



The HIP Circle

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST. MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.



Photo provided courtesy of Indigenous Sports & Wellness Ontario (ISWO)

Education

HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

For the second year, students at the Holy Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Courtice, collected toys, clothing, sports equipment, bedding and toiletries. 134 boxes are being delivered to Bearskin Lake First Nation. Chii Miigwetch to the Students and coordinator, Claudine Dowdall.

Donation

THE DONNER CANADIAN FOUNDATION

HIP extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Donner Canadian Foundation for their generous donation for a 2nd year in a row. These dollars provide Indigenous Students with equitable access to technology and opportunity to acquire vital career skills. Chii Miigwetch!

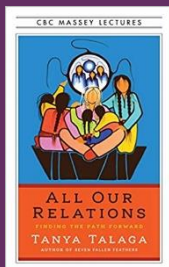
Indigenous Culture

RC OF CAMPBELLFORD

Cathy Beamish, past president of the RC of Campbellford & Lola Lawton, founder of Relay for Hunger, joined together to collect 50 purses for Ojibway Women's Lodge in North Bay. Ojibway House provides community based, cultural and holistic healing to end violence against all women.

RECOMMENDED READING

ALL OUR RELATIONS: by Tanya Talaga



In this vital and incisive work, bestselling and award-winning author Tanya Talaga explores the alarming rise of youth suicide in Indigenous communities in Canada and beyond. From Northern Ontario to Nunavut, Norway, Brazil, Australia, and the United States, the Indigenous experience in colonized nations is startlingly similar and deeply disturbing. It is an experience marked by the violent separation of Peoples from the land, the separation of families, and the separation of individuals from traditional ways of life.

For more recommended reading, visit: <http://www.rotaryhip.com/resources/reading>



“Since the inception of HIP, we have witnessed an increased awareness and appreciation for Indigenous ways, knowledge and culture. The timing was ripe! HIP initiatives, powered by enthusiasm and generosity are spreading, and benefits are being realized. We are very grateful for our relationship with HIP, and the work being done to mobilize individuals, groups and communities.

Making and growing relationships is one of the most valuable assets in our lives. Relationships allow us to move forward, learn new things and reach our goals.

We grow as individuals, groups, institutes, and businesses when we engage in providing and receiving support.”

SUZANNE BRANT
FNTI President & Founding
HIP Board Member

FNTI EMBRACES THE FUTURE WITH ACTION

Sharing and Learning

It's a very exciting time for Indigenous post-secondary educators and FNTI is embracing the future with action. Looking back upon thousands of years of highly developed, sustainable ways, they are drawing upon aspects of ancestral knowledge and practice. They are moving Indigenous knowledge forward into contemporary fields such as: Indigenous Food Systems, Indigenous Justice Practices, Indigenous approaches to Humanities and Community Development, Indigenous Governance, Trade and Leadership, Indigenous Midwifery and Health Training, Indigenous Language Development, Indigenous approaches to Teacher Education and Scholarship.

FNTI serves 100 of 134 communities in Ontario and 167 of 634 communities in Canada. For the 2017-2018 year, FNTI academic students realized an 85% graduation rate and a 93% employment rate. Some of these successes can be attributed to the practice of Intensive Professional Mode (IPM) delivery and FNTI's high level of student support. IPM includes delivery of intense, week-long sessions to students in communities across Ontario followed by students sharing and applying their learning within their own communities. FNTI refers to this as 'learning in place.' The IPM delivery style results in a direct benefit for the learners, families, communities and local economies.

Last December 2017, the Province of Ontario and Indigenous Institutes co-created an Indigenous post-secondary sector, recognized in Legislation as the “Indigenous Institutes Act, 2017”. As a recognized Indigenous post-secondary Institute, FNTI has a significant role to play and is poised to respond quickly to the expanding needs for student support, enhanced cultural teachings, increased accessibility to healing practices, and life-transforming experiences. Presently, FNTI is also working with the Province toward accreditation for its new programs.

Amazing People I Would Like to Introduce to You!

by John Currie, HIP Executive Director

This month I had the privilege of reconnecting with **Riley Yesno**. This is an amazing Anishinaabe woman from Eabametoong First Nation who grew up in Thunder Bay, Ontario – close to my hometown of Dryden. She currently attends the University of Toronto where she studies Indigenous Studies and Political Science. In 2017, Riley was appointed to the Prime Minister's Youth Council to provide advice to the Prime Minister and members of the federal government as well as help draft Canada's National Youth Policy. We have been fortunate to have Riley as a speaker and youth advisor for HIP. Be sure to take a moment to visit her website: www.rileyyesno.com.

