

Algonquins of Ontario



Renewed Hope – A Journey of Survival, Rebuilding and Self Sufficiency

FEBRUARY 2015

Weaving the Algonquin Presence throughout the Nation's Capital

The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO), made up of ten communities, are currently engaged in discussions with the Governments of Canada and Ontario to resolve the long outstanding Algonquin land claim through a negotiated settlement. If successful, the agreement we reach will take the form of a modern-day Treaty with Aboriginal and Treaty rights protected under Section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

While the Algonquin Treaty negotiations are ongoing, the AOO have been working diligently to strengthen the Algonquin presence across our Traditional Territory. We are engaging and collaborating with various government ministries, agencies, municipalities and private proponents to not only recognize and celebrate Algonquin art, culture and heritage, but also to advance Algonquin interests in a wide-range of proposed projects. The AOO have been making significant strides in establishing ourselves as a key participant in the development of public policy, lands and resources within our Territory.

As part of these efforts, the AOO are currently working with various proponents on a number of exciting projects, described on the following pages, to re-establish and strengthen the Algonquin presence throughout the Nation's Capital Region. Although these projects range in type and scale, their locations are all connected by a shared Algonquin history. It is important that this connectivity is highlighted throughout the City of Ottawa and that a cohesive Algonquin narrative is woven through the various sites.

In order to move these initiatives forward, it is critical that our ten Algonquin communities join together to establish our collective voice. To do so, we need to hear from you – our Algonquin Elders, youth and other community members.

STAY INFORMED — STAY CONNECTED!

To learn more about any of the projects described in this booklet, or to share your ideas and feedback, contact your local Algonquin Negotiation Representative or the Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office:

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CHAUDIÈRE HYDRO REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT BY ENERGY OTTAWA

February 2015 – The Chaudière Hydro Redevelopment Project was formally announced on March 7, 2014. Through a 40 year contract with the Ontario Power Authority, Energy Ottawa will be redeveloping the site at Chaudière Falls with a new 29 megawatt generating facility. Once in operation, the generating station will provide sufficient electricity to power 20,000 homes each year. Currently, construction is planned to occur between March 2015 and September 2016. Testing and commissioning will then take place from October 2016 to February 2017 with the expectation that the generating station will be fully operational in February 2017.



In addition, the project will include a new pedestrian access bridge to enable public access from Chaudière Island to a viewing area along the south side of Chaudière Falls. Pedestrian access will also be provided across the top of the powerhouse to allow for public access through the project area to Booth Street.

COMMEMORATING ALGONQUIN CULTURE AND HERITAGE

For the Algonquin people, the majesty of the Chaudière Falls has been regarded as a sacred place since time immemorial. Our long and complex relationship with the earth, water and sky in this cultural landscape expresses and harmonizes the Aboriginal unity with the natural and spiritual environment.

The Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) are collaborating with Energy Ottawa to define a process that meaningfully integrates important Algonquin cultural elements into the site plan. Energy Ottawa has commissioned internationally renowned Master Builder Douglas Cardinal to spearhead the design of the public access environment and commemorate Algonquin culture and heritage within the project. Guiding Douglas Cardinals' work are the following design objectives:

1. Open access to Chaudière Falls for all peoples
2. Recognize and promote the importance of the area for First Nations by including and integrating First Nation cultural elements within the development
3. Integrate a restorative philosophy for the redevelopment of the site to a natural state while maintaining some elements of the industrial past and history

Meet Douglas Cardinal



Photo Credit: Bruno Schlumberger

Douglas Cardinal is dedicated to creating beautiful, thriving and harmoniously built environments. Born in 1934 in Calgary, Alberta, his architectural studies at the University of British Columbia took him to Austin, Texas, where he achieved his architectural degree and found a life experience in human rights initiatives. Douglas then became a forerunner of philosophies of sustainability, green buildings and ecologically designed community planning. His architecture springs from his observation of Nature and its understanding that everything works seamlessly together.

