



The HIP Circle

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST. MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.



University of Toronto Scarborough Campus elder Wendy Phillips at Indig-U-Know

75+

**Indigenous
Communities
& growing**

175+

**Rotary Clubs
& growing**

75+

**Partners
& growing**

RECOMMENDED BOOK & MOVIE

INDIAN HORSE

Director: Stephen Campanelli



An adaptation of Richard Wagamese's award winning novel, this moving and important drama sheds light on the dark history of Canada's Residential Schools and the indomitable spirit of Indigenous people. Indian Horse stars Canadian newcomers Sladen Peltier, Ajuwak Kapashesit and Edna Manitouwabe as well as Forrest Goodluck (The Revenant), Michael Murphy (Away From Her), Michael Lawrenchuck (Tokyo Cowboy), Johnny Issaluk (Two Lovers And A Bear) and Michiel Husiman (The Age Of Adaline).

<https://www.indianhorse.ca/>

HIP SIGNS MOU WITH INDIGENOUS SPORTS & WELLNESS ONTARIO

HIP is delighted to announce it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Indigenous Sport & Wellness Ontario (ISWO)! ISWO is the designated Provincial/Territorial Aboriginal Sporting Body for Ontario, serving more than 133 Indigenous communities and 29 friendship centres, encompassing more than 300,000 Indigenous Peoples across the province.

ISWO is an effective provincial body, with regional delivery systems, tailored programming, a culturally based framework, competitive and recreational sport opportunities, and leadership development initiatives for Indigenous youth and communities across Ontario. ISWO plans, delivers and supports dozens of programs, tournaments, workshops, and events for Indigenous youth across Ontario each year. ISWO's Wellness Warrior campaign helps promote and highlight Indigenous people who work towards their own personal wellness, and also promote wellness for those around them. You can check out the different Wellness Warrior profiles on the website and in the Wellness Wednesday e-blasts sent out each week. Check out their latest e-blast <https://mailchi.mp/aswco/cultural-connections-and-self-identity?e=c69ae258c2>

Standing Bear is a program of ISWO that is designed to strengthen individual and community wellness by empowering and supporting Indigenous youth in making positive change by providing access to culturally relevant opportunities for growth and development. ISWO recently launched a new video to help showcase the Standing Bear program with footage collected at a Winter Cultural Camp that was held this past January in Sudbury, you can watch the video on ISWO's new Youtube channel https://youtu.be/2Okcy4iZ_L4

To learn more about ISWO, visit www.iswo.ca.



Standing Bear is a culturally grounded program developed by the Aboriginal Sport and Wellness Council of Ontario to strengthen individual and community wellness by empowering Indigenous youth in making positive change.

FUNDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO



NEWS FROM RC of PORT ARTHUR

Submitted by Warren Philp, RC of Port Arthur

The Matawa Education and Care Centre, newly established at the former Grandview Lodge site in Thunder Bay, was highlighted at the **RC of Port Arthur** meeting by Brad Battison, the current Principal, and Sharon Nate, Education Manager. Both Brad and Sharon have extensive experience with Matawa Management, Administration and Teaching. They work for Matawa First Nation Management, a tribal council with nin Ojibwe and Cree First Nation communities in the NAN territory.

The MEC is a private high school for youth between the ages of 13 and 21, all members of **Matawa First Nation**. Some students have complex medical and social issues and the curriculum is very innovative and geared to holistically to the many needs of the students.

The MEC has a good number of supporting partnerships, even including Rotary (eg. **RC of Bowmanville**).

Currently renovations are a part-way completed and the school is able to accommodate about 130 students. Results to date? There have been some dramatic changes in a number of youth who experience challenges. The energy and diversity involved is palpable.

This program is undoubtedly a working model for other future successful similar education initiatives.

A lengthy Q&A session paid testament to the considerable interest in this noble educational school opportunity.

LITERACY & LANGUAGE RESTORATION

Andras Foundation Launches Pilot Program

Thanks to the Andras Family Foundation, working in partnership with Audrey Powless-Bomberry, Education Councilor for 6 Nations & Goodminds, HIP has launched a book giving program that allocates funds to be used by Indigenous communities to purchase culturally appropriate & language specific books for youth (grades K – 12).

