



MISHKODEH Centre for Indigenous Knowledge

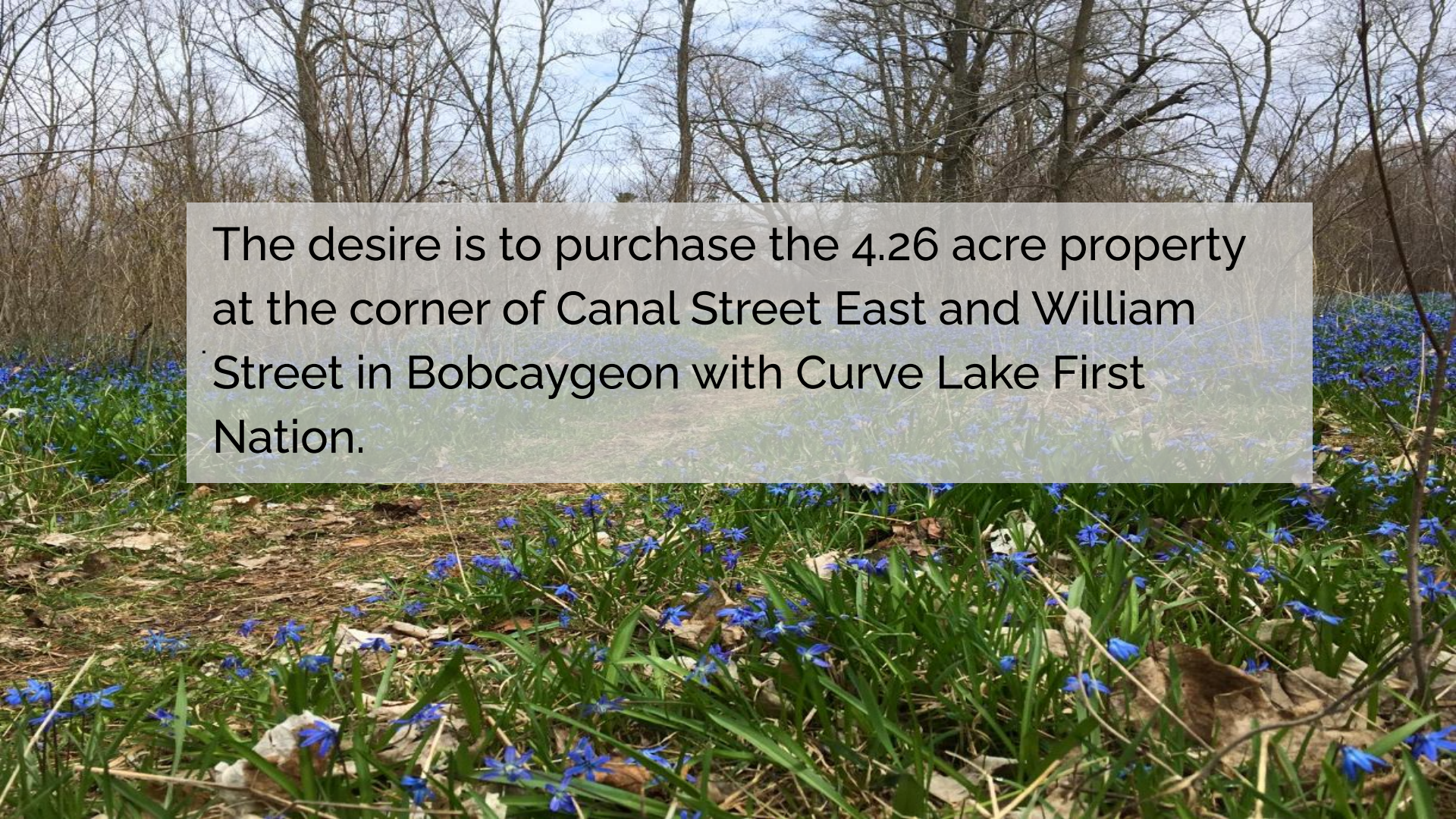
**A proposal by the Truth and
Reconciliation Community of
Bobcaygeon**



