

Artists

Community members who shared their talents.



Paul Shilling

"As a visual artist, I have been haunted by faces since my early childhood. Faces of the living, of the dying, and of rebirth. I see the many masks and layers of these faces, but I am fascinated with what is actually underneath"



Keesic Douglas

"I have developed a practice that utilizes photography, video and performance focusing on themes of exploring history, identity, representation, and the environment from an Indigenous perspective"



Bob Williams

"As one of the only Cedar Artists in the area, I am honoured to participate in this project. Many of my friends were taken and this is a small way for me to give back"



Melanie Gray

"It is my hope that my photograph will inspire our current generation, the next generation and all future generations to move forward with hope and light."

60's Scoop Group



RFN Powwow 2021

Miigwech Thank you

There were numerous people and companies who helped to create and build this space. We appreciate the varying levels of skills, gifts and donations.

- Simcoe Muskoka Family Connexions
- Durham Children Aid's Society
- Coldwater Narrows Land Trust
- RFN Health and Social Services
- Facilities Management

Professional Contracted Services

- Parklane Landscapes
- Sanderson Monument
- Extreme Imaging
- Native Plants in