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Diane Redsky Presents to RC of Winnipeg

Diane Redsky, Executive Director for **Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc.** and HIP Board member, was introduced by John Melnick as a guest speaker at the **RC of Winnipeg**.

Diane Redsky is a Paul Harris Fellow and has also spoken to the United Nations in Geneva and in New York on the topic of sex trafficking.



Pictured (L to R): Brad Battison (Principal) Dr. Carlana Lindeman (Education Program Director of Martin Family Initiative), a long time educator and advocate assisting the MEC (guest of Rotarian Art Warwick) Sharon Nate (Manager) Brian Walmark (PA Rotarian advocate and thanker) Bonnie Moore (PA Rotarian assisting in



HIP Executive Director, John Currie with Raymond Currie, Circles for Reconciliation co-founder.



BE A
CHANGE-MAKER

Donate to HIP

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/HIP

Alternatively, cheques can be mailed to "Attention Julie Dunaikis, HIP, 100 Simcoe St., Suite 110, Toronto, ON, M5H 3G2"



Art Exhibit organizer Evelisa Genova with Elder Danny Beaton & HIP Board Member John Andras.

TRANSFORM 2019

The Art Exhibit That Brings People Together

On Friday, March 29th, HIP was proud to support and be selected as the recipient of funds raised from an exceptional event - Transform 2019 Art Exhibit. Held at the Arta Gallery in the Distillery District of Toronto, this intimate event brought Indigenous and Non-Indigenous artists together to share their stories and perspectives around the theme of transformation. Participants were captivated by art that demonstrated the strength of artists from many nations

This would not have been possible without the support of artists Arnold Jacobs, Amir Emami, Joseph Sagaj, Moses Salihou, Lukas Mouka, Evelisa Natasha, Jason Baerg and Shinya Kumazawa.

A big thank you to event organizer Evelisa Genova for making this event possible with the support of many volunteers including Nadeen Borg, Stacey Chikoto, Julie Dunaikis, Gyszi Berki and HIP Board Members Lisa Farano Chris Snyder (Chairperson), Andre Morriseau (MC), John Andras.

HIP expresses its appreciation to everyone who showed their support by attending, sponsoring and donating to this excellent reconciliation event.



Thank-you to our volunteers Stacey Chikoto, Rotoract Club of Toronto, Julie Dunaikis & Gyszi Berki (not in picture).



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HIP is powered by volunteers. If you are interested in having your name added to our volunteer list, please email Executive Director John Currie at john.currie@pickeringrotary.ca.

Currently HIP is seeking the following volunteers:

- Communications
- Wordpress Development
- Project Management
- Speakers
- Event Support



DISTRICT COORDINATORS

HIP is seeking District Coordinators across Canada to work closely with their District Governors and recruit, encourage and guide **Rotary Clubs to participate and support HIP's** mandate of awareness, education and the building and engaging in meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

If interested, please email HIP Chairperson Chris Snyder at

chris@eccgroup.ca



Chris Snyder, HIP Chairperson, speaks at the Trudeau Centre for Peace, Conflict & Justice to students at a screening of *First Contact*.



John Currie, HIP ED with SCSU Indigenous Conference panelists Kat Crigger, Tianna Tabobandung, Brenda Wasteseoot, Robin Gray

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Trudeau Centre for Peace, Conflict & Justice
by Muriam Fancy & Aloysius Wong

Reconciliation is not something that can be merely spoken; it must be followed by action. At our event in collaboration with Honouring Indigenous Peoples, we invited students from the University of Toronto to come and witness the state of Canada's relationship with Indigenous peoples, and demonstrate to students why we must ensure reconciliation is followed through with action.

This event began with a discussion by Professor Wasteseoot from the Indigenous Studies department at the University of Toronto. We had the privilege to hear her story and ask her questions about Canada's true past. It was clear that the students were shocked to hear the details of residential schools, and the inequality that has persisted due to discriminatory policy.

After allowing the students to have an opportunity to reflect and ask questions, we screened the first episode of a series called *First Contact*, produced by APTN. The episode previewed exposes the stereotypes and extreme bias against Indigenous peoples in Canada. Looking around we saw students confused, upset, and uncomfortable by the racist remarks from the six non-Indigenous settlers in the film.

