

Maintaining My Connection



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Six Nations Eco-Centre



Thanksgiving Address

Words that Come Before All Else

People
Earth
Water
Fish
Plants
Food Plants
Medicine Plants
Animals
Trees
Birds
Winds
Thunderers
Sun
Moon
Stars
Teachers
Creator
Closing Words



Maintaining My Connections

There will soon be approximately one million people either living in or visiting the Grand River Watershed. This number will continue to rise as will the number of potential visitors from surrounding areas. All of these people and their associated activities are impacting every aspect of our environment.

In addition, these activities have highly impacted the quality of life for those of Six Nations who continue to hunt, fish, gather plants as did our ancestors. Long term planning has many concerns with regards to the long term protection of our environment and ensuring there will always be access to the resources for our future generations.

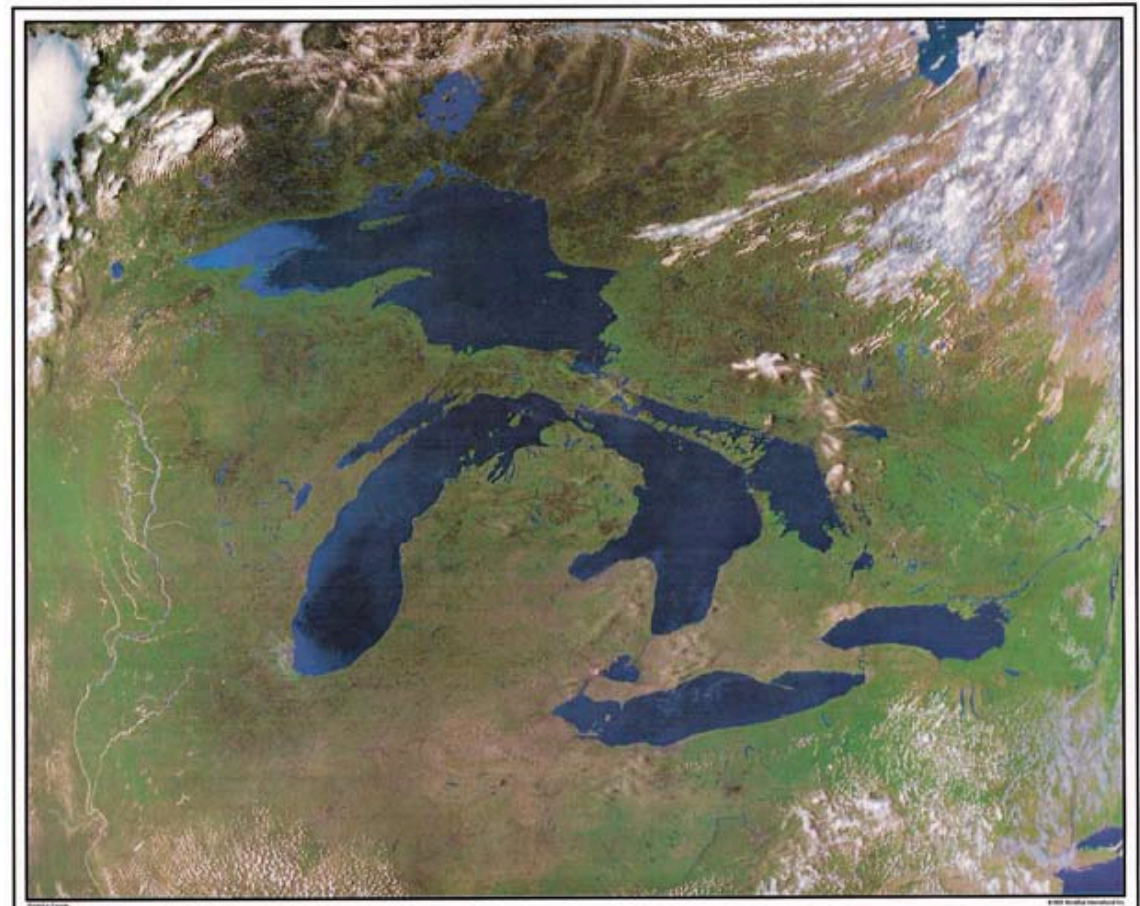
Peace, Respect and Friendship

This presentation will focus on how the Six Nations Eco-Centre has successfully become involved in management and land use issues. To accomplish this the centre has been participating in or sitting on a variety of committees and working groups, sharing the table with a diverse body of experts with representation from government agencies, environmental groups, universities as well as the private sector.

