



Williams Treaties and Treaty 20 First Nations within Watersheds of the Kawartha Lakes Region

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Source Statement: Road data from Geogratis Canvec Database 2023, Municipal boundaries from Geohub 2023, Place names from OSM 2023, Built Up Areas from Geohub 2023, Waterbody and River data from Geohub 2023, Wetlands and Wooded Areas from Geohub 2023, Treaty and Indigenous Boundaries from Geohub 2023, Hydrology from Geohub 2023, Watershed boundaries from Geohub 2023.

Treaties are legally binding agreements between nations that set out the rights, responsibilities and relationships of First Nations and the federal and provincial governments. Without treaties the province of Ontario would not exist as it does today. Treaties form the basis of the relationship between Indigenous people and non-Indigenous settlers.

Baxter Creek Watershed Alliance respectfully acknowledge that the settled areas within the Township of Cavan-Monaghan are located on the Treaty 20 Michi Saagiig territory and in the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations. The Baxter Creek subwatershed is within in the traditional territories and watersheds Williams Treaties First Nations which includes Hiawatha, Curve Lake, Alderville, Mississaugas of Scugog Island, Beausoleil, Georgina Island, and Rama First Nations

Baxter Creek is one of 12 subwatersheds that is a part of the Otonabee river basin which receives water from the Kawartha Lakes and Scugog River watersheds.

These watersheds are part of the Trent-Severn Waterway system, which drains water through this region. The First Nations peoples who live in the Treaty 20 area, which overlaps the Williams Treaties, have always stated that the agreement they signed in 1818 (known as the Rice Lake Purchase) guaranteed their right to hunt and fish.

In 2018, the Williams Treaties First Nations together with the Governments of Ontario and Canada came to an agreement. The terms include financial compensation (\$666 million by Canada and \$444 million by Ontario), recognition of treaty harvesting rights, and the ability for each of the seven First Nations to add 4,452 ha to their reserve. Additionally, the Governments of Ontario and Canada formally apologized to the Williams Treaties First Nations.

Treaties set out and protect the aboriginal rights of the First Nations and so their engagement and collaboration is critical in watershed conservation. Williams Treaty First Nations are the original stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters in perpetuity, and they continue to care for the land and waters for future generations.

Legend

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| Treaty Boundaries | Roads |
| Municipal Boundaries | Expressway-Highway |
| Tertiary Watersheds | Freeway |
| Quaternary Watersheds | Ramp |
| Watersheds | Collector |
| Indigenous People with Rights to the Trent-Severn Waterway | Arterial |
| Indigenous People of Other Treaties | Land Use |
| | Waterbody |
| | Watercourse |
| | Built Up Area |
| | Wetlands |
| | Woodlands |

