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Georgian College recognizes indigenous land in Simcoe County

NEWS Nov 04, 2016 by [Frank Matys](#) Orillia Today



Lorraine McRae, Rama First Nation Elder, and MaryLynn West-Moynes, President and CEO of Georgian College, unveil a plaque acknowledging that the college's campuses are located on the traditional land of the Anishnaabeg people. - Submitted

Georgian College held a ceremony this week acknowledging its campuses are located on Anishnaabeg land.

The event – which included a plaque unveiling attended by Rama First Nation elder Lorraine McRae – marked Ontario's inaugural Treaties Recognition Week and was followed by a workshop about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, led by Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux of Lakehead University.

“The Truth and Reconciliation Commission marked the beginning of a new and more hopeful chapter in Canadian history,” said Dr. MaryLynn West-Moynes, the college's president and CEO. “Georgian wants to be part of the nationwide effort to restore trust between indigenous peoples and public institutions – and we think that effort begins right here on our campuses.”

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Anishnaabeg refers to a group of culturally related indigenous people in Canada and the U.S.

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In future, all major events at the college will begin with a statement acknowledging the Anishnaabeg people as the traditional stewards of college land.

Faculty and staff will also be invited to take part in a series of knowledge-sharing workshops led by leaders from the indigenous community.

Georgian currently serves 11,000 full-time students, including 1,100 international students and 570 Indigenous students.

"It's important to acknowledge that indigenous people are the original inhabitants of Canada," explains Tareyn Johnson, Indigenization Co-ordinator at Georgian College. "Honouring our nation's history will lead to a future built on reconciliation and respect."

Georgian has offered indigenous services and programs since 1992.

Future projects will include updates to curriculum for full-time programs, as well as additional tools and resources for Georgian staff and faculty.



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JULY
22
WEDNESDAY
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Barrie | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

JULY
23
THURSDAY
Innisfil Farmers' Market
Innisfil | 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM

JULY
24
FRIDAY
Adjala-Tosorontio Farmers Market
Alliston | 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

JULY
25
SATURDAY
Barrie Farmers' Market
Barrie | 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

JULY
27
MONDAY
40th Marathon of Hope Ceremony
Barrie | 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

JULY
31
FRIDAY
NorthFIRE Circus performs at the...
Alliston | 8:30 PM - 9:30 PM

AUGUST
6
THURSDAY
Cancelled - Boots and Hearts Music...
Oro-Medonte | 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM

AUGUST
14
FRIDAY
Carrot Fest 2020
Bradford | 4:00 PM - 12:00 PM

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