The presentation brings a brief overview of the land that Six Nations has used for centuries and still claims the right to use. It ends at present day Grand River and the situations we are dealing with today, simultaneously attempting to maintain a connection with our culture while situated within a highly populated and heavily impacted watershed.

The Great Lakes Basin

One need only look at a satellite photo of the Grand River watershed to understand the importance to holding on to the simple principle of respect for our environment and our ecological integrity. A land sat photo shows the entire great lakes basin with the Six Nations reserve clearly distinguishable from its surroundings showing up as a small green square along the Grand River, why?...
Because we understand the relationship of our ecology.



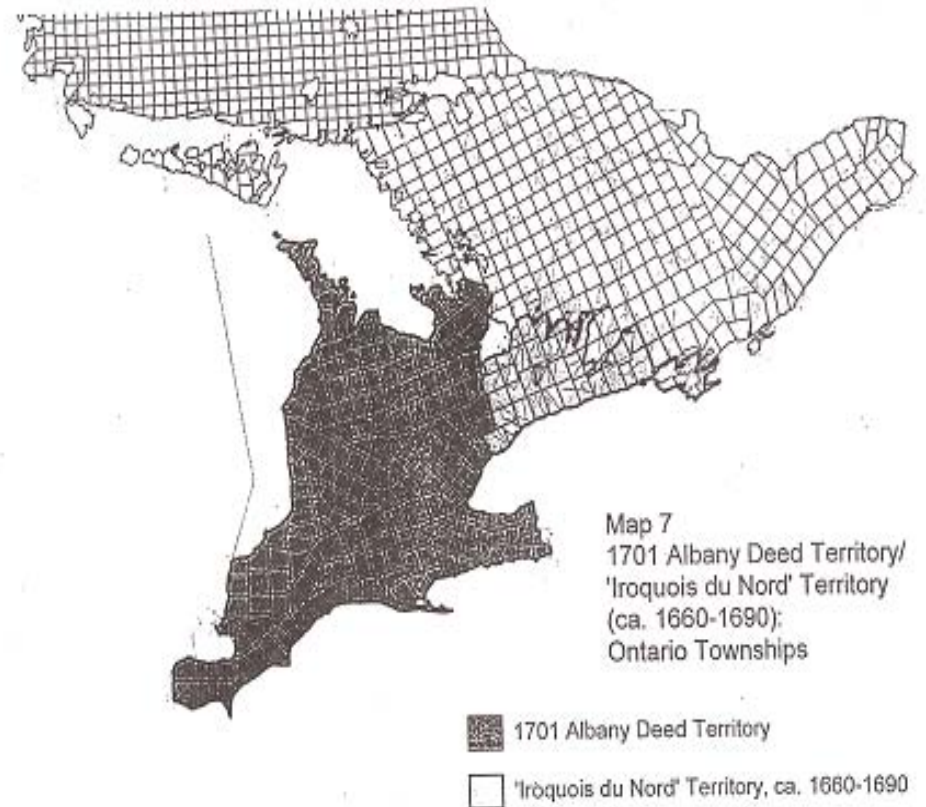
THE GREAT LAKES BASIN
A Natural Portrait from Space

This copyright-free satellite image view of the Great Lakes Basin was
developed by the author and is intended to provide a general overview of
the basin and its surrounding region.

