



Treaties Recognition Week November 6 – 12, 2022

That one of the first Treaties to cover the Community Hiawatha was the ***“Rice Lake Purchase of 1818”***, also known as **Treaty 20**.

At the start of the War of 1812, over 50% of the population of Upper Canada was American-born, and this was a security concern for the Crown throughout the conflict. It had been decided to establish an assisted immigration plan to bring disbanded soldiers to Upper Canada along with civilian immigrants from Scotland and Ireland. It was thought that these immigrants would provide a settled and dependable population to deal with any future conflict with the United States.

The Crown wanted to settle the area between the Ottawa River and Lake Erie to prevent any future invasions, by the Americans, should there be more wars. During this time the Crown approached the Mississauga’s to acquire the territory behind Rice Lake to use for settlement.

The Rice Lake Purchase was signed on November 5th, 1818 in Port Hope. William Clause, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, gathered the Chiefs to put to rest any doubts with respect to the lands and have the Chiefs sign the Treaty. The Chiefs each signed using their Clan - Buckquaquet, Chief of the Eagle Clan; Pishikinse, Chief of the Rein Deer Clan; Pahtosh, Chief of the Crane Clan; Cahgogewin, of the Snake Clan; Cahgahkishinse, Chief of the Pike Clan; Cahgagewin, of the Snake Tribe; and Pininse, of the White Oak Clan.

In this Treaty the Mississauga surrendered 1,951,000 acres of land, what is now known as the New Castle District. This surrender included an annuity of \$2,960.00 (750 pounds), this amount worked out to approximately \$9.00 a person.

Our diplomacy, as Indigenous Peoples, was to see Treaty as a relationship and not a document, and to protect our hunting and fishing rights and to protect the land and waters. This did not happen.

It was stated by one of our ancestors that ***“In 1818, our people surrendered to the British Government a large part of their territory, for the sum of 750; reserving, as they had good reason to believe, all the islands, as they could neither read nor write, they were ignorant of the fact that these islands were included in the sale. They were repeatedly told that the islands were not included. But to our utter astonishment we find that we have been most grossly abused, deceived, and cheated”***. ~ George Coppaway (Recollections of a Forest Life 1850;52)

Treaty 20 - Map

