spirit of integrity and authenticity of the exhibit
- Team includes local FN leaders, artists, language specialists, curators and designers;
- experts from the Huron-Wendat, Anishnaabek, Haudenasaunee and Metis people who have lived in Muskoka for over 13,000 years

Tim Johnson:

- Former Associate Director for Museum programs at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum for the American Indian
- Author and producer of festivals, documentary films and education programs
- Artistic Director and Creator of celebrated Memorials and Heritage sites in the Niagara region
- Tim is Mohawk and his home community is the Six Nations of the Grand River near Brantford, Ontario

<https://youtu.be/LnHluExQi7s>

Rotary Engagement

Rotary Clubs in District 7010 are invited to participate in this remarkable initiative;

- Muskoka is a microcosm of the Nation
 - Misko-Aki reflect the experience of indigenous communities in all over Ontario
 - Their sustainable relation to the environment teaches us stewardship
- Rotary is connected to the Misko-Aki exhibit;
 - as neighbours and cottagers,
 - As stewards to a shared environment
 - In partnerships with the First Nations and their history
- Engaged in Misko-Aki, Rotary is a visible partner in reconciliation
- How is your club and community connected to this history?
- How is your club and community connected to the environment and providing good stewardship?

Rotary Engagement

What's next

- DGE Richard Denton (District 7010) is undertaking an initiative to make Misko Aki a focus for Rotary Year 2022-2023 with
 - Target presentations at all (41) Rotary, Rotaract clubs with targeted donations of \$50,000
 - Make Misko Aki a meeting focus
 - Consider a donation
 - Plan a Club visit to the Muskoka Steamship and Discovery Center in 2023



Miigwetch / THANK YOU!



Do you have any questions?

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