



*“What better place to begin to seek the truth than your own local community.”*

Elder Peter Schuler, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation



### Chi Miigwetch/Many Thanks

We'd like to thank you as a supporter of **Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project** for your generosity, allyship and dedication to local reconciliation.

The Project relies on the commitment and allyship of the people in our local community to make an effort to learn more about Oakville's truth, and the response, so far, has been encouraging. We hope that you'll continue to offer your support and share this initiative across our community.

### In Oakville We Are All Treaty People.

#### By the Numbers.



**18**  
Treaty Signs placed across Oakville



**51**  
Poetry Contest Submissions



**40**  
Treaty Plaques Purchased



**6.2K**  
Debwewin Website users since its launch in February 2022 to today.

**105**  
Grateful Treaty Person and Acts of Allyship Signatories



**17**  
Debwewin Advisory Council Members & Gimaa's Ally Leadership Council Members

**163**  
Treaty Report Sales and Downloads



**1,000**  
Attendees at six events



**+1.27K**  
Total Social Media engagement

[Click here to Donate to Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project.](#)



# Timeline and Highlights

**October 7, 2021** - Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project launches as a joint project between the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Oakville Community Foundation.

## Treaty Survey

As a first step, the Debwewin team set out to determine the boundaries of the two treaties that cover Oakville: Treaty 14 and Treaty 22. With the help of land surveyors, an interactive map was built on the Debwewin website that allows visitors to determine the Treaty land in which they live on.

Once the boundaries were established, highly visible and colourful Treaty signs were placed throughout the Town at various landmarks, each equipped with a QR code for more information.

**February 28, 2022** - Debwewin: The Oakville Truth Project website launches on the 202nd anniversary of Treaty 22.

**March 2, 2022** - The First Gimaa's Allyship Poetry Contest launches with Gimaa Laforme's poem, "Nii jii" meaning friend in Anishinaabemowin.

**May 24, 2022** - Debwewin: The Truth of the Land event is held to remember Indigenous children who never returned from residential schools and poetry contest winners announced.

**September 5, 2022** - Gimaa's Ally Leadership Council launches on the 216th anniversary of the signing of Treaty 14 to lead community-to-community reconciliation.

**November 7, 2022** - The Grateful Treaty Person and Acts of Allyship Campaign launches during the Debwewin Workshop at Sheridan College

## Grateful Treaty Person and Acts of Allyship Campaign

The community-based campaign began with an audacious goal—to ask individuals and

organizations to pledge to propel reconciliation forward across the community. In four months, more than 100 members and organizations signed the Declaration of Truth and Allyship committing to Acts of Allyship.

Through this, dozens of these acts and commitments have been posted across social media.

**February 28, 2023** - The report, *Friendship, Peace and Respect for All Future Generations: Oakville-based treaty relations between the Crown and the Mississaugas*, is released.

The report seeks to remedy the knowledge gap of Oakville's treaties and Indigenous history. It explores the treaties in how they were meant to be received: as an on-going relationship between allies.

The records show that the Mississaugas never surrendered their land; they went to great lengths to protect both the land and waters in their traditional territory.

**March 4, 2023** - To celebrate allyship, an evening of food, entertainment and treaty gifts is held at MCFN with allies from the Oakville community.

**March 21, 2023** - Three post-secondary students are recognized on World Poetry Day for their submissions to the second annual Gimaa's Ally Leadership Poetry Contest.

**June 21, 2023** - The first annual Oakville Bannock Bake-Off Challenge is held on National Indigenous Peoples Day.

**September 7, 2023** - A Sunrise Ceremony is held to give thanks and commemorate the signing of Treaty 14.

## Coming Up in 2024

We hope you'll continue to join us and offer your support in 2024. You can look forward to:

- A new exhibit at the Oakville Museum
- More locally filmed videos exploring Indigenous teachings and history
- Moccasin Identifier kits distributed to publicly-funded elementary schools in Oakville
- The second annual Treaty 22 Celebration at MCFN

**And more!**

