

Media Release

Invitation to Media Conference: **Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 11 am**
Light refreshments provided.

International Exhibition to Open at the Peterborough Museum & Archives

“To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860”

The Ancestors are Coming Home for a Visit!

Thirteen (13) quilled wiigwaasii makakoons (pronounced weeg-wah-see mah-ka-coons) will be visiting their ancestral lands on Michi Saagiig territory from April 22 to November 19, 2023. Michi Saagiig women gave the thirteen birch bark baskets (makakoons) to the Prince of Wales on September 7, 1860, when he stopped at Rice Lake village (now Hiawatha First Nation) as part of a cross-Canada Royal tour.

Through a partnership between Hiawatha First Nation, the Mississauga Nation, the Peterborough Museum & Archives and Royal Collection Trust, the makakoons will be on exhibition at the Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA), 300 Hunter St. E., Peterborough.

Entitled “To Honour and Respect: Gifts from the Michi Saagiig Women to the Prince of Wales, 1860,” the exhibition will explore the cultural knowledge, love, respect, and diplomacy that went into the makakoons. The PMA is providing a safe and accessible home for the ancestral makakoons while in Canada.

Since 1860, the makakoons have been part of the Royal Trust Collection and housed at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. They are on loan for exhibition by His Majesty King Charles III. The “To Honour and Respect” curators and the Planning Committee have worked closely with the Royal Collection Trust to facilitate the unique loan.

During the visit of the makakoons, there will be associated programming including workshops on quillwork, provided by Hiawatha First Nation artist Sandra Moore, and on Michi Saagiig language, provided by Curve Lake member Jonathan Taylor.

The partners acknowledge with gratitude that this project has been made possible in part through the support of the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Peterborough Museum & Archives and City of Peterborough, and the generous support of the Mississauga Nations, including Mississaugas of the

Credit, Mississaugas of Alderville, Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Mississauga First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and Hiawatha First Nation.

Quotes:

Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation:

“Hiawatha First Nation and the Mississauga Nation communities are coming together to welcome these Ancestors home for a visit. We know that the makakoons have the names of women makers attached, and there are descendants of these women in our First Nations. While the Ancestors are with us on Michi Saagiig Territory, the PMA will create space for everyone to visit, and we will share knowledge about this art through viewing, workshops, and language classes. We will sit with the Ancestors and acknowledge their spirits and what they have to teach us. Each of the makakoons will add to our cultural knowledge and strength as Michi Saagiig Peoples.”

Mayor Jeff Leal, City of Peterborough:

“The exhibition of this Michi Saagiig material culture will be of interest to many people in Peterborough and the surrounding area. Arts and culture make a significant contribution to a vibrant society; they help us tell our stories, remember the past, and imagine the future. The makakoons are part of all our heritages, as people who live and work on the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig. The “To Honour and Respect” exhibition at the PMA will be an exhibition for people of all ages to visit and learn about our history.”

Curator Rachel Peat, Curator of Decorative Arts, Royal Collection Trust:

“Royal Collection Trust is delighted to exhibit this group of gifts presented to the future King Edward VII during the landmark first royal meeting with the Michi Saagiig in 1860. Since then, these outstanding works of art have been displayed within the royal residences as a symbol of relations between Mississauga Nation communities and the Crown. Today, this project offers an important opportunity to reconnect with Michi Saagiig knowledge holders and affirm links with this community.”

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THR project Facebook page for updates and events: [To Honour and Respect](#)

About the Peterborough Museum & Archives:

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) is a City of Peterborough facility. The PMA offers exhibits, events, programs, and services that preserve and celebrate the collective memories of the community. It is located in Ashburnham Memorial Park on Museum Drive, 300 Hunter St. E., in Peterborough, Ontario. Hours are Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, noon to 5 p.m. Admission is by donation, with free parking and barrier-free access. Visit www.peterborough.ca/museum to learn more.

The Peterborough Museum & Archives (PMA) respectfully acknowledges that it is located on Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations – who are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters, to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

About Hiawatha First Nation:

The Michisaagiig of Hiawatha First Nation are a vibrant, proud, independent, and healthy people balanced in the richness of our culture and traditional way of life. Hiawatha First Nation is located on the north shore of Rice Lake east of the Otonabee River. It is found in Otonabee Township approximately 30 kilometres south of Peterborough. <https://www.hiawathafirstnation.com/>

About the Royal Collection Trust:

Royal Collection Trust, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The King. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to the Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of the Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans, and educational programmes. The Royal Collection is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts and is spread among fifteen royal residences and former residences across the United Kingdom, most

of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for his successors and the nation and is not owned by The King as a private individual. <https://www.rct.uk/>

Use of images

Images of makakoons are available by email, or digital download. Every image must be acknowledged using the following credit line: Royal Collection Trust / © His Majesty King Charles III 2023.