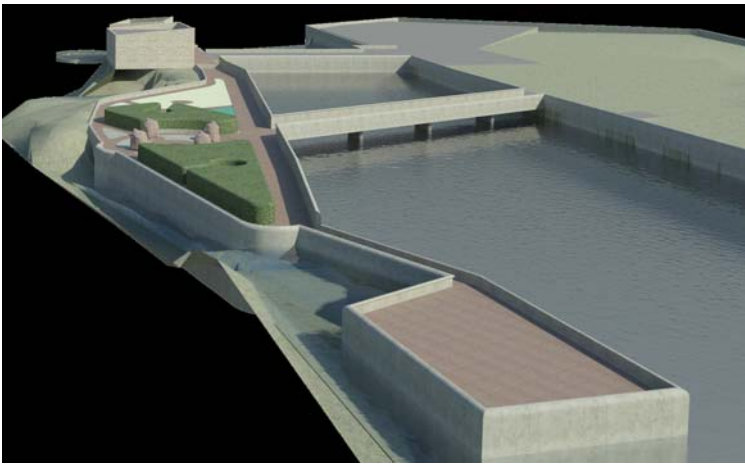
In recognition of such work, Douglas Cardinal has received many national and international awards including: 17 Honorary Doctorates, Gold Medals of Architecture in Canada and Russia and an award from United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) for best sustainable village. He was also titled an Officer of the Order of Canada, one of the most prestigious awards given to a Canadian, and he was awarded the declaration of being "World Master of Contemporary Architecture" by the International Association of Architects. Douglas Cardinal is one of the visionaries of a new world; a world where beauty, balance and harmony thrive, where client, architect, and stakeholder build together with a common vision.

On September 4, 2014 Douglas Cardinal attended three sessions of the inaugural AOO Talking Circle. The aim of these sessions was for Algonquins to provide input on the following questions:

- What design and commemorative elements would support efforts to raise the awareness of the cultural and spiritual significance of Chaudière Falls and the surrounding area to the Algonquin people and Algonquin culture itself?
- What is the specific story to be told at Chaudière Falls?

Using the stories and feedback he received during these sessions, Douglas Cardinal has now developed a Recommended Concept Plan for the Chaudière Hydro Redevelopment Project, highlights of which are depicted in the images below. Douglas Cardinal will be consulting with the AOO communities in the Winter of 2015 to refine the Recommended Concept Plan. It is anticipated that the Recommended Concept Plan will then be brought forward to the National Capital Commission for design approval in the Spring of 2015.

Along with these commemorative elements, the AOO are working diligently with Energy Ottawa to minimize the impact of the new hydro-electric generating facility on Pimisi, the American Eel. Pimisi is sacred to the Algonquin people and has been an essential part of Algonquin culture for thousands of years.



Site Overview



Falls Viewing Platform



Sacred Fire



Teaching Circles

DOORS OPEN FOR ALGONQUIN BUSINESSES

In the Fall of 2014, Energy Ottawa commenced the pre-qualification process for the project's general contractor through MERX, the electronic tendering service. Following this process, Energy Ottawa provided the AOO with the list of pre-qualified contractors who are participating in the RFP process to offer an opportunity for qualified Algonquin businesses to inquire about potential contract and employment opportunities. The AOO circulated this list of pre-qualified contractors to a number of Algonquin businesses inviting them to communicate their capacity, experience and financial strength to the pre-qualified contractors. If you are an Algonquin business owner interested in learning more, contact Christine Luckasavitch, AOO Economic Development Officer by email at cluckasavitch@nrtco.net or by telephone at 613-735-3759 ext 205.

THE CONFEDERATION LINE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT PROJECT BY THE CITY OF OTTAWA AND RIDEAU TRANSIT GROUP



February 2015 – Since the early inception of the Confederation Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) project, the City of Ottawa has embraced a tremendous opportunity to recognize and celebrate the art, culture and heritage of the Algonquin people. Through an innovative partnership between the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) and the City of Ottawa, the transit station at LeBreton Flats, now named Pimisi Station, was identified as an “Algonquin-themed” station.

The location of this station is of particular significance to the Algonquins as it is within close proximity to Chaudière Falls and Victoria Island, both of which are sacred gathering places for the Algonquins since time immemorial.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

In December 2012, the Rideau Transit Group (RTG) was endorsed by Ottawa City Council as the preferred Project Proponent to design, build, finance and maintain the Confederation Line LRT system. Beginning with the first AOO Business Forum held on March 5, 2013, the AOO have been working with RTG to identify the availability and use of Algonquin personnel, equipment and materials for the project.

A NEW NAME – FROM LEBRETON TO PIMISI STATION

In the Spring of 2013, the City of Ottawa provided the AOO with the opportunity to rename LeBreton Station with an Algonquin name. Through a comprehensive outreach to the ten AOO communities, a list of potential names for the station was compiled for the consideration of the Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (ANRs). Following a fulsome discussion of the various submissions, the ANRs reached consensus on the name – **Pimisi Station**.



