

Celebrating at Home

8am

MBQ Facebook page
Commemorative Speech
Chief R Don Maracle

10am

TTO Facebook page
Commemorative Video

11am

TTO Facebook page
Commemorative Video



In May, we celebrate the Landing of the Mohawks at the Bay of Quinte. During the American Revolution the Fort Hunter Mohawks had been forced to leave their home in Mohawk Valley. They found a place of refuge at Lachine, Quebec.

While many men of Fort Hunter were involved in the war, the women, children and old men suffered poor conditions at Lachine. In the Mohawk Valley they had prosperous farms and comfortable homes but had to leave them behind. These farms and houses were either destroyed by the Americans, or became occupied by the Americans. When the American Revolution



was over, the treaty that ended the war made no provision for the people of Fort Hunter to return home.

During the hostilities, the British had promised that the Mohawk communities that had been "ruined" by the Rebels would "be restored at the expense of Government to the state they were in before" the war.

[Haldimand's promise dated 7th April 1779
LAC Claus Papers MG19 F1 Vol. 2 pp. 89-90 Mfm. C-1478]



In the fall of 1783, Captain John and other Fort Hunter men visited the land at the bay and decided it would be their new home. In October 1783, the British "purchased" a huge tract of land from the Mississaugas – including land at the Bay of Quinte.

In April 1784 Captain John wrote to Daniel Claus saying:

"As regards now to where we should settle. Some are looking to Ohsweken, but for us, right from the first, we have decided to go near 'Cataroqui'. To both moves, you have said, "Let it be done". You have also stated that those who are at Lachine should move away this spring, and let no one be left behind."



Captain John wrote a letter in June 1784 to Daniel Claus saying they had found a place to settle but he did not describe the actual landing until some years later in the Minutes of 1800:

"On the 10th of May, 1784, Sir John Johnson and Colonel Claus desired us all to come together, but Captain Isaac paid no attention to what they said and he separated from us and went to the Grand River. Sir John Johnson and Colonel Claus also told me to guide my people in proper manner and as we were going to a Country where there were other people (Messassagues) we ought to cultivate their friendship and live happy together. We arrived here on the 22nd of May and found a great number of the native Messassagues at this place who were very glad to see us and we were happy to be met in so friendly a manner. We then held a Council with the Messassagues and informed them our great



Father had purchased these lands for us, and that we had come to sit down on them." [PROCEEDINGS OF AN INDIAN COUNCIL HELD AT THE MOHAWK VILLAGE IN THE BAY OF QUINTE FROM THE 2ND TO THE 10TH OF SEPTEMBER 1800 ON THE DIFFERENCES EXISTING AMONG THE INDIANS OF THAT VILLAGE. LAC RG10 Volume 26 pp.15307-354 Mfm. C-11007] [For more information visit tto-kenheteke.org/1800s-series/]

In the 1870's Lyman C. Draper took testimony from Chief Thomas Green and he described the Landing this way:

"When Capt. John's party moved to the Bay of Quinte, they landed just south-perhaps half a mile – of the present village of Mill Point, formerly Deserontyon in honor of the old Chief, & leader of the Settlement; & here they camped, & erected their cabins. For many years they had a wooden poster[?], & a flag, displayed in a tall pine at that locality, to commemorate the spot of their landing, & the event." [Draper Manuscripts Reel #17 Volume 13 p.73]



The centennial of the Landing in 1884 provided a good opportunity to celebrate. The Deseronto Tribune covered the event reporting that:

"Captain Brant went up the lakes to Grand River near Brantford, and Chief Deseronto came up the Bay of Quinte to Tyendinaga. They returned and reported, and it was decided that the nation should divide, and accordingly fifteen families came up the bay and landed at a spot near what is now known as McCullough's dock, in 1784." [THE MOHAWK CENTENNIAL at Tyendinaga, on the Bay of Quinte, Canada, September 4, 1884.

Originally from the Deseronto Tribune. Appendix No.16 in Publications of the Buffalo Historical Society, Red Jacket, Volume III. Buffalo: Published by Order of the Society 1885]



Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén

The Rotinonhsyón:ni open all gatherings with the Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén (the words before all other business). This ceremony acknowledges the connectedness of everything in Creation and brings the minds of the people together as one. Below is a short version of the opening.

Kentsyóhkwa sewatahonhsí:yohst ken' nikariwéhsa! Né:'e káti Ohén:ton Karihwatéhkwén enkatewennón:kohte'. (*The business will come to pass*)

Akwé:kón énska entitewahwe'nón:ni ne onkwa'nikòn:ra táhnon teyethinonhwerá:ton ne onkwe'shón:'a sok akwé:kón skén:nén akénhake. (the people so that peace will continue)

Akwé:kón énska entitewahwe'nón:ni ne onkwa'nikòn:ra táhnon teyethinonhwerá:ton ne Yethinihsténha tsi Yohwentsyá:te tsi shé:kón tyakotkawenhátyes ako'shatsténhsera naetyonhiyóhake. (Mother Earth as she still goes along giving up of her own strength for us to live good lives).

Akwé:kón énska entitewahwe'nón:ni ne onkwa'nikòn:ra táhnon teyethinonhwerá:ton ne akwé:kón yonkhiyenawá:sés tsi ohwentsyá:te. (*all the things on the Earth*)

Akwé:kón énska entitewahwe'nón:ni ne onkwa'nikòn:ra táhnon teyethinonhwerá:ton ne akwekon yonkhiyenawá:sés tsi tkaronhyá:te. (*all the things in the Sky/Heavens*)

Táhnnon ó:nén káti akwé:kón tetshitewanonhwerá:ton ne Shonkwaya'tihson, nè:ne ka'shatstenhsérowá:nén sha'oyé:ra. (*The Creator, the great strength of the natural world*)

Etho nyohtónhak ne onkwa'nikòn:ra. (Let it continue in our minds)

Listen to Bear Fox's song version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PzxCBgXxio>



Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte

Annual Landing Celebration

May 22, 2021

237th Anniversary

1784-2021



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