

The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians



Chief Carr of Hiawatha First Nation Re-elected for Another Term



The Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians would like to extend their congratulations to Laurie Carr of Hiawatha First Nation, Mississaugas of Rice Lake, on her re-election to Chief. Chief Carr will continue her work for her Citizens and Community and proudly follows in the footsteps of her father Frank Cowie who was Chief of Hiawatha from 1977 to 1997. Her impressive background in the Health/Social Field, growing up under the strong Leadership of her Father, and work in various political roles gives her a wide range of experience to draw upon.

Chief Carr stated "I am honoured to be re-elected as Chief and am grateful to our Citizens for the trust they give to me and have in my leadership. I look forward to working with Council and continuing the good work for our Community under the guidance of our Ancestors, Citizens, and our generations to come." Grand Chief Joel Abram states "Chief Carr is a strong Indigenous Woman with a quick

wit, a good spirit and a great sense of humor. I like working with her for many reasons, but most of all for her strong sense of responsibility to make sure she can do all she can for her people. I congratulate her and her newly elected council members, and I look forward on continuing to work with her on many issues together." Deputy Grand Chief Stacia Loft adds "Chief Carr has been leading her community for four terms as Chief and I am proud to know her. I am fully confident that Hiawatha made a great choice to have her continue in this leadership role. I just started in my new role myself and I look to her for guidance and support as we work together for our people". Along with Chief Carr Hiawatha has a re-elected Council Members Kathryn Wilson, Cynthia Gray, Jeff Loucks and Kirk Edwards, and new Member of Council Kayla Howard.

A QUICK LOOK AT HIAWATHA AND FRANK COWIE

Hiawatha First Nation is located on the north shore of Rice Lake, approximately 30 km south east of Peterborough. The First Nation has a land base of approximately 2145 acres, and owns, and operates a Store, Gas bar, Gift shop, Restaurant (ORRS), and the Hiawatha First Nation Tent and Trailer Park. Hiawatha is also the honoured caretakers of Serpent Mounds, a 2000+ year old burial site and designated as a national historical site.

Frank Cowie served as Chief of Hiawatha for 18 years between 1977 and 1997 and was recognized for his values on hard work, resourcefulness and dedication to his community. He was described by his daughter, Chief Carr as "A strong man with a silent style of leadership. He embodied an Indigenous spirit to listen, take in all information and facts before moving forward." Chief Cowie had cared deeply for his Community and worked hard to create change for the seven generations to come. One way he did this was to encourage the young people to seek their education. He loved to see Hiawatha's young people succeed in their studies, regardless of what their chosen field of study was, and was always proud of their successes. He thought ahead seven generations and he encouraged others to do the same.



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WORLD WAR II VETERAN IN MOHAWKS OF THE BAY OF QUINTE HONORED BY PRIME MINISTER

Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte veteran Austin Fuller was recognized and honored by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in an online meeting on January 8th, 2021. Ninety-nine-year-old Austin Fuller is the last surviving World War II veteran of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and took part in a virtual meeting with the Prime Minister, Bay of Quinte MP Neil Ellis and Minister of Veteran Affairs Lawrence McAulay.

Fuller was born in Shannonville in 1921, enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1940 and was posted to the Hastings Prince Edward Regiment. He landed on Pachino Beach in July of 1943 and fought through Sicily, the Italian mainland and into Holland. Austin's war ended on the 7th of May 1945 when the Commanding Officer of The Hastings and Prince Edward took the surrender of the German garrison in Amersfoort Holland. At Ortona, he served in the anti-tank platoon of Combat Support Company. He took his discharge from the permanent force on September 13, 1945 after serving overseas for over five years and constantly in the fight from July 1943 to May 1945.

Grand Chief Joel Abram states "We've have a rich history of Indigenous warriors like Austin Fuller who have stepped up to serve in the military in defense of their land and their people. They didn't have to do it, they weren't asked or drafted, but they understood the importance of the call when it was made and we are proud of each and everyone of them".



