

# WOODLAND CULTURAL CENTRE DONOR NEWS

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# An Opportunity for Truth Telling, Healing and Reconciliation, a Message from our Executive Director

HEATHER GEORGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shé:kon sewakwé:kon skennen'kó:wa ken? Hello, are you at peace/ do you follow the great peace.

I'm pleased to have the opportunity to connect with all of you early on in my role as Executive Director. As someone who grew up off-reserve and disconnected from culture until my early 20s I have spent the last two decades re-connecting and learning from brilliant, kind, and deeply philosophical Onkwehonwe and Hodinohsho:ni community leaders and academics. For example, the phrase “are you at peace” not only references our Great Law and the formation of the Confederacy but also one of our core cultural tenants – the importance of good-mindedness.

The Woodland Cultural Centre plays a significant role in fostering a spirit of good-mindedness both for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Its establishment two years after the closing of the Mohawk Institute Residential School was a direct and beautiful moment of good-mindedness and self determination – an opportunity for truth telling, healing and reconciliation – long before the term “Truth and Reconciliation” was a common part of our vocabulary.



At a time when we all need more joy, hope, beauty and kindness in our lives, we hope we can continue to count on the generosity of you, our donors in helping to ensure continued opportunities for healing and relationship building through culture, arts and heritage.

I hope my note finds you all at peace. I am so grateful to each and every one of you for your support. I look forward to meeting you in the coming year, and please know that my virtual and physical door is always open.



Woodland has always relied on the generosity of donors to undertake its important programming to support language, education, art, research, culture and heritage and we need this support now more than ever. As we look forward to the opening of the former Mohawk Institute for tours and interpretation in late 2024, we know that the stories of loss and grief must be balanced with stories of resilience, self determination and cultural beauty throughout our organization.



**Heather George**  
**Executive Director**

# Help the Woodland Cultural Centre this June to win \$20,000 in the Great Canadian Giving Challenge to purchase materials and resources needed for school workshops and crafts



The Woodland Cultural Centre is excited to announce our participation in the Great Canadian Giving Challenge in the hopes of winning the grand prize of \$20,000 to support in purchasing materials for our school workshops and crafts. Funds raised will go to support education programming to ensure that we can continue to deliver the highest quality programs centered on a Hodinohsho:ni worldview, celebrating, and sharing Indigenous cultures, languages, and art.

The Great Canadian Giving Challenge happens every June and is a month-long fundraising initiative to bring awareness and support to charities. Every dollar donated to WCC in June, via CanadaHelps.org or CanadaHelps fundraising tools, is an entry for a chance to win \$20,000!



## What will your donations do for WCC and our visitors?

- \$5 is a donation of a craft kit to 1 student
- \$25 is a donation of leather material for craft workshops
- \$60 is a donation of clay for our pottery workshops
- \$125 is a donation of craft kits for an entire class

Additional Donations:

- \$300 will provide free education programming to a school for one of our support communities in Six Nations of the Grand River, Wahta Mohawks, and Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte.
- \$500 will provide WCC with funds to purchase new athletic gear for our Traditional Games workshop.



Trisha Kelley  
Development Coordinator

**[Click here to visit our donation page and support WCC to win \\$20,000!](#)**



# Save the Evidence Update, Restoration on the Former Mohawk Institute Residential School is well on the way to Completion



We have some exciting updates to share about the physical restoration of the former Mohawk Institute! Thanks to the generosity of the Save the Evidence campaign donors, corporate donors and government partners, the restoration will likely be completed in late 2024. Significant work has been completed by our General Contractor, Robertson Restoration and architects, Quartek Group. The final phase of the restoration is called Phase 3 and to date we are in the process of completing:

- The complex installation of an elevator shaft,
- Infrastructure for the install of a generator to ensure the archives and other sensitive materials will be safe during any power outages,
- We have started the extensive repairs to the masonry on the exterior of the building which is in very bad repair,
- Infrastructure work has started on the accessibility ramps,
- An accessible washroom,
- Preparing the site for resurfacing,
- Replacement of the remaining historic windows,
- And more.

Unfortunately, the resurfacing will cause some disruptions to access so please check the [Woodland Cultural Centre website](#) for updates. Alternative parking will be very accessible and the Museum will remain open.

