

# Christ Church.

# Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory

(2)



A special service underway at the church.



Thomas Powless, in Mohawk dress, standing outside the church.

The church grounds are the resting place for Dr. Oronhyatekha, a prominent Mohawk and Orange Lodge Member who founded the Independent Order of Forresters, achieved the highest level in the Orange Lodge, and was the first medical examiner for the Orange Insurance Company.

A historical landmark, Christ Church is also in desperate need of repair. The tower is crumbling, a new foundation is needed to provide structural support, stonework needs repointing, the exterior woodwork needs repairing, and mechanical systems need to be upgraded. In all, repairs will cost \$1.1 million, with Heritage Canada supplying half the funding. To date, the Church has raised \$220,000 toward its contribution of \$550,000. As well, the Trillium Foundation committed \$75,000.

The church received donations for the restoration from Queen Elizabeth and The Lord Bishop of London, a gift of 3,500 pounds of silver from the Orange Lodge Council of the World (worth about \$8,300), \$1,000 from the Ladies Orange Benevolent Association, \$550 from the Grand Orange Lodge of Canada, and His Royal Highness Prince Charles of Wales sent a letter of support.

"The help of all those who care about special buildings like the royal Chapel will, I hope, ensure that this important national heritage landmark, which commemorates and celebrates the contribution of the Mohawk People to the historical evolution of Canada, will be preserved for future generations," he wrote.

Chief R. Don Maracle loves talking about the important role Mohawks have played in Canadian history. From the time the English and French battled for colonial land, the Mohawks remained loyal to the British crown. During the American Revolution, "like other United Empire Loyalists, we lost our homes, we lived like refugees, we took only what we carried on our backs," Maracle pointed out.

"In the War of 1812, the British Crown found again a very faithful ally in the Mohawk people," he noted.

Time and again, the British showed their gratitude for Mohawk valiance and bravery with gifts to Christ Church.

"The Royal family has given these gifts as a recognition of our loyalty," Maracle said.

Donations are being sent to the Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte office at 13 Old York Road, Tyendinaga, K0K 1X0, with cheques made out to Christ

Church Restoration Funds.

Sunday service at Christ Church is at 11 a.m., and the public is welcome.

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