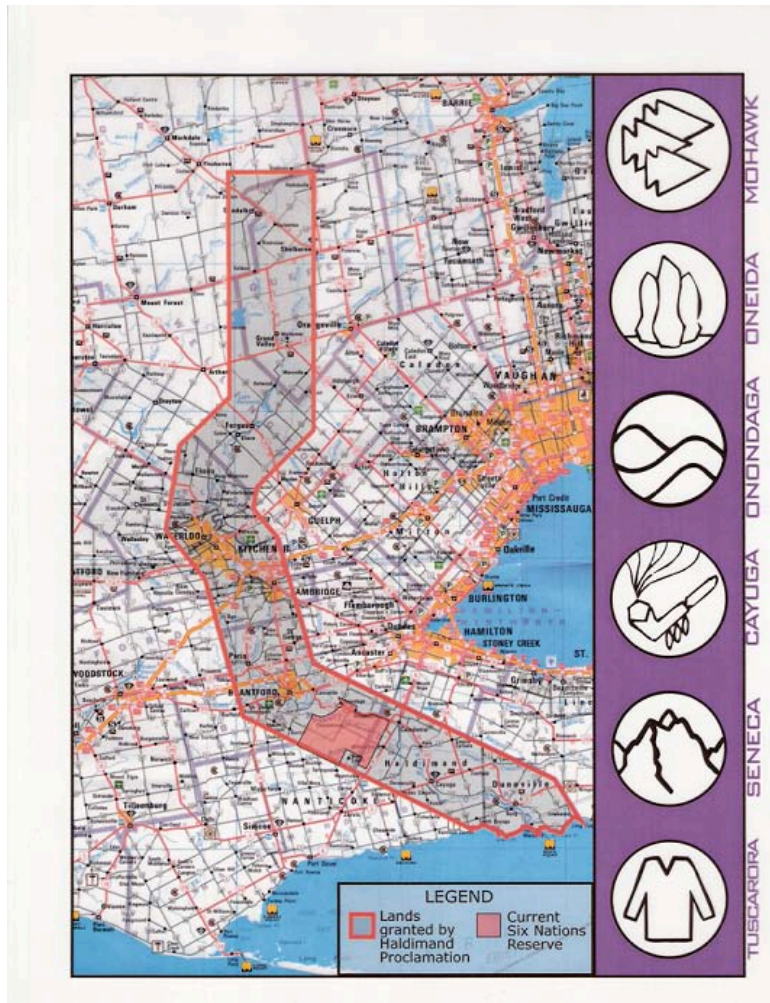
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1701 Fort Albany Territory

Six Nations' cultural, sustenance and other rights are recognized by the Province of Ontario by way of the 1701 Treaty of Fort Albany. The Treaty recognized, identified and assigned much of western New York State and southern Ontario including the Niagara Escarpment, west of Lake Ontario and north of Lake Erie as the shared traditional hunting and fishing territories of many First Nations, including Six Nations.



1784 Haldimand Tract



On October 25, 1784, the Crown issued the Haldimand Proclamation which authorized Six Nations to possess all of the land which was Six miles on each side of the Grand River from its mouth to its source (to be held in trust by the Crown) comprising a total of approximately 950,000 acres.

Aerial photo
of the Six
Nations of
the
Grand River





List of activities that affect Six Nations Treaty Rights and Interests

Introduction of Exotic Species

Industrial Development

Creation of Landfill Sites

Urban Sprawl

Mineral Extraction

Restriction of Hunting,
Fishing and Harvesting
Rights

Land Sales

Loss of Habitat

Alteration to Water Courses

Archaeological Activities

Creation of Recreation Lands

Private Property

Agricultural Practices

Pharmaceutical Drugs

Elimination of Indigenous Species

The Grand River Watershed



Wildlife



Carolinian Forest



- ❑ 50% of the total reserve lands is forest cover
- ❑ The Six Nations forest is recognized as having the largest Carolinian forest – representing one-sixth of the total Carolinian zone in Canada.
- ❑ The Carolinian zone contains a greater number of plant and animal species than any other ecosystem in Canada including forests, tall grass prairies and savannas, wetlands, streams, and other aquatic habitats

