

June 19, 2020

**National Indigenous History Month and  
National Indigenous Peoples Day**



Canadians celebrate National Indigenous History Month in June, an opportunity to honour the heritage, contributions and cultures of Indigenous peoples in Canada and to recognize not only the historic contributions of Indigenous peoples to the development of Canada, but also the strength of present-day Indigenous communities and their promise for the future.

National Indigenous History Month celebrations are an important tribute to the heritage and diversity of First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities across Canada. The area that became the present-day Town of New Tecumseth was once home to waves of settlement and migration by many Indigenous peoples for thousands of years before the arrival of Anglo-European settlers. The groups most often identified with this area include the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and the Chippewa/Ojibwe. The area that is now the Town of New Tecumseth is part of the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Purchase (Treaty 18), which was signed in 1818 by representatives of the Chippewa Nation. Today, descendants of this group make up the Chippewa Tri-Council, with communities based at Georgina Island, Rama, and Beausoleil First Nations.

The Town of New Tecumseth was formed in 1991 and includes the former municipalities of the Town of Alliston, the Villages of Beeton and Tottenham, and Tecumseth Township. The name Tecumseth is derived from the name Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief from the Ohio River Valley who led a confederacy of Indigenous nations that fought alongside the British during the War of 1812. The Township was first surveyed in 1819 and the area near present-day Bond Head was the first to be settled. Municipal government in the Township was first established in 1842.

Sunday, June 21 is [National Indigenous Peoples Day](#). A day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. In cooperation with Indigenous organizations, the Government of Canada chose June 21, the summer solstice, for National Aboriginal Day, now known as National Indigenous Peoples Day. For generations, many Indigenous peoples and communities have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day due to the significance of the summer solstice as the longest day of the year.

This Sunday is also Father's Day, a day that fathers or father figures are celebrated in a variety of ways, expressing love and gratitude to them for all they do.  
Happy Father Day!



Rick Milne, Mayor  
Town of New Tecumseth