Student's hearts were racing, having never heard such remarks against Indigenous peoples. We went around in a circle discussing our thoughts and feelings on the film. We concluded that as non-Indigenous peoples we have a responsibility to educate ourselves and those around us to combat such terrible racism. This event gave students the space to understand that our continued ignorance is a barrier for change, and we left the event with an agenda of working towards reconciliation together.

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Scarborough Campus Indigenous Conference
Hosted by Scarborough Campus Students Union

The Scarborough Campus Students' Union (SCSU) made history this year by hosting UTSC's first-ever traditional Pow Wow and Indigenous conference, Indig-U-Know. This was an excellent event that brought students, academics, service providers, and staff together to learn from Scarborough and UTSC rich Indigenous community.

Over the course of two days, participants attended various workshops, panel discussions, keynote lectures, breakout groups, and artistic performances, ending with a traditional Pow Wow.

UTSC's Indigenous Elder, Wendy Phillips, acknowledged the SCSU and thanked them for their work with the Pow Wow, adding that she hoped this event could be another way to reconciliation.

"I would just like to say how proud I am of [the SCSU]," said Phillips. "It was [SCSU's] vision of supporting Indigenous communities... and this was one of the events that the SCSU wished to do for our community. I'm really proud."

HIP Executive Director, John Currie, spoke about the importance of building relationships prior to a screening of "*First Contact*" with an introduction by the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario. Following the screening, a panel discussion was hosted with Kat Crigger, Tianna Tabobandung, Brenda Wasteseoot and Robin Gray.

A Pow Wow is an Indigenous social gathering where people are invited to meet and dance, sing, socialize and honor their cultures. Pow Wows may be private or public.



HIP WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

National Expansion Coast to Coast

In keeping with HIP's coast to coast vision, the HIP board is fortunate to welcome and announce the appointment of four new board members: Tom Herman, Larry Frost, Jan Fox and Bob Blacker.

Tom Herman (*Rotarian*) is the past president of the **RC of Mud Creek** in Wolfville, Nova Scotia. He has served on a myriad of boards, is the retired academic dean and acting president of Acadia University. A biologist by training, Tom is the author of many publications, mostly on environment, wildlife, bio diversity and conservation. He is currently doing research with Indigenous Peoples on Indigenous approaches to biodiversity. Tom has also lived in Alberta and North West Territories.

Larry Frost (*Ojibway, **Serpent River First Nation***) has been the CEO of the Native Canadian Centre of Toronto (NCCT) for 16 years. The NCCT, among other things, serves over 1000 Indigenous People who are transitioning into Toronto per year. Larry has been a supporter of HIP since its inception and will be able to provide guidance on urban challenges for Indigenous Peoples.

Jan Fox (*Rotarian*) is a member of the **RC of Edmonton**. For several years, Jan has been coordinating club and district Indigenous initiatives. Jan is the CEO of Reach Edmonton, a non-profit organization involved in coordinating with business, agencies and the community to enhance the safety of Edmonton. Prior to being CEO of Reach Edmonton, Jan served in the corrections system including as the first warden of the Edmonton Institute for women. During her term, she was recognized for her work on developing relationships with the Indigenous community.

Bob Blacker (*Rotarian*) is a member of the **RC of Richmond** in Vancouver and past District Governor of District 5040. A former police officer, Bob along with the former Lt. Governor of BC, the Honourable Steven Point, launched "Write to Read," an initiative that brings people together to deliver books, libraries, computers & high speed Internet connections to remote First Nation communities in BC. Their initial Indigenous library project has led to fourteen other RC's also working with Indigenous communities.

This new dynamic will allow HIP to deliver on its mandate of promoting awareness, building relationships and supporting Indigenous education initiatives across the country. HIP is also seeking District Coordinators to encourage the family of Rotary in their district to join the movement and become allies. Having Rotarians, and others, working hand in hand with Indigenous Peoples from coast to coast, will truly make for a better Canada.