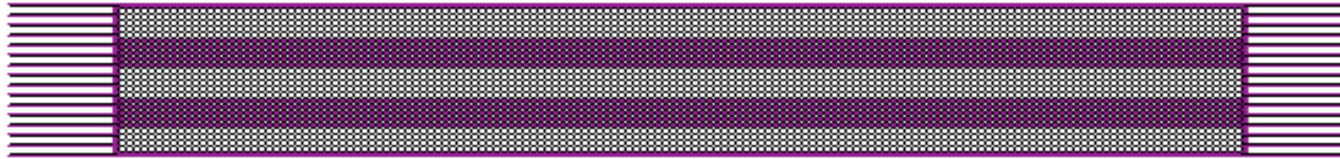
Map of the Grand River Notification Agreement



Partnerships

- A.D. Latornell Steering Committee
- Adaptive Co-management Working Group
- Airport Employment Growth District Community Liaison Committee
- Archaeology/Six Nations Working Group
- Brant Resources Stewardship Network
- Brant Rural Water Quality Program
- Brownfields Community Advisory Committee
- Caledonia Fishway Committee
- Carolinian Woodland Recovery Strategy
- Dunnville Fish Ladder Operations Management Committee
- Dunnville Fishway Committee
- Dunnville Marsh Management Committee
- Emergency Water Measures Committee
- Exceptional Waters Committee
- Food Systems Partnerships/Agrigroup
- Grand Strategy Coordinating Committee
- Grand River Fisheries Committee
- Grand River Fisheries Plan Implementation Committee
- Grand River Heritage Working Group
- Grand River Monitoring Committee
- Grand River Watershed Forum
- Grand Valley Water Supply Project
- Habitat Haldimand
- Haldimand Community Forest Initiative
- Habitat Stewardship Program-Partners in Recovery
- Haldimand Stewardship Council
- Hamilton Harbour Fisheries Management Plan
- HONI Joint Working Group
- IMC Decommissioning Committee
- Iroquois Wildlife Association
- Lake Erie Shore Water Protection Working Group
- Low Water Response Team
- Lower Grand River Land Trust
- Lower Grand Eco-system Restoration Working Group
- Migratory Fish Working Group
- Natural Heritage Working Group
- OPG Community Liaison Panel
- Ontario Raccoon Rabies Communications Team
- Redhill Valley Joint Stewardship Group
- Six Nations Source Water Protection Task Force
- Spills Notification Committee
- Tacquanyah Restoration Committee
- Thames River Management Committee
- Water Forum Steering Committee
- Windermere Basin PAG

Two Row Wampum



When the Haudenosaunee first came into contact with the European nations, treaties of peace and friendship were made. Each was symbolized by the Gus-Wen-Tah or Two Row Wampum. There is a bed of white wampum which symbolizes the purity of the agreement. There are two rows of purple, and those two rows have the spirit of your ancestors and mine. There are three beads of wampum separating the two rows and they symbolized peace, friendship and respect.

These two rows will symbolize two paths or two vessels, travelling down the same river together. One, a birch bark canoe, will be for the Indian people, their laws, their customs and their ways. The other, a ship, will be for the white people and their laws, their customs and their ways. We shall each travel the river together, side by side, but in our own boat. Neither of us will try to steer the other's vessel.

The principles of the Two Row Wampum became the basis for all treaties and agreements that were made with the Europeans and later the Americans. Now that Canada is a fully independent nation, perhaps it will be possible to strike up the Two Row Wampum between us, so that we may go our ways, side by side, in friendship and peace.

*-exerted from presentations to the Special
Committee by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy
and from Wampum Belts by Tehanetorens*