The renaming of LeBreton Station to Pimisi Station is much more than a symbolic gesture to honour Pimisi’s once plentiful presence within the Ottawa River, or to serve as a footnote to its once extraordinary migration up and down Chaudière Falls. Rather, the renaming to Pimisi Station will draw public awareness and strengthen the call for action – to ensure the survival of the species. It is not lost on the Algonquin people that the survival of Pimisi is also an apt metaphor for the survival and rebuilding of the Algonquin Nation.

ALGONQUIN WAYFINDING

In celebration of the traditional wayfinding practices of the Algonquin people, the City of Ottawa has long supported the development of an Algonquin-themed compass. It is envisioned that this Algonquin compass will be implemented as a wayfinding tool throughout the entire Confederation Line as well as within other locations across the City of Ottawa. To spearhead this initiative, the City commissioned renowned Algonquin artist Simon Brascoupe to develop the design of the compass in collaboration with Algonquin communities. Inspired by ancient pictographs and through dialogue with Algonquins at a number of community gatherings, Simon Brascoupe has now prepared a preliminary compass design. He looks forward to unveiling his Algonquin compass to the Algonquin communities this Winter and receiving their input and feedback.



THE CONFEDERATION LINE ART PROGRAM AT PIMISI STATION

As the Confederation Line's Algonquin-themed station, the design and art at Pimisi Station will reflect the historical and contemporary cultural significance of the Algonquin people. Algonquin artists and artisans have been invited through a phased approach to submit their qualifications to be considered for the design of contemporary, innovative Algonquin public artworks at Pimisi Station. Unique to Pimisi Station is the strong focus on consultation and collaboration with the Algonquin communities throughout the entire artistic process.

Phase 1: Integrated Artworks: Phase 1 of the Confederation Line Art Program was launched in July 2012 and included two separate Calls for Algonquin artists and artisans in November 2012. The Phase 1 competitions resulted in the selection of Sobey Art Award winner Nadia Myre as the Integrated Algonquin Artist at Pimisi Station. Nadia Myre is now nearing the completion of her Phase 1 designs for Pimisi Station which she is developing through close community engagement with the AOO and Algonquin communities, including her attendance at a number of meetings with the ANRs, at the 2014 Nation Gathering, and her presentation of the preliminary Phase 1 designs at the AOO Talking Circle on September 4, 2014 for discussion and feedback. It is anticipated that these Phase 1 designs will be finalized in the Spring of 2015.

Phase 2: Permanent, Stand-Alone Artworks: Phase 2 of the Confederation Line Art Program, launched in June 2014, will provide opportunities for artists to contribute permanent, stand-alone artworks to the Confederation Line. Through the selection process, three Algonquin artists have now been shortlisted and invited to submit a proposal outlining their vision for the Phase 2 artworks at Pimisi Station. Four previously selected Algonquin artisans will also participate in the non-integrated art opportunities for Phase 2. It is anticipated that the Phase 2 lead Algonquin artist(s) will be selected in the Spring of 2015. As with Phase 1, the realization of the Phase 2 artistic design will be developed through a collaborative approach, including community interactions, mentorships and dialogue with Algonquin communities.

Meet the Algonquin Artists

NADIA MYRE LEAD INTEGRATED ARTIST (PHASE 1) – PIMISI STATION



Nadia Myre is a visual artist from Quebec and an Algonquin member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg. For over a decade, her multi-disciplinary practice has been inspired by participant involvement as well as recurring themes of identity, language, longing and loss. Nadia is a graduate from Camosun College (1995), Emily Carr (1997), and Concordia University (M.F.A., 2002), and a recipient of numerous grants and awards. She is the winner of the prestigious 2014 Sobey Art Award.

Between 2000-2002, as a tribute to her mother's effort in obtaining their status, Nadia proceeded to bead over all 56 pages of the annotated Indian Act with the help of over 250 participants. In 2004, she started The Scar Project, an ongoing 'open lab' where viewers participate by sewing their scars – real or symbolic – onto stretched canvases and writing their 'scar stories' on paper. To date she has a collection of over 1400 canvases and accompanying texts.

SIMON BRASCOUPÉ LEAD ARTIST, ALGONQUIN WAYFINDING – THE CONFEDERATION LINE

Simon Brascoupé has been a professional artist for over 30 years and is a member of Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg from Maniwaki, Quebec. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Indigenous Studies at Trent University and an Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University. He holds a B.A. and M.A. from State University of New York at Buffalo, where he is also completing his Ph.D.



Simon is committed to the revitalization of Algonquin art and culture and is an active researcher and writer on Algonquin art history including rock art, birchbark baskets, birchbark biting and medicinal plants. His commissions have been displayed at the Ottawa Heart Institute, National Capital Commission, Aboriginal Experiences Ottawa, the Native American Centre for the Living Arts and in various schools and churches.