Messaae from the Chairman

CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

Understanding the Truth & Building Relationships

I have watched the first episode of First Contact five times. While the start of the film angers me every time each showing has been different. This is largely because of the mix of the audience and the different indigenous panelists. Every panelist has a different story. For some, it is the first time they have spoken openly about their past in front of a mixed audience. These stories are all very personal and moving and I always feel privileged to hear them.

Most of the speakers speak softly and in turn the people in the audience are quiet and attentive. While told in a soft voice the stories themselves are loud and clear. The stories have ranged from growing up on a trap line, to racist experiences coming to an urban centre, to the impact on family members when children return from a residential school and to living with alcoholic parents who use drugs and alcohol to deal with their emotional pain.

Many stories deal with coming to grips with who they are and reconciling with themselves that to be indigenous is something to be proud of, contrary to what they hear from others. The love of the land is a common thread.

The Non-Indigenous people in the film were all chosen because of their stereotypical views of Indigenous Peoples and they all react differently to the exposure to the real indigenous peoples and the experiences depicted in the film.

The Indigenous people in the film all put themselves forward in a way that show these stereotypical views not to be true and have been created largely because of oft repeated myths and lack of understanding.

The best showings have been where there was a good mix of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples in the audience exchanging questions, comments and stories. The very best experiences coming from the film were when the Non-Indigenous and Indigenous could chat personally with one another afterward. For some it was the first time they have ever met or spoken with an Indigenous person.

All of these showings are an excellent introduction to some of the challenges and a start to developing conversations and relationships. While these showings only cover the one episode, all three episodes of "First Contact" are available by visiting APTN online. It is also anticipated TV Ontario will be showing the series and a new series will be released soon. We encourage you to watch all of these episodes ideally in a setting of your own and with others such as your family. If interested in hosting a "Change the Narrative" event, please contact Julie Dunaikis at julie@eccgroup.ca.

Migwetch (Thank You)
Chris Snyder
 HIP Chairperson
 Rotary Club of Toronto



Dancer Jay Lomax

UPCOMING

Events & Activities

April 5 – 6: Corporations for Community Connections host a PC Donation Workshop at Siemens.

May 2 – 5: HIP Director David Newman will host a table at the Rotary District 5550 Conference to create awareness for Peace Builders & HIP. This year's theme is "Be the Inspiration." Be sure to drop by and say hello to David!

May 14 – 15: Indigenous Services Canada's 2019 Ontario Joint Gathering. HIP Booth being organized by Nicole Patterson.

July 12 – 14: 2019 Gathering with the Credit River. Erindale Park, Mississauga, ON.

September 14: Dennis Franklin Cromarty School - Wake the Giant, Thunder Bay.

GOT AN EVENT OR LOCAL STORY?

Send It To Us!

If you have an event or news related to HIP's mission that you would like published, please email Julie Dunaikis at:

julie@eccgroup.ca

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Please join us! Imagine what is possible when all 720 Rotary Clubs across Canada, and others, work together with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples!

While we have a strong connection to Rotary, HIP includes a diverse membership comprising of schools, faith groups, businesses and other service organizations.

Individuals, Rotary Clubs and other groups can become a HIP Ally or helper by visiting HIP’s website and submitting the online application. The 2019 rates are as follows:

Type	Annual Fee
Indigenous Organizations (<i>helpers</i>)	Free
Students (& youth under 21)	\$25
Individual	\$100
Rotary Club with less than 75 members	\$250
Schools & Education Institutes	\$250
Rotary Club with greater than 75 members, Other Service Clubs, Partners & Corporations	\$500

Join the 175+ Rotary Clubs already working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to “Change the Narrative!” and address education challenges.

- Credible recognition as an Ally
- Participation in a nation-wide movement
- A like-minded community to exchange ideas
- The opportunity to connect with other leaders who are changing Canada
- Awareness of active reconciliation activities
- Access to “Ally” video conference meetings
- Access to resources (Education, speakers, promotional material, etc.)
- Access to partners (Transportation, Indigenous organizations, etc.)
- Discounts and special offers (10% discount with Goodminds.com, etc.)

Visit www.rotaryhip.com for more details.

Big Thank You to Our CIRCLE OF ALLIES