My good friend, and HIP Board member, **John Andras** and I hit the road again this month to visit Timmins and Sudbury. While in Timmins we were fortunate to have the opportunity to meet **Barb, Melissa, Eddie, Michaela, Bunny, Vicky and the team** with the CreeGeo Mushkegowuk Information Services and Mushkegowuk Council. The Mushkegowuk Council is dedicated to providing quality equitable and accessible support and advisory services. This is an amazing organization working on advance solutions and we are looking forward to partnering with them on projects in 2019.

We also had the opportunity to sit down with **Doug Cheechoo** (NHLer Jonathan Cheechoo's Uncle). An amazing person, who understands the value in supporting the next generation, Mr. Cheechoo is the 2019 Mushkegowuk Cup Coordinator and explained to us the necessity for help supporting this valuable tournament. More is written on this later in the newsletter.

John Andras & I extend our thank you to **Saralyn Hayward**, President of the **RC of Timmins-Porcupine & its members**, for hosting us for dinner. The duck was delicious and we truly appreciated the heartfelt fellowship. Among many upcoming plans, we are in the midst of scheduling a viewing of "First Contact" in Timmins. Stay tuned.

I was thrilled to have had the opportunity to meet with the Indigenous Sports & Wellness Ontario (ISWO), formerly known as the Aboriginal Sports and Wellness Council of Ontario. **Clay Melnike** and **Dale Plett** are two incredible people who are making a difference in Indigenous Youth lives. I am excited that we will be working with them going forward.

John Andras and myself would like to thank the **RC of Sudbury, its President Tim James and members** for hosting us at their meeting. This is an energetic group of people who highlighted a project they are working on directly with a local Indigenous community. I am personally looking forward to publishing a future article as the team updates us.

I am fortunate to have the opportunity to meet many amazing people. I look forward to introducing you to more next time. Until then, reach out and listen to someone's story. There is always room for new friends.



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MEDICINE WHEEL GARDEN IN BRAVERY PARK, ORANGEVILLE

The Dufferin County Cultural Resource Circle (DCCRC), with the help of generous donors, have constructed a garden for Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members to enjoy. The garden is situated in Bravery Park in Orangeville, Ontario and is a shared community space where people can learn about Indigenous traditions, walk the circle, smudge a sacred plant or simply enjoy the gardens. The project is the result of donations of time, effort and resources by volunteers, community groups and local businesses.

The garden has four raised beds that represent each of the four directions on the Medicine Wheel. Signs in each garden explain in both English and Ojibwe the important elements of each of the directions, such as colour, sacred plants and sacred animals. The centerpiece of the garden is the grandfather rock, brought in from Huntsville and weighing almost 500kg, and is used for smudging by visitors and during traditional Indigenous ceremonies.

The garden is an important project of the DCCRC, a not-for-profit organization and Indigenous-led community whose mandate is to create a safe space for the restoration and revival of traditional Indigenous culture in the Dufferin County area.

Asked about how the garden came to be, Debbie Sipkema, co-founder of the DCCRC said, “Gil and I co-founded this organization in 2014 and with our amazing committee began the work to meet our DCCRC mandate. In 2017, working with other agencies to see who would be interested in providing an educational legacy piece, Bravery Park and the Town of Orangeville felt a medicine wheel garden would be an amazing addition.”

Regarding the construction, Sipkema said, “Our community worked together to create the garden design. Construction started in August 2018 and is scheduled to be completed in November 2018. While meeting the requirements of the Town of Orangeville, we sourced materials with the smallest environmental footprint, to support and promote sustainability. Within the DCCRC, the garden is dedicated to a member who was with us side by side until she passed away a year ago, Cathy Elliott.”

DCCRC would like to thank the Medicine Wheel Garden Quadrant Sponsors for their generosity:

- East quadrant – Town of Orangeville
- South quadrant – Dufferin Child and Family Services (DCAFS) and County of Dufferin
- West quadrant – Rotary Club of Orangeville Highlands & Rotary Club of Orangeville
- North quadrant – Whispering Pines

DCCRC would also like to thank other Medicine Wheel Garden donors, D&D Pools and Spas and Lee Douglas, Community Member for their generosity.