The site will be the only fully restored residential school site in the country and will open as a heritage site alongside the Woodland Cultural Centre Museum and Art Gallery, and beside the Mohawk Village Memorial Park.

The restoration project has always been rooted in community with important partnerships with the Survivors Secretariat, who are responsible for the ground search and with the Survivors through consultations. It is this collective energy that supports the restoration project towards its realization.

We would like to thank all the project supporters as well as the City of Brantford, Six Nations of the Grand River Council, Province of Ontario and Government of Canada for their generous support and we look forward to welcoming everyone when the site opens.

Special Projects Team



# Update from the Mohawk Village Memorial Park

Despite the setback of Covid-19, the Mohawk Village Memorial Park continues to move forward with park initiatives. Brant Community Foundation and our own fundraising efforts allowed us to put in some pathways including a link to the former Mohawk Institute Residential School. A 10 car parking lot on the grounds will be completed this fall and some apple trees have been planted. The Mohawk Village Memorial Park Board thanks all those who have supported our cause as we work in conjunction with the Woodland Cultural Centre and the personnel in charge of the Mohawk Institute restoration.

Dawn Hill, Board Secretary of the Mohawk Village Memorial Park

[Click here to visit their website and learn more about this Survivor led project!](#)



## **Indigenous Art 2023** is coming soon to the Woodland Cultural Centre



*Indigenous Art 2022*, exhibition installation view

*Indigenous Art 2023* is here! You are invited to the opening reception on July 29, 2023 at 2PM in the gallery. Join us to celebrate amazing Indigenous artists at the 48th Annual *Indigenous Art* Exhibition.

Established in 1975, this is one of the longest-running multimedia exhibitions that provide artists with an opportunity to exhibit and sell their work in a fine art gallery setting. The artworks will be featured in all three of our gallery spaces.

The Woodland Cultural Centre would like to thank all the artists who submitted their works. Without the support of artists and communities, we would not be reaching 48 years of *Indigenous Art* at the Woodland Cultural Centre.

The Brown Homestead will be the title partner for *Indigenous Art* starting with the 2022 addition of the exhibition until 2024.

The Woodland Cultural Centre is very grateful and appreciative of both the financial support and partnership of the Brown Homestead. We look forward to a growing and thriving collaboration.



Trisha Kelley  
Development Coordinator



**THE BROWN  
HOMESTEAD**





# SUPPORT WOODLAND

## Donation Levels

- **\$100 – \$499** -will receive acknowledgement on the WCC website updated twice per year (downloadable PDF)
- **\$500 – \$1,499** -will receive invitation to screening of a special virtual tour event and Q & A session and acknowledgement in the WCC Annual Report
- **\$1,500 - \$4,999** - will receive preview invitation to exhibitions, acknowledgement on the WCC website for the fiscal year period of the donation and invitation to donor recognition event
- **\$5,000 +** - will receive a copy of WCC anniversary and other publications

# DONATE NOW!

Woodland Cultural Centre needs your help to ensure that we can continue to develop and provide programming and resources to our community and the public!

## Support Woodland

# INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FUNDRAISER?

We can't thank our fundraisers enough for all the hard work they put into their initiatives!

[Click here to access our third-party fundraising forms!](#)

If you're interested in running a fundraiser for the Woodland Cultural Centre, please contact us at 519-759-2650 x 232 or [email here](#). We are here to support you and we can't wait to work with you!

## PAYMENT DETAILS

- I have enclosed a cheque (payable to Woodland Cultural Centre)
- Donate online (www.woodlandculturalcentre.ca/donate/)

## Charitable registration number: 891177990RR0001

Woodland Cultural Centre respects your privacy. We protect your personal information and adhere to all legislative requirements with respect to protecting privacy. We do not rent, sell or trade our mailing lists. The information you provide will be used to deliver services and to keep you informed and up-to-date on the activities of Woodland Cultural Centre through periodic contact. If at any time you wish to be removed from any of these lists, simply contact Woodland Cultural Centre at 519-759-2650 X 232.

With my gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ I am please to support the Woodland Cultural Centre

## CONTACT DETAILS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

STREET NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SUITE/APT # \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NAME FOR RECOGNITION ON WCC WEBSITE (FOR DONORS \$100 AND UP) \_\_\_\_\_