99 year-old Austin Fuller (top left) is the last surviving World War II veteran of the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte and took part in a virtual meeting with the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Bay of Quinte MP Neil Ellis and Minister of Veteran Affairs Lawrence McAulay.



Community News

Indigenous Woman Wins Prestigious Scholarship



Robin Margaret King Stonefish

Robin Margaret King Stonefish is a first-year doctoral student at OISE and the first-ever recipient of the 2020-2021 Bonnie Burstow Scholarship for Research in Violence Against Indigenous Women, will be studying ways to help learners overcome barriers they experience in learning about their language and culture. King Stonefish pledges to work to eliminate those systemic barriers – especially for Indigenous women. This award, established in honour of all Indigenous women who are victims of violence, is awarded to an OISE student entering a thesis program in Adult Education and Community Development whose intended thesis focuses on violence against indigenous women (or the history underpinning it).

“What I would hope to see out of this process is to develop resources and tools for others to help overcome some of the barriers to fulfilling Lifelong Learning,” - Robin Margaret King Stonefish

King Stonefish’s research is connected to customary practices of Indigenous families who carry knowledge bundles for their communities. She will look specifically at Anishinaabe math and science teachings from her late aunt, who was trained from a young age to become a Knowledge Keeper.

For Jennifer Wemigwans, an Assistant Professor at OISE, King Stonefish epitomizes what the scholarship stands for. “Robin has spent a lifetime learning from her community and caring for Indigenous Knowledge that has been carried by her family,” says Wemigwans, who is based in OISE’s department Leadership, Higher and Adult Education. “She is also active in language revitalization efforts. For Robin, Indigenous Knowledge is a way of life – not a theory or a concept.” Her academic focus at OISE is something that embodies the work of her mother and aunt, who “always did so much stuff that just blew my mind,” says King Stonefish, who has roots with Henvey Inlet First Nation but grew up in Toronto.

Her mother, Emma, was a translator in hospitals, the court system, board member, and advocate in her volunteer work and administrative and clerical staff for various Indigenous organizations in Toronto. Her aunt, Nellie, was many things – a founding board member of Native Child Family Services of Toronto with Emma, a band administrator in Henvey Inlet First Nation, graphic artist, and a community member who would support kids and her many nieces and nephews from home when they needed that auntie figure to step in and help.

“I think that’s why I feel so honored to be able to do this work,” she said, “because much of her own work ties in with further advocating for work that my aunt and my mom did – to be able to have it heard and have it be part of the greater discourse.” - Robin Margaret King Stonefish

Community News

AIAI Youth Council Needs YOU

AIAI is seeking Indigenous youth to join the youth council this year as many members are moving onto their next phase of life and emerging as leaders in their communities. In doing so there is a need for more youth to step up and take up the seats that the predecessors will be leaving. Grand Chief Joel Abram stresses the importance of having our youth join us on the political stage "Often one of the best ways to learn is through experience and join in the process personally. Our people have always believed in this way of teaching and why we didn't have classrooms. A spot on the youth council can open up so many doors for youth and encourage them to take up many issues and pursue ideas for their communities. I believe that tremendous growth and satisfaction can come from serving your nation and community and I encourage all youth to take up the mantle of leadership in their own way. You are the future."

A spot on the youth council encourages youth to get some real world experience in examining political issues such as health, environment, infrastructure, and many more.

It involves a hands on approach to appear at major conferences and address a gathering of Chiefs, work with government figures and highlight concerns and needs for their community. This can of course lead and branch off to a huge variety of fields and makes for an impressive point on a resume.

Deputy Grand Chief Stacia Loft adds "Youth in our communities are the future today, and it is more important now than ever, that they be included in everything we do. Current leadership has a role to play by making space, fostering meaningful relationships, and leading by example. It is my hope that youth will feel welcomed, valued, and respected as they work in partnership to shape the future for the coming generations."

If you would like to join the AIAI Youth Council contact Natasha Timothy at ntimothy@aiai.on.ca AIAI's Youth Initiatives Coordinator, for more information about how to gain endorsement from your community's Chief and Council and all the details about becoming a member of the AIAI Youth Council.