Message from the Chairman

THE URBAN CONNECTION

Visit Your Local Friendship Centre

Did you know, according to the 2011 census, 56% (1 million) of Canada's Indigenous peoples live in urban centres? With approximately 90000, Winnipeg has the largest population of people who identify themselves as Indigenous. Edmonton is the next largest with 65000 and then Vancouver with more than 55000. The truth of the matter is, every community across Canada has Indigenous residents.

Smaller communities, such as Kenora, Dryden, Cochrane and Timmins, have a smaller percentage of identified Indigenous residents, however, a larger Indigenous to non-Indigenous population ratio. These communities are also hubs supporting surrounding First Nation communities. With common geographic concerns, such as healthcare, education and transportation, one would naturally expect everyone in these communities to be working together. Unfortunately, too often, people let their differences and misconceptions keep them apart rather than allow their commonalities and shared interests to unite them.

As we have witnessed in the television show "First Contact," many non-Indigenous people have never talked to an Indigenous person. Most communities have a Native Friendship Centre whose primary purpose is to foster and promote innovative education and awareness strategies for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. These are not-for-profit corporations which are mandated to serve the needs of Indigenous people requiring culturally-sensitive and culturally-appropriate services in urban communities. There are 118 Friendship Centres across the country. Check to see where the closest centre is to you (nafcgcn@nafc.ca). These are great places to learn about Indigenous peoples and begin new friendships.

As you build and engage in a meaningful and equitable relationship with Friendship Centre's and Indigenous Peoples, be sure to ask how best you can support them. It cannot be stressed enough that opportunities to help must be identified and prioritized by Indigenous peoples themselves. Any attempt by a Non-Indigenous person to impose what they "think" Indigenous people need is harmful and will be seen as a continuation of colonialism. Kenn Richard, an HIP director, former CEO of Native Child and Family services in Toronto, is the co-sponsor of a major report on Indigenous peoples in Toronto. Most major communities publish their own report. These reports highlight the current state of Indigenous people in specific communities and identify areas where more support is needed. These reports, in conjunction with ongoing dialogue with Indigenous peoples, are key to sustainable success.

Many HIP Allies have already established relationships in their communities and are partnering with Indigenous People in a variety of ways. If you have questions about becoming involved, please contact us. We also encourage those who are already taking action to share their stories with us.

Migwetch (Thank You)

Chris Snyder

HIP Chairman

Rotary Club of Toronto



2019 Mushkegowuk Cup

A Call For Help!

This tournament provides many benefits to the 900 indigenous youth participant and attracts 2500 spectators to the City of Timmins. The majority of these attendees are coming from places where merchandise is sold as much as three times the cost in other parts of Ontario. They use this opportunity to maximize the little money they have and stock up on supplies to bring back home with them. This provides a huge boost to the local economy as retailers, restaurants and hotels directly benefit from the approximately \$5 Million that is spent.

Unfortunately this important tournament was poorly supported last year and organizers received less than \$1500 in sponsorship. Without support, this tournament may need to move to another city, which would increase travel expenses and put it out-of-reach for many Indigenous youth to attend, or worst, disappear altogether.

If you or your organization can help, please contact us to receive a copy of the Mushkegowuk Cup's sponsorship program.

If you are unable to be a sponsor, HIP has arranged for a collection fund (any amount welcome) that will offset the tournament expenses. Visit:

www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/HIP

Scroll down to the bottom and click on the drop down box titled "APPLY YOUR DONATION TO A SPECIFIC FUND SET UP BY THIS CHARITY" and select "Mushkegowuk Challenge Cup 2019."

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Since 2016, HIP has experienced significant growth. To aid in the delivery of its operational and strategic goals, HIP's Board of Directors, after consultation with members, has reviewed its membership fee in parallel with budgeting for the 2019 financial year. As of January 1st, 2019, "Lifetime" memberships will no longer be offered. All current lifetime members will be transitioned into a "Founding Ally" and retain lifetime privileges.

As of January 2019, Individuals, Rotary Clubs and other groups can become a HIP Ally by submitting the accompanying application. The 2019 fees are as below:

Type	Annual Fee
Indigenous Organizations (<i>helpers</i>)	Free
Individual	\$150
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

This change will ensure HIP is able to develop and sustain its programs, services and resources. HIP plans to expand its range of awareness programs as well as the ways and means through which knowledge and expertise can be easily exchanged amongst HIP Allies.

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 discuss your specific needs & 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.



Photo provided courtesy of
Indigenous Sports & Wellness Ontario (ISWO)