INITIATIVES SPEARHEADED BY THE NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF OTTAWA

February 2015 – Created by the Government of Canada in 1959, the National Capital Commission (NCC) is a Crown corporation mandated to ensure that Canada's Capital Region is a source of national pride and significance. In particular, the NCC focuses on the following areas of activity:

- Setting the long-term planning direction for federal lands in Canada's Capital Region
- Guiding and controlling the use and development of federal lands in Canada's Capital Region
- Managing, conserving and protecting NCC assets (including Gatineau Park, the Greenbelt, the NCC real property portfolio, and other assets such as bridges, pathways and parkways)
- Maintaining heritage sites in Canada's Capital Region, such as the official residences and commemorative sites

The NCC is currently seeking input and ideas from the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) on the manner in which Algonquin heritage and culture can be recognized and celebrated within the following initiatives which are currently underway in the Capital Region.

NEPEAN POINT RENEWAL



Nepean Point offers a magnificent panoramic view of Parliament Hill and the heart of Canada's Capital Region. It is 1.27 hectares in size and is located on St. Patrick Street, behind the National Gallery of Canada. Nepean Point is home to the Astrolabe Theatre, a 700-seat outdoor amphitheater built in preparation for Canada's centennial in 1967. Over the years, the Astrolabe Theatre has hosted various events and productions.

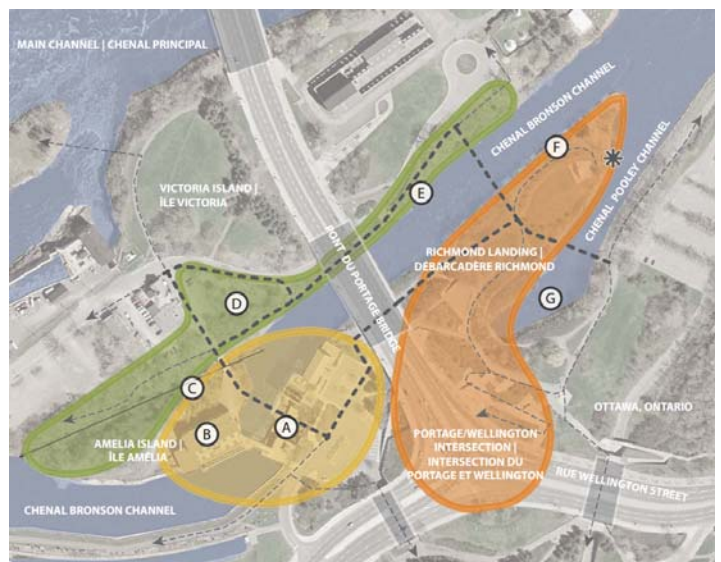
At the top of Nepean Point is a statue of Samuel de Champlain, who explored the Ottawa River in 1613. The Nepean Point Renewal project offers an opportunity to tell the Algonquin story as it relates to Samuel de Champlain, particularly our

history prior to contact and our role in guiding Champlain through his exploration of the Ottawa River.

INCREASING PUBLIC ACCESS TO BRONSON PULP MILL RUINS AND RICHMOND LANDING SHORELINE

As a "hidden treasure" of the Capital Region, the NCC has identified opportunities to provide increased pedestrian access and connectivity between Richmond Landing, Victoria Island and Amelia Island. In doing so, the NCC aims to highlight the vast cultural landscapes of the area, including the Aboriginal significance of these islands, the natural heritage and geology of the Ottawa River, the industrial heritage of the Bronson Channel and the military history of Richmond Landing.

The core deliverables of this initiative include three pedestrian bridges linked by a pedestrian pathway, a universally accessible pathway connecting Wellington intersection to Richmond Landing, the enhancement of the ruins of the Bronson pulp mill and the installation of landscape architecture which celebrate the region's unique history.



LEBRETON FLATS

The NCC became custodian of the land known as LeBreton Flats, located 1.5 km west of Parliament Hill, in the early 1960s. After years of debate on how LeBreton Flats should be developed, beginning with the War Museum in 2001, the NCC has been making concerted efforts to bring about a new and inspiring plan which restores the area as a people-oriented community.

The redevelopment of LeBreton Flats is poised to become both a signature destination for visitors to Canada's Capital and a point of civic pride for its residents. The NCC envisions a bold, new anchor institution that will welcome the public, serve as a regional economic driver, feature innovative use of the land, and bring design excellence, animation and a unique public experience to the Nation's Capital.