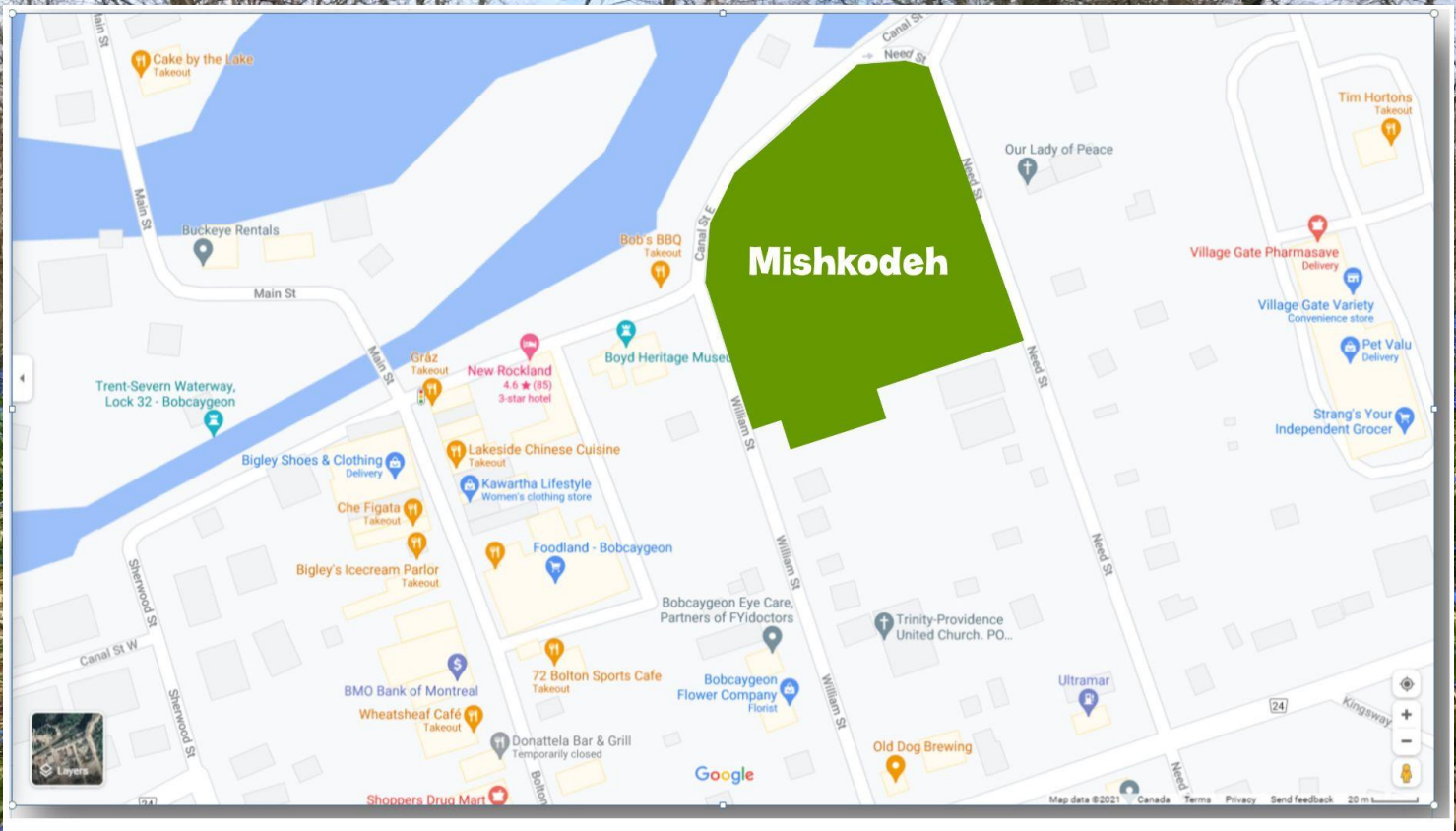
The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge is located in the territory of the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabe who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial.

A field of green grass with a white horizontal line and two white circles. The text "1. INTRODUCTION" is centered in red.

1. INTRODUCTION

A photograph of a field of blue flowers, likely blue violets, in a wooded area. The flowers are in the foreground and middle ground, with a dense line of bare trees in the background. A semi-transparent white text box is overlaid on the center of the image.

The desire is to purchase the 4.26 acre property at the corner of Canal Street East and William Street in Bobcaygeon with Curve Lake First Nation.



Mishkodeh

Cake by the Lake
Takeout

Buckeye Rentals

Trent-Severn Waterway,
Lock 32 - Bobcaygeon

Bigley Shoes & Clothing
Delivery

Che Figata
Takeout

Bigley's Icecream Parlor
Takeout

BMO Bank of Montreal

Wheatsheaf Café
Takeout

Shoppers Drug Mart

Gráz
Takeout

New Rockland
4.6 ★ (85)
3-star hotel

Lakeside Chinese Cuisine
Takeout

Kawartha Lifestyle
Women's clothing store

Foodland - Bobcaygeon

72 Bolton Sports Cafe
Takeout

Donatella Bar & Grill
Temporarily closed

Boyd Heritage Museum

Bobcaygeon Eye Care,
Partners of Fyidctors

72 Bolton Sports Cafe
Takeout

Bobcaygeon
Flower Company
Florist

Google

Canal St E

William St

William St

Canal St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Need St

Our Lady of Peace

Village Gate Pharmasave
Delivery

Village Gate Variety
Convenience store

Pet Valu
Delivery

Strang's Your
Independent Grocer

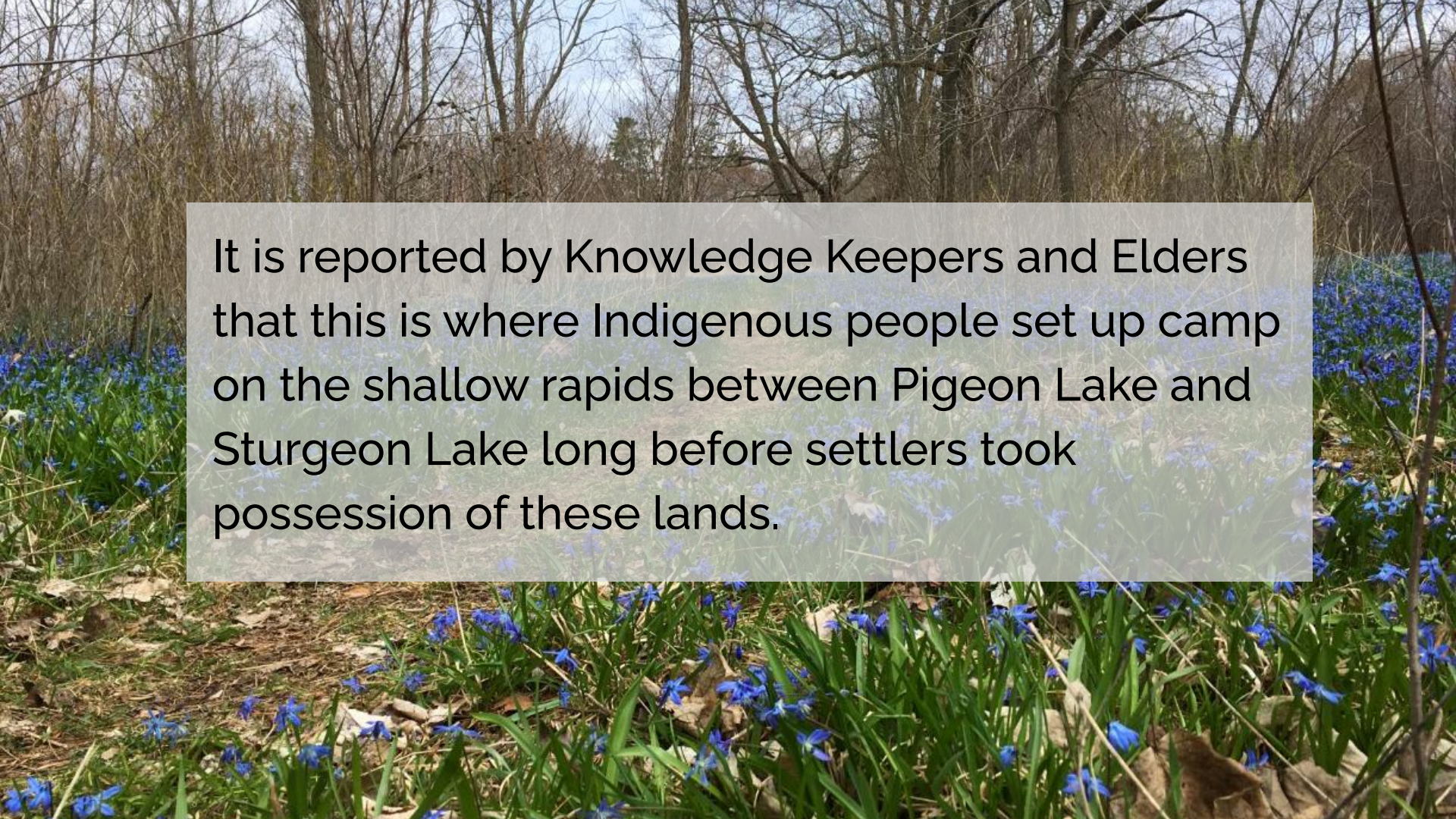
Tim Hortons
Takeout

Trinity-Providence
United Church. PO...

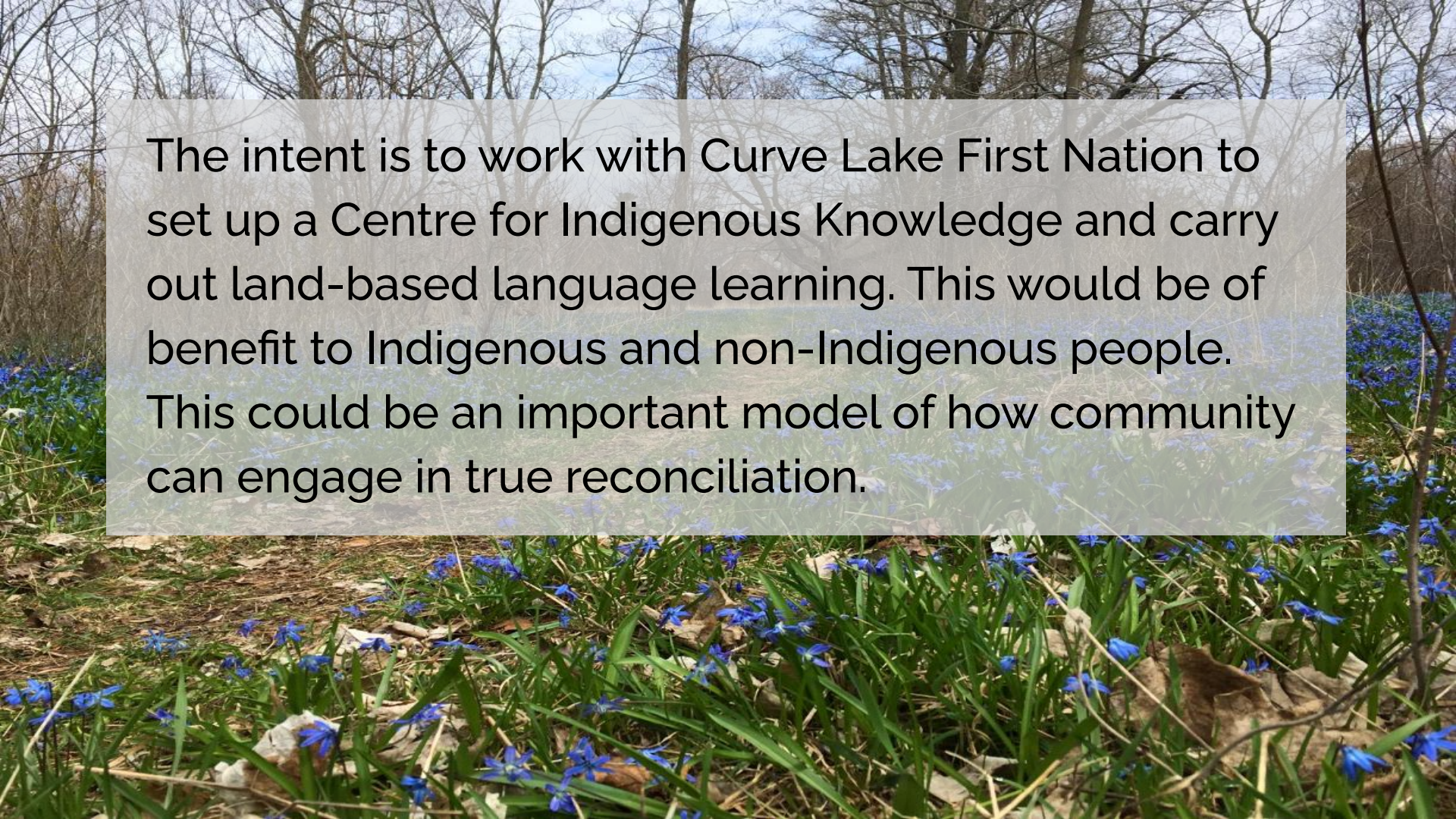
Ultramar

Old Dog Brewing

Map data ©2021 Canada Terms Privacy Send feedback 20 m

A photograph of a forest path. The path is a narrow dirt trail winding through a wooded area. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting early spring or late autumn. In the foreground, there are numerous small, vibrant blue flowers with green leaves, possibly crocuses, growing along the path. The background shows a dense line of trees under a clear sky.

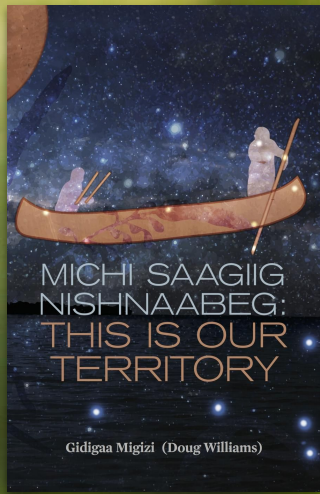
It is reported by Knowledge Keepers and Elders that this is where Indigenous people set up camp on the shallow rapids between Pigeon Lake and Sturgeon Lake long before settlers took possession of these lands.

The background of the image shows a dirt path winding through a wooded area. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a late winter or early spring setting. In the foreground, there are numerous small, vibrant blue flowers, likely crocuses, growing among green grass and some dry, brown leaves. The text is centered within a semi-transparent white rectangular box that allows the background scene to be visible through it.

The intent is to work with Curve Lake First Nation to set up a Centre for Indigenous Knowledge and carry out land-based language learning. This would be of benefit to Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. This could be an important model of how community can engage in true reconciliation.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a field of green grass, likely a type of oat or similar grain, with the stalks and seed heads in sharp focus in the foreground and slightly blurred in the background. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting a bright day. Overlaid on the image is a white horizontal line that spans across the middle. At each end of this line is a small white circle. The text '2. JOURNEY' is centered above the line in a bold, red, sans-serif font.

2. JOURNEY



In 2015, Curve Lake Elder Gidigaa Migizi (Doug Williams) walked this land with members of the Truth and Reconciliation Community Bobcaygeon and shared stories of its use as a *mishkodeh*. He could see a Cultural Centre here.



