



ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION MISSISSAUGAS OF RICE LAKE

This design is symbolic of the people of the ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION. The two main figures represent Native people gathering wild or black rice, by birch bark canoe. The person at the rear of the canoe pushes the craft along using a long, forked pole or paddle, while the person seated bends the ripened rice stalks over the canoe using two cedar ricing sticks, and strikes the rice stalks, gently knocking the ripened kernels into the bottom of the canoe. This is done on both sides of the canoe as the craft is carefully guided through the rice field.

In the background, there is a partial figure of the Turtle, on which there is an island with three birch bark wigwams. The Turtle represents North America or "Turtle Island" in the Native Peoples tradition, and the "little" island represents Grape Island, which is where the people of ALDERVILLE originated prior to 1837. Grape Island is situated in the Bay of Quinte in eastern Ontario. (The Thousand Islands).

The domed back of the Turtle represents a Sweat Lodge, the opening at the rear of the canoe is the doorway and the Turtle's tail is the doorway cover into the Sweat Lodge. The four colours or layers within the Sweat Lodge represents the Four Races and the Four Realms that are traditionally believed to exist between this world and that of our CREATOR.

The yellow on the people's braids and the inside layer of the Sweat Lodge represents the Eastern Doorway and the Eastern direction of the Medicine Wheel.

The above was a co-operative project of Alderville First Nation and the Rotary Club of Cobourg. May 1993.

May 1993

ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION HISTORY

In 1824 the first session of the Canada Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Hallowal (Picton, Ont.) and William Case was transferred from Upper Canada District to Bay of Quinte as Presiding Elder. It was Elder Case who soon became involved with Indian mission work. By 1826, Elder Case had begun the conversion of many Indians around the Bay of Quinte. On October 16, 1826, the Mississaugas moved onto Grape Island and spent their first winter in bark wigwams.

There was not enough combined acreage on Grape Island to support a growing agricultural community of 208 Indians. It was obvious the Mission was thriving. There were a total of five white workers at the Mission. Besides Rev. and Mrs. Case, there was a blacksmith, teacher and a secretary. Grape Island Mission had now 23 whitewashed dwellings, a chapel, a schoolhouse, a hospital, a general store-house, blacksmith shop and a trades building.

In 1837, 3600 acres was assigned to Indians of the Grape Island Mission in the Township of Alnwick. They named their community ALDERVILLE in honour of Rev. Robert Alder one of the founding missionaries. Rev. and Mrs. William Case took up residence in ALDERVILLE with their "Island Children" and remained there the rest of their lives.

LOCATION



POPULATION

The present membership totals 790 with 250 members residing on-reserve and the remaining 540 living elsewhere. The reserve boasts some very talented and highly educated members, including artists, small business owners, entrepreneurs and quality leadership. Approx. 1/3 of the adult resident population work on-reserve. Some as self owned businesses employing others. In addition to this, there are also some very successful members who are currently employed outside the boundaries of the reserve.

CHARACTERISTICS

The Alderville First Nation covers approx. 3,000 acres which includes woodland, agricultural land, water frontage on Rice Lake (Vimy Ridge) and Sugar Island also located on Rice Lake. Sugar Island is quite famous, it is the site of ancient Indian burial grounds. In 1974, an archeological dig was performed on the island with a number of artifacts being discovered which are presently being analyzed and documented.



ALDERVILLE FIRST NATION CENOTAPH

The Cenotaph stands with pride in the heart of Alderville. It is approximately 40 feet in height. The cenotaph represents the men and women who served in World War 1, 11 and the Korean War. The monument was built in 1927 through the hard physical labour of many volunteers. The men used hand shovel and muscle to stir the cement which makes up the monument. The women spent hours cooking and supplying meals for these hard working volunteers.

The monument is symbolic. The cube on the top symbolizes the four directions of the earth. The three globes beneath the cube signify the Holy Trinity. The three large pillars supporting the above represent the three holy virtues - faith, hope, and charity.

The square base on which the monument stands represents the four freedoms; speech, religion, fear and press. The chain that encircles the entire monument symbolizes eternity, the links that make up this chain represents each person who served during the wars, the nine cubes which connect this chain together represent the nine men who lost their lives.

FIRST NATION ADMINISTRATION

The reserve is guided by a Chief and four Councillors who are elected every two years by ballot vote. Full-time administrative personnel consists of an Administrator, a Welfare Officer, an Education Liaison person, an Economic Development Officer, a Finance Officer/Band Representative, a Band Secretary, a Receptionist, a Librarian, an N.N.A.D.A.P. worker, a Child Care Prevention worker, a Community Health Rep. and a Medical Van Driver. In addition to full-time staff, the reserve also employs part-time staff including janitors, caretakers, and a backhoe operator.

EDUCATION

The surrounding areas are very important to Alderville. Roseneath is adjacent to Alderville where our children attend elementary school. High school diplomas are earned in Cobourg at C.D.C.I West or C.D.C.I East. In 1993 there were 13 students graduated from colleges, universities or other institutions in Ontario.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

A major development project is presently underway in the form of a new Community Centre/Daycare facility with an anticipated opening date for July 1994. It will contain a multi-purpose room seating 300 people or a combination gym/auditorium, washrooms/showers, kitchen facilities and craft workshops. The 52 daycare facility alone will employ ten full time people. There will be 10 part-time Native Resource persons who will teach Native culture.

