



Algonquins of Ontario

A Talking Circle

Celebrating Algonquin Heritage and Culture within Asinabka

Join Internationally Renowned
Master Builder Douglas Cardinal and Algonquin Artist Nadia Myre

Thursday, September 4, 2014
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Travelodge Pembroke
900 Pembroke St. East
Pembroke, ON K8A 3M2

August 17, 2014

Dear **Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake member**,

As part of our ongoing efforts to build and strengthen relationships among our Elders, youth and members of our ten Algonquin communities, the Algonquins of Ontario invite you to participate in our first ever Talking Circle on Thursday, September 4, 2014.

Join internationally renowned Master Builder, Douglas Cardinal and Algonquin Artist, Nadia Myre to learn more about two exciting projects within the City of Ottawa that will re-establish and strengthen the Algonquin presence within the vicinity of Asinabka. Asinabka means “the place of bare rock” or “the place of glare rock”, and encompasses Chaudière Falls, Chaudière Island and Victoria Island, all located within the City of Ottawa.

Over the last number of years, the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) have been working with the City of Ottawa in the development of an “Algonquin-themed” station, now known as Pimisi Station as part of the Confederation Line Light Rail Transit Project. Nadia Myre, the lead artist for Pimisi Station will be unveiling her vision for the public art elements that are proposed to be integrated into the Station and seeking your feedback.

More recently the AOO have been working with Energy Ottawa (a subsidiary of Hydro Ottawa) as part of the Chaudière Hydro Redevelopment Project, formally announced on March 7, 2014. Through a contract with the Ontario Power Authority, Energy Ottawa will be redeveloping the site at Chaudière Falls with a new 29 megawatt generating facility. This project will also include a new pedestrian access bridge to enable public access from Chaudière Island to a viewing area along the south side of Chaudière Falls. In addition, pedestrian access will be provided across the top of the powerhouse to allow for public access through the project area to Booth Street.

As part of the Talking Circle, Douglas Cardinal will be seeking insights into opportunities to commemorate Algonquin culture and heritage within the Chaudière Hydro Redevelopment Project.

Your Participation is Important

The Talking Circle will take place on Thursday, September 4, 2014. Two sessions will be held – the first from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the second from 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

We invite you to come together with members from the Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation and the Algonquin communities of Antoine, Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini (Bancroft), Bonnechere, Greater Golden Lake, Mattawa/North Bay, Ottawa, Shabot Obaadjiwan (Sharbot Lake), Snimikobi (Ardoch) and Whitney and Area to participate in this unique opportunity.

To confirm your participation for one of the two sessions the Algonquins of Ontario Consultation Office by telephone at 1-855-735-3759 or by e-mail at algonquins@nrtco.net no later than Friday, August 29, 2014.

To assist you in participating you will also receive an honorarium of \$75. For further information about these projects see below.

We look forward to seeing you on September 4, 2014.

Sincerely,

Chief Patrick Glassford
Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake First Nation
Algonquin Negotiation Representative
PS-Please Note – there will be a limit on how many may participate if there is an overwhelming response.

Background

Since time immemorial, Asinabka has been the sacred heartland of the Algonquin people. Meaning “the place of bare rock” or “the place of glare rock”, Asinabka encompasses Chaudière Falls, Chaudière Island and Victoria Island, all located within the City of Ottawa. It is critical to the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) that the Algonquin presence within this area be restored and celebrated.

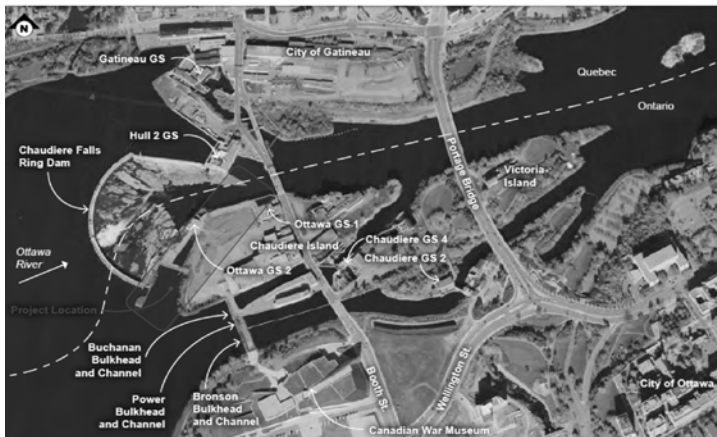
For thousands of years Victoria Island was a meeting place for the Algonquin people. At this site, Algonquins would join together for ceremonies, gatherings, trading and celebrations.

The Akikpautik – the Algonquin name for Chaudière Falls – has long held deep spiritual significance for the Algonquin people. The earliest newcomers witnessed the homage paid by our Algonquin ancestors to its boiling waters. The Akikpautik symbolized the bowl of the sacred pipe, with its constant spray taking the prayers of the people to the Creator. The underground rock formations, the karsts, and the underground rivers sang messages from the womb of Mother Earth at this sacred place, and the thundering water drum of the Falls called the people to the source.

The AOO are currently working with various proponents on a number of exciting initiatives to re-establish and strengthen the Algonquin presence throughout Asinabka. Although these projects range in type and scale, their locations are all connected by a shared Algonquin history. It is important that this connectivity is highlighted throughout Asinabka and that a cohesive Algonquin storyline is woven through the various sites.

Chaudière Hydro Redevelopment Project – Energy Ottawa

The Chaudière Hydro Redevelopment Project was formally announced on March 7, 2014. Through a 40 year contract with the Ontario Power Authority, Energy Ottawa will be redeveloping the site at Chaudière Falls with a new 29 megawatt generating facility.



Once in operation, the generating station will provide electricity to power 20,000 homes each year. Currently, construction is planned to occur between March 2015 and September 2016. Testing and commissioning will then occur from October 2016 to February 2017 with the expectation that the generating station will be fully operational in February 2017.

The project will also include a new pedestrian access bridge to enable public access from Chaudière Island to

a viewing area along the south side of Chaudière Falls. This bridge feature is an initiative proposed by the National Capital Commission as part of its long-term objective to enable public access to Chaudière Falls. In addition, pedestrian access will be provided across the top of the powerhouse to allow for public access through the project area to Booth Street.

For Algonquin people, the majesty of the Chaudière Falls has been regarded as a sacred place since time immemorial. Our long and complex relationship with the earth, water and sky of this cultural landscape expresses and harmonizes the Aboriginal unity with the natural and spiritual environment. The AOO are collaborating with Energy Ottawa to define a process that meaningfully integrates important Algonquin cultural elements into the site plan.

To support this process and facilitate meaningful dialogue among the ten AOO communities, we are seeking input from Algonquins on the following questions:

- What design and commemorative elements would support efforts to raise the awareness of the cultural and spiritual significance of Chaudière Falls and the surrounding area to the Algonquin people and Algonquin culture itself?
- What is the specific story to be told at Chaudière Falls?

Additionally, the AOO are working with Energy Ottawa to minimize the impact of the new hydro-electric generating facility on Kichissippi Pimisi, the American Eel. Pimisi is sacred to the Algonquin people and has been an essential part of Algonquin culture for thousands of years.



Photo Credit: Bruno Schlumberger

Douglas Cardinal is dedicated to creating beautiful, thriving, and harmoniously built environments. Born in 1934 in Calgary, Alberta, his architectural studies at the University of British Columbia took him to Austin, Texas, where he achieved his architectural degree and found a life experience in human rights initiatives. Douglas then became a forerunner of philosophies of sustainability, green buildings and ecologically designed community planning. His architecture springs from his observation of Nature and its understanding that everything works seamlessly together.

In recognition of such work, Douglas Cardinal has received many national and international awards including: 17 Honorary Doctorates, Gold Medals of Architecture in Canada and Russia, and an award from United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) for best sustainable village. He was also titled an Officer of the Order of Canada, one of the most prestigious awards given to a Canadian, and he was awarded the declaration of being “World Master of Contemporary Architecture” by the International Association of Architects.

Douglas Cardinal is one of the visionaries of a new world; a world where beauty, balance and harmony thrive, where client, architect, and stakeholder build together with a common vision.

The Confederation Line Light Rail Transit Project – The City of Ottawa and Rideau Transit Group

Since the early inception of the Confederation Line Light Rail Transit (LRT) project, the City of Ottawa has embraced a tremendous opportunity to recognize and celebrate the art, culture and heritage of the Algonquin people. Through an innovative partnership between the AOO and the City of Ottawa, the transit station at LeBreton Flats, now named Pimisi Station, was identified as an “Algonquin-themed” station.

Strengthening Economic Opportunities

In December 2012, the Rideau Transit Group (RTG) was endorsed by Ottawa City Council as the preferred Project Proponent to design, build, finance and maintain the Confederation Line LRT system. Beginning with the first AOO Business Forum held on March 5, 2013, the AOO have been working with RTG to identify the availability and use of Algonquin personnel, equipment and materials for the project.

The Confederation Line Art Program

Phase 1 of the Confederation Line Art Program was launched in July 2012 and included two separate Calls for Algonquin artists and artisans in November 2012. The Phase 1 competitions resulted in the selection of 13 artists/artist teams to work as members of the project design team to create integrated artworks at each station, including the selection of Nadia Myre as the lead Algonquin artist at Pimisi Station.

Phase 2 of the Confederation Line Art Program, launched in June 2014, will provide opportunities for artists to contribute permanent, stand-alone artworks to the Confederation Line. The City of Ottawa is currently inviting professional artists and artist teams to submit qualifications to be considered for the design, fabrication and installation of contemporary, innovative public art to be located at one of six individually themed stations of the new Confederation Line LRT system.



Nadia Myre is a visual artist from Quebec and an Algonquin member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishnabeg. For over a decade, her multi-disciplinary practice has been inspired by participant involvement as well as recurring themes of identity, language, longing and loss. Nadia is a graduate from Camosun College (1995), Emily Carr (1997), and Concordia University (M.F.A., 2002), and a recipient of numerous grants and awards. She is this year's Quebec finalist for the prestigious Sobey Art Award.

Between 2000-2002, as a tribute to her mother's effort in obtaining their status, Nadia proceeded to bead over all 56 pages of the annotated Indian Act with the help of over 250 participants. In 2004, she started The Scar Project, an ongoing 'open lab' where viewers participate by sewing their scars-real or symbolic-onto stretched canvases and writing their 'scar stories' on paper. To date she has a collection of over 1400 canvases and accompanying texts.

www.nadiamyre.com