

# Huron Tract Commemoration Project

## MINUTES

July 24, 2024 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Lambton Heritage Museum, 10035 Museum Road, Grand Bend N0M 1T0

### Present:

Andrew Meyer (Deputy CAO / General Manager, Cultural

Services Division, County of Lambton

Beth Rumble (Huron County Cultural Services)

Chenoa Lunham, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

David Cloud, Kettle and Stony Point First Nation

David Armstrong (Huron Historical Society)

Rhea Hamilton-Seeger (Huron Historical Society)

Elizabeth French-Gibson (Huron County Museum)

Jim Hazlewood (Fryfogel Tavern)

Karen Stewart (Huron County Cultural Services)

Laurie Webb (Manager Museums, Gallery & Archives)

Maggie Treanor (Van Egmond House)

Pat Saundercock (Van Egmond House)

Sahil Kaushal (IDEA Specialist, county of Huron)

Sam Bressette (Kettle & Stony Point First Nation

Tammy Adkin (Manager, Museums and Culture, City of Guelph);

Thomas Levesque (Lucan Heritage Museum)

### On Zoom:

Betty Jo Belton (Stratford-Perth Archives)

Kelly McIntosh (Stratford Perth Museum)

Dean Jacobs, Walpole Island First Nations

Fiona Doherty (Moore Museum)

Regrets: Jordan George (Kettle and Stony Point First Nation)

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L.Webb welcomed all to the Lambton County Museum and A.Meyer opened the meeting with their Land Acknowledgement.

An icebreaker had those present sharing a fun fact about themselves as it related to heritage or history.

**SURVEY RESULTS:** K.Stewart presented the results of the “Expression of interest” Questionnaire that had been distributed throughout the region inviting individuals and organizations to share their level of interest and capacity to be involved in a regional commemoration project. Results are shared in an attached document.

## Open Discussion

### LONG TERM GOALS

Create a regional heritage project that will showcase the historic importance and significance of the Huron Tract as we acknowledge its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2026.

### SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

- Determine scope of a collaborative project that commemorates the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of settlement on the Huron Tract.
- Each unique organization or individual is encouraged to create and/or offer programming that is specific to their area of interest/mandate while we look to create something collaboratively. In the style of Culture Days or Doors Open we'll consider the creation of a **central repository** (website/social media network/podcast) that provides joint promotional opportunities supported by engaging content.
- We'll create a **communications system** so participants can feed off of each other or develop other partnerships based on shared interests.

- Set a structure for the Committee working on the strategy. Perhaps create smaller working groups as applicable to move projects forward as meetings with the larger group as represented at this meeting may become challenging.
  - L.Webb will lead the “Treaty Tour” project with Huron County and Kettle and Stony Point First Nations representatives. She’ll call a meeting as soon as she collects the relevant data from Archives Canada.
- Create a Mission Statement so we’re all working with same goals in mind.
- Create a Letter of Intent with FN communities – outline how we will work together. C.Lunham reported that an outline of the project will be going to Kettle & Stony Point FN Chief and Council in July to get approval to participate in this project.

## IDEAS

- There is a lot of interest in diving into the Treaty to gain a broader understanding of its original intent, how it impacted the opening of the Huron Tract, what obligations are not or have not been met and other modern implications as the treaties are still in effect and exist today. The treaties represented more than just a real estate deal – they were about relationships where financial and other considerations were negotiated.
- 1790 – 1827 - Initial treaty goes back as far as 1790; Provisional Treaty Signed April 25, 1825; Huron Tract Treaty signed July 10, 1827. What changed? An important read.
- Interest in the creation of the agreement with the Canada Company re the Huron Tract and how the Treaty came about. Act of Parliament – summer 1826. And, how signing the Treaty opened settlement on the Huron Tract. How did it affect Indigenous communities? How did it affect the settlers?
- Host workshops on developing best practises for collecting Oral histories.
- Currently housed at Archives Canada, L.Webb is exploring the costs and procedures for hosting the original Huron Tract Treaty (#29) at a number of sites along the Huron Tract late 2025 through to July 10/2027, the proposed end date a possible collaborative project. D.Jacobs added that he has experience hosting a treaty and may offer some insights and that the actual treaty was signed at Fort Malden (Amherstburg).
- It was recommended that digital copies of the Huron Tract Treaty be created for sharing widely in schools and across the region (museums, cultural organizations, etc.) and perhaps making it more feasible too by limiting the number of sites the original document would travel to.
- Schools on the First Nation Reserves acknowledge and learn about the treaties during Treaty Week held each November (Nov 3-9 in 2024). Study materials are shared with grades K-8 at Kettle and Stony Point, Walpole Island and Aamjiwnaang First Nation as FN representatives work to develop identities in the high schools. D.Cloud reported that Treaty Week is not a single day event at K&SPFN – it’s a pivot point for educational activity with ongoing education in all schools for all children. Do other schools throughout the region use Treaty Week as an opportunity for their learnings too? **The Commemoration Project could perhaps provide copies of the Treaty and associated lesson resources for students K-12 in schools throughout the region.**
- J.Fitzgerald has distributed copies of the Huron Tract Map showing the original 1.1m acres which he has suggested may be a good guide for determining the district for commemorative activities. The map was well received in the Secondary School history departments and can be used as a guide for local history in both secondary and elementary schools.
- D.Cloud is a member of an historical sub-committee for Secondary Schools in Lambton County (six school boards). He likes the idea of educating not just the children, but also the general public. L.Webb sits on the historical sub-committee for Elementary schools in Lambton County.
- Beyond the treaties, there are opportunities for learning. Evolving content may be an annual review of what obligations are not being met. And, what are the relationships like in the unceded territories?
- S.Kaushel shared that a 10-episode podcast may be a way to tell the story(ies). By utilizing a platform like Spotify there could be a wide distribution network engaged.

- Audio Walks.
- T.Adkin reported that the Guelph Museum had produced the stage play [John Galt & the Instant City](#) in 2019/2020 and are planning to remount it in 2027 to commemorate the bicentennial of the City of Guelph. The play interrogates the founding of Guelph and speaks to treaty obligations that were not met. The original play had toured to Stratford too. T.Adkin has suggested that If the Huron Tract Commemoration partners are interested in working with them to present this show throughout the region, she will talk with the writers about modifying the show so that it includes more Huron, Perth, Lambton content. Otherwise, if the Huron Tract commemoration committee wishes to commission a new show, she will be happy to share what she learned about producing theatre through this project. She added that commissioning a new play and developing it for presentation would take at minimum one year.
- D.Cloud spoke of George Henry (1850's) who presented stage plays (*Montegance*???) and toured them throughout the US and UK. Most of his troupe came from the area of Treaty 29 and he was awarded medals from Chiefs as creating sites of conveyance (in the treaty context) and for building relationships with Empire Loyalists. Some of those resources may still exist and may impact a new playwright's work.
- D.Armstrong noted he likes the ideas of involving the creative community in programming – drama, dance, artists and added that the most important audience is the political (including school board trustees, elected officials and elected Band Council Members).
- S.Kaushel noted that accessibility needs be considered in our work/programming, both in terms of neuro-diversity and economic considerations.
- Drama classes can be a great avenue for training.
- It was acknowledged that many of the organizations and individuals interested in the project were volunteers and/or had extremely limited capacity to participate in a significant way.
  - K.McIntosh noted she had connections within the Arts Community that she would keep in the loop as the project develops.

### **FUNDING (Prospects)**

- [Museum Assistance Program Fund](#) (MAP)
- [Ontario Job Creation Partnership](#) – 52 weeks/dedicated staff/funding for projects outside regular scope – staff time plus up to \$10K for project costs.
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- GLAM - Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums Incubator
- Indigenous Funding Programs
- Corporate Funding – ie Grand Bend Wind / Northland Power

### **WHO ELSE SHOULD BE AT THE TABLE?**

- Huron County has an Indigenous Community of Practice; K.Stewart will keep them in the loop
- Aamjiwnaang First Nation: C.Lunham will speak with J.George to reach out.

### **TOOLS**

- A.Meyer distributed copies of a resource created in Lambton/Kent Counties. *A Road to Understanding Indigenous Culture* shares traditional values, beliefs, clan systems, spirit names and traditional territories. It increased public awareness and understanding of Treaties in Lambton and Kent Counties beyond the Huron Tract Treaty.

## **TIMELINES AND MILESTONES:**

- By end of 2024 we should have some solid ideas re programming.
- Consider April 25, 2025 as a Launch Date: Significant because its the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Provisional Treaty being signed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- M.Treanor queried if we would be creating committees (it's too soon to tell, as too many committees can be problematic – we'll see how the structure of the project falls out in the next few months).
- M.Treanor added her interest is in the Canada Company side of the story and she was encouraged to explore that part of the story for VEH Foundation's programming.

## **NEXT MEETING**

- We'll schedule a meeting soon after the meeting of the smaller group regarding information gathered through Archives Canada and the touring of the original Treaty.
- Stratford Perth Museum will host the next general meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:14pm.