

**Fort Henry Guard Club of Canada
Land Acknowledgement 2023**

The following land acknowledgement was shared by Christy O'Neill, FHG 1761, at the opening of the 85th Reunion gala dinner on Sunday, August 6, 2023.

My name is Christy O'Neill. I grew up in Fenelon Falls, Ontario, traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Huron-Wendat, Mississauga, and Anishinaabe. My ancestors were settlers from Europe, including Scotland, Ireland, and Germany. Some of my ancestors were Loyalists and settled in Canada after the Revolutionary War.

I'd like to acknowledge the first peoples who lived and loved on these lands [Kingston]. They are the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and the Mississauga.

To construct my land acknowledgement, I have reflected on the [Crawford Purchase of 1783](#), partly because I teach grade 7 history, and because I'm making an effort to understand more about the traditional territory on which I live. Not only were these lands used by settlers, but they were also bought and gifted to Loyalists, including First Nations, as a reward for their loyalty to Britain in the Revolutionary War. While Loyalists, including Kanyen'kehá:ka (Mohawk), were able to build new homes and lives with this purchase, the Mississauga were displaced further north and west.

I try to remember that since first contact the success of one group meant the loss of another. This is true also of the land itself. Our lives often affect the land in negative ways.

I don't believe that this inequity must continue. If we can commit to learning more about the land on which we live and Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing, I believe together we can transform our society into a more just one.