Other economic development projects are: a 4-apartment complex and a 29-sight housing subdivision. An Upgrading/learning centre is scheduled to open in 94.

SERVICES/BUSINESSES

Many small businesses and organizations in Alderville offer a variety of services to members and the surrounding community. These are listed as follows:

- construction contractors
- licensed masons
- licensed carpenters
- licensed plumber
- licensed electrician
- custom window/door designer
- band owned backhoe
- satellite dish distributor
- custom woodworking shop
- real estate consultant
- restaurant/gas station
- pizza/ice cream/laundromat
- car lot & service centre
- handicraft shops
- artisans
- architectural designer
- band owned camp/trailer park
- craft co-operative
- community support groups ie.
 - alcoholics anonymous
 - Native Alcohol & Drug Abuse Program
 - Child Care Prevention
 - Community Health Rep.
 - Librarian
 - Education Counsellor
 - Self-government Worker
 - Social Services Administrator
 - homemakers groups
 - youth group
 - recreation committee

RESOURCES

Alderville is plentiful in resources both natural and human. The natural resources include wood, water, sand and gravel pits and open land, which are all reasonably accessible by road.

- Wood is cut and utilized as fuel but done selectively so as not to disturb nature and allow her the ability to replenish herself.
- Much of the open land is leased to area farmers for agricultural purposes such as growing hay, corn, wheat and grain.
- Although the waterfront has been lined with cottages, there is good potential above the inclination for development which would have a picturesque view of the lake.

Human resources include numerous University and College graduates trained in various fields, (some having held leadership positions), several tradespeople who manage their own businesses, and a few members who are trained specifically in the Development of Native economics.

Although all of these are beneficial to the reserve the most important resource we possess is that of our Elders. Traditionally, the Elders formed the basic foundation of the Native Culture. Due to the transition of the Native way of life, their knowledge has been somewhat suppressed, which is an enormous disadvantage to the present generation. The importance of our heritage, and striving to revive the essential elements of life will help to maintain the balance of life.

RECREATION/SPORTS

The existing community hall is one of the most used facilities on the reserve. It is used for a variety of events and functions; homemakers groups, youth groups, recreation committee, alcohol anonymous, craft co-operative, dances and suppers.

The ball diamond is used by all ages. There are tournaments held almost weekly throughout the summer including fastball, 3-pitch and lob ball.

Another facility which has proven to be successful is the outdoor rink. It has been paved for summer activities such as ball hockey and tennis, and flooded in the winter for ice skating and hockey practice for those who play on area teams.

Vimy Ridge, which stretches approximately 1 mile along the Rice Lake shoreline, offers access to many water activities such as swimming, canoeing, boating and fishing. ALDERVILLE has an annual REGATTA which boasts 32 exciting events including swim, canoe, and motorboat races.

ANNUAL EVENT

- February - Valentine Dance
- Cribbage Tournament
- March - Easter Craft Sale
- May - Community Yard Sale
- August - Regatta - races in swimming, canoeing and boating, with a number of concession booths and draws.
- Jamboree - fiddle music and step dancing.
- October - Lip Sync Contest - guest speaker and categorized prizes awarded from preschool to adult.
- Halloween Party - categorized prizes awarded from preschool to adult.
- December - Community Xmas Craft Show - huge sale of locally made crafts of all kinds: Native crafts, artwork beadwork, sewing, knitting and home baking.
- Christmas Concert - potluck supper, plays, skits and carol singing.
- ## HISTORICAL EVENTS
- 1837 - Reserve formation consisting of 200 members (40 families), a chapel and a mission house.
- 1839 - Manual Labour School with emphasis on farming for boys and household training for girls.
- 1847 - Building of Residential School and Church.
- 1861 - Manual Labour School closed.
- 1870 - Construction of existing church.
- 1927 - Monument construction in memory of veterans who served in W.W.S. Of the 35 who served, 9 lost their lives.
- 1937 - Centennial
- 1946 - Original Schoolhouse burned down.
- 1949 - New Schoolhouse built.
Mission house dismantled
- 1965 - Schoolhouse closed, children bussed to school in Cobourg.
- 1967 - Children began attending Roseneath Centennial School.
- 1974 - Archeological dig performed on Sugar Island.
- 1976 - Alcoholics Anonymous group formed on reserve.
- 1982 - Anishnabe Waterfront Campground purchased (formerly called Austin's Campground).
- 1985 - Rink construction.
- 1987 - Sesqui Centennial was celebrated.
- Alderville elects first female Chief.
- 1988 - Chief and Council resolution: Official naming of Alderville First Nation.
- 1991 - Residents of Alderville vote to reject a planned Casino Hotel.
- 1993 - Ground-Breaking Ceremony of the Alderville First Nation Community Centre/Daycare.
- 1994 - Opening of Learning/Resource Library Centre