TRUTH and RECONCILIATION COMMUNITY of BOBCAYGEON (TRCB)

- Our purpose is to foster and develop respectful relationships among Settlers, Indigenous neighbours and the Land.
- We encourage and support one another, and anyone who will join with us, in moving towards restitution and decolonization.
- We are learning, educating and working towards reconciliation locally within the Settler community and in relationship with the Michi Saagiig Nishnaabeg.
- We are actively engaged in learning about and honouring Treaties, both locally and in the wider Canadian context.
- We continue to work towards restitution of wrongs as we respect the values and cultures of Indigenous communities.



On May 27, 2021, the remains of 215 Indigenous children were detected, children who had been buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in BC. Truth and Reconciliation Community Bobcaygeon decided to commemorate the lives of the 215 children with the “215+ Taken” Art Installation.

Anne Taylor, Curve Lake First Nation Language Coordinator, helped us open the art installation in a good way. She shared difficult stories of how the Indian Residential School system has impacted her and her family and friends. In fact, as Anne says, **“There is not an Anishinaabeg person who has not been impacted by the residential school system in some way.”**



“Indigenous women have laid their hearts on the ground,” said Anne, and, “it is time for settler Canadians to step up as never before”.

All Canadians need to know Canada's real history and be aware of what systemic and discriminatory obstacles continue today.



Listening to Anne Taylor at the opening of the art installation, Shiraz Jetha, one of the current owners of the Boyd Property was very moved. He says he wanted to do something good for the community. He is interested in trying to create the opportunity for us to purchase this land for the 'Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge'.



The 'Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge' has incorporated as a vehicle to implement the project. The Board will include equal representation of Indigenous and Non-Indigenous members.



The anticipated collaborators for THE MISHKODEH CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

- The Board of the Mishkodeh Centre For Indigenous Knowledge Inc.
- Truth and Reconciliation Community of Bobcaygeon
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Other Treaty 20 First Nations
- Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes
- Kawartha Works Community Co-operative
- City of Kawartha Lakes
- Kawartha Land Trust

The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Inc. met with the Mayor and made a presentation to the City of Kawartha Lakes Council on September 7, 2021.



“The Mishkodeh project aims to bring the land back to its historic use as a gathering place. It would provide new opportunities for learning about Indigenous language and culture while providing a place for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people to come together, offering benefits to residents and visitors alike.”

*Andy Letham
Mayor of the City of Kawartha Lakes*



“Since the publication of the Truth and Reconciliation report 6 years ago, we have learned as a country that we need to learn the real history of Canada. Embracing this truth makes us stronger as a nation, unites Canadian society, and teaches our kids that we must always do our best, especially when it's hard. My view is that reconciliation is a way of life and requires work every day. Reconciliation is getting to know one another.”

Governor General Mary Simon

The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Inc. met individually with members of Curve Lake First Nation

- Chief Emily Whetung
- Chief Operating Officer Katie Haddlesey
- Language Coordinator Anne Taylor
- Elder Gidigaa Migizi (Doug Williams)
- Deputy Chief Jeff Jacobs
- Cultural Archivist and Youth Engagement Officer Jack Hoggarth
- DJ Fife

They presented to CLFN Chief and Council on October 4, 2021

LETTER OF SUPPORT FROM CURVE LAKE FIRST NATION



Government Services Building
22 Winookeeadaa Road
Curve Lake, Ontario K0L1R0



Phone: 705.657.8045
Fax: 705.657.8708
www.curvelakefirstnation.ca

January 12, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Curve Lake First Nation, please accept this letter as our support for the goals of the Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge.

The Mishkodeh Centre representatives have worked with the Curve Lake First Nation staff and council over the past year to ensure that they approach this project in a respectful and thorough manner. We continue to work towards a memorandum of understanding to define our path forward.

The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge is striving to achieve the goal of reconciliation with a project that is designed alongside Indigenous partners. They are working to create a land-based learning opportunity that will allow Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to come together to share knowledge while preserving a piece of land that is significant to the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabe.

We will continue to work with the representatives of the Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge to ensure that this project is undertaken in a way that will allow for the advancement of Indigenous knowledge in our area and support the goals that they are working to achieve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Katie Haddlesey".

Katie Haddlesey
Chief Operating Officer
Curve Lake First Nation



This is a once in a lifetime chance to help create a gathering space for land-based learning that is open to everyone. The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Inc. is currently fostering interest and support from the community and people who wish to join them in the vision of connecting and learning together. This project would be unique and groundbreaking not only locally but for the whole territory.

LAND-BASED LANGUAGE LEARNING

“Land-based learning is education, community and skills building or training that takes place outdoors in particular places of local significance, often on traditional Indigenous territories. Teachings can include land-based language learning, harvesting, hunting, trapping, fishing, medicine gathering, bush survival skills, and traditional land-based scientific knowledge and culture and often involves Elders and Knowledge Keepers as teachers. The importance of building relationships and the bonding that occur on the land is emphasized both with participants and educators as well as relationships with non-human relations.”



→ **RESPECT**

It is important to honour and respect wishes and vision of Indigenous peoples for the future use of the land.

→ **RELATIONSHIPS**

It is important to contribute to the well-being of the communities surrounding the land, in relationship with the land and in relationship with each other.

→ **RECONCILIATION**

It is important to acknowledge the truth of the past, honour Williams Treaty and Treaty 20, recognize and support the deep connection Indigenous peoples have with the land, and support the reclamation of identity, language, and culture.

→ **RECIPROCITY**

It is important to act as within a circle in which Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples care for one another and the land, without an endpoint in mind.

FUNDRAISING

The boards of both **The Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes** and **The Kawartha Works Community Co-operative** have confirmed their support for the project and can serve to assist the community in implementing the project through fundraising and project management.



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
OF KAWARTHA LAKES**



Kawartha Works Community Co-operative

The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Inc. will be seeking funding from community grants, foundations, churches, unions, many other organizations, and individuals.

The Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes can assist community fundraising and issue tax receipts within the requirements of the Income Tax Act.



The public giving can be facilitated through the Community Foundation of Kawartha Lakes. They are the vehicle to consolidate the public component.

<https://www.kawarthafoundation.ca>



Make a pledge today

NOW IS THE TIME TO WORK TOGETHER

THIS IS A ONE-TIME-ONLY OPPORTUNITY TO SECURE THIS SPECIAL PIECE OF LAND

The Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge initiative provides you with a unique opportunity to preserve the Mishkodeh/Boyd property for a language learning and land-based education space. This will be a place for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous communities to connect with each other and the land.

A PLACE TO CONNECT WITH ONE ANOTHER ON A HEALING PATH TO RECONCILIATION

PLEDGE TODAY!
(see reverse)

Visit **MISHKODEH.ORG** for more information and to follow the funding progress.
CONNECT@MISHKODEH.ORG

HELP US CREATE THE MISHKODEH CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE



YES!

I/We would like to PLEDGE our financial support to assist the Mishkodeh Centre for Indigenous Knowledge Inc. in the acquisition of the Mishkodeh/Boyd Property in Bobcaygeon and the development, programming, and maintenance of the space. I/we agree to pay my/our pledge by April, 2022.