As an interim landscape embellishment initiative in 2015, the NCC will be greening the edge of the Parkway from Preston to Booth Street to improve the quality of this important entry route to the Capital core. This endeavor will also include building a temporary park on the east side of Booth between the Parkway and Fleet street. The proposed theme for this interim green space east of Booth entitled "**Harmony**" is to celebrate the important and fragile balance between Land, Water and People as an essential value of the Anishnaabe philosophy and culture.

This site will feature extensive landscaping to produce an intriguing contoured land form design known as "land art". While children play in long, winding land form sculpture representing the currents of the flowing river, the adults can relax in the entry plaza which is to focus on creating a public meeting place in the shape of a circle where the main experience will be focused on interpreting the local Anishnaabe culture. For drivers entering Canada's Capital, this design will remind them that the Algonquin people are still ever-present in our Traditional Territory.



Proposed theme of "Harmony" for interim green space

LINEAR PARK ALONG THE SIR JOHN A. MACDONALD PARKWAY

There are over 52 kilometres of scenic parkways in the City of Ottawa, including Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway. These parkways serve as gateways into Canada's Capital Region. With the natural landscapes and shorelines as key features of the parkway system, they offer beautiful perspectives of the Capital to locals and visitors travelling by car, bike or foot. The parkways also provide links between important sites within the Capital Region, including Parliament Hill and many national museums and institutions. Given these unique characteristics, the parkways are considered cultural landscapes in and of themselves.

The objective of creating a linear park along the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway, from Booth Street to Carling Avenue, is to enhance the area by offering a variety of uses that contribute both to the quality of life of residents as well to the visitor experience. The Linear Park aims to accomplish this objective by:

- Providing greater access to the Ottawa River
- Creating green space to host a variety of activities throughout all four seasons
- Inspiring historical tours and nature interpretation
- Strengthening community linkages

Interpretive features along the Sir John A. Macdonald Parkway create an opportunity to educate residents and visitors to the National Capital Region about the long occupation and rich history of the Algonquin people in this area.

THE ROCKCLIFFE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT BY CANADA LANDS COMPANY



February 2015 – Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Rockcliffe was originally established by the Department of Defence in 1898. The base was once home to over 450 military families, but since 1994, has been decommissioned. Canada Lands Company acquired the site from the federal government in 2011 and has since been engaged in the consultation and planning process for the site's redevelopment.

In 2010, the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) and Canada Lands Company entered into an exciting and innovative Participation Agreement for the redevelopment of the former CFB Rockcliffe in Ottawa. This Participation Agreement establishes a direct financial interest for the AOO in the development of one of the most desirable and valuable parcels of land in Canada. Specifically, the Participation Agreement provides opportunities for cooperation between Canada Lands Company and the AOO including:

- Commemoration of the history and connection of the Algonquin people with the site
- AOO engagement in all stages of concept development, land use planning and detailed design
- The opportunity for AOO to acquire lots or blocks under the municipally-approved plan, as development takes place

Through the Participation Agreement, the AOO and Canada Lands Company are committed to maintaining a list of qualified Algonquin companies with the capacity, experience and financial strength to provide consulting services or to undertake various elements of servicing to support the redevelopment of the site. These services include engineering, road construction, sanitary and sewer installation and landscaping – and a host of other opportunities. Working with the AOO Consultation Office, Canada Lands Company is committed to informing these companies of any tenders associated with the redevelopment of Rockcliffe.

The Participation Agreement also sets out that the history and connection of the Algonquin people with the Rockcliffe lands be recognized through the installation of commemorative elements, the design of park spaces or the naming of streets. Early consultations with the Algonquin Negotiation Representatives (ANRs) and Elders have indicated that the two main purposes of commemoration are the:

- Provision of space with cultural or spiritual value to the Algonquin people, to which all people will have access
- Education of the general public about the meaning of this land to the Algonquin people, referencing Algonquin language, culture and inherent relationship with nature

There are consistent themes emerging from our discussions about the importance of respecting a diversity of spaces on the site, recognizing plants that are associated with traditional Algonquin uses, and in particular, associating the site with the Ottawa River, traditionally called Kichissippi. Some locations may be sacred spaces, or spaces with strong cultural affinity to Algonquin traditional uses.

To bring these commemorative elements to fruition, extensive dialogue has been facilitated between Canada Lands Company, the AOO and Algonquin Elders at an Elders Circle in April 2012 as well as an Elders Tour of the former CFB Rockcliffe site in September 2013. Through each of these events, Algonquin Elders identified key areas and themes at different locations on the development site that could be set aside for commemorative purposes. Together, the AOO and Canada Lands Company are now looking forward to further developing these key areas and themes.