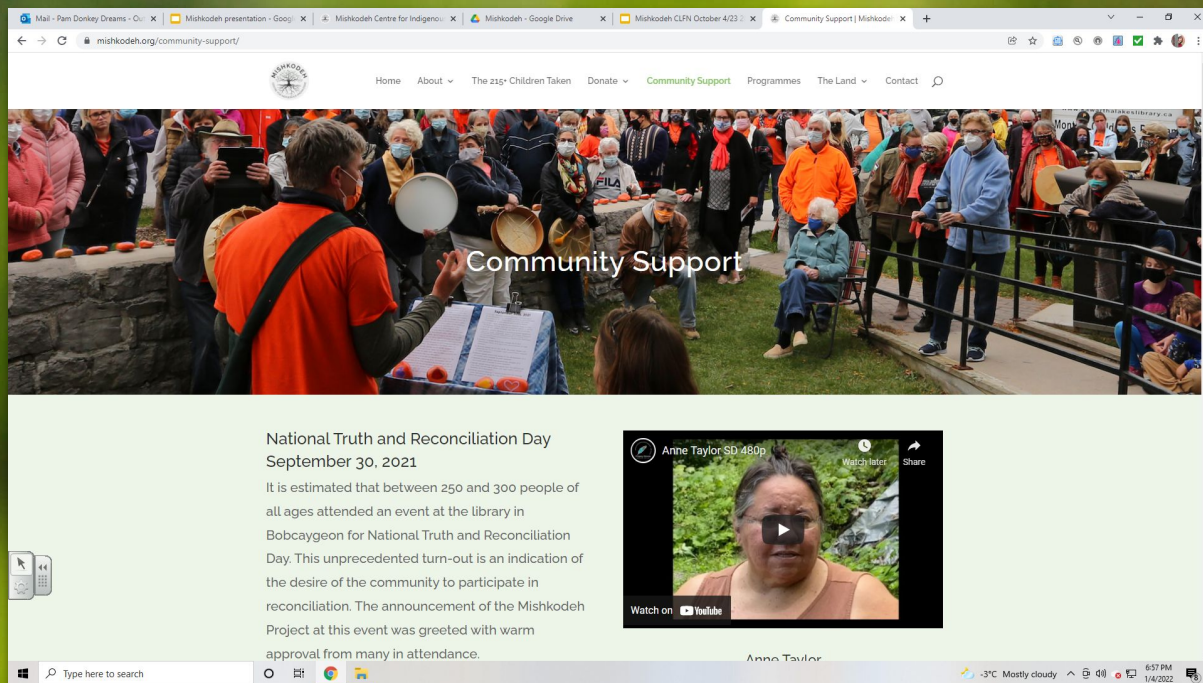
CONTACT INFORMATION: Name(s): _____ Cell Phone #(s): _____

Email(s): _____ Pledge Amount: _____

Donations will be accepted by CREDIT CARD E-TRANSFER CHEQUE SECURITIES CASH

Please MAIL pledge your form to "R. Smith-Merkley, PO Box 638, Bobcaygeon, Ontario, KOM 1A0" or EMAIL **CONNECT@MISHKODEH.ORG** with full name, phone number, email, and pledge amount.

Find more information about this project at mishkodeh.org



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the website mishkodeh.org. The browser's address bar shows the URL mishkodeh.org/community-support/. The website's navigation menu includes Home, About, The 215 Children Taken, Donate, Community Support (highlighted), Programmes, The Land, and Contact. The main content area features a large photograph of a community event with many people, some wearing masks. Overlaid on the photo is the text "Community Support". Below the photo, there is a section titled "National Truth and Reconciliation Day September 30, 2021" with a paragraph of text. To the right of the text is a video player showing a woman, Anne Taylor, speaking. The video player includes a play button, a "Watch later" button, and a "Share" button. The video title is "Anne Taylor SD 480p". The website footer includes a search bar and a system tray showing the date and time as 6:57 PM on 1/4/2022.

Community Support

National Truth and Reconciliation Day
September 30, 2021

It is estimated that between 250 and 300 people of all ages attended an event at the library in Bobcaygeon for National Truth and Reconciliation Day. This unprecedented turn-out is an indication of the desire of the community to participate in reconciliation. The announcement of the Mishkodeh Project at this event was greeted with warm approval from many in attendance.

Anne Taylor SD 480p

Watch on YouTube

Anne Taylor

Type here to search

-3°C Mostly cloudy 6:57 PM 1/4/2022



Miigwech

Thank you for your support for the Mishkodeh Centre For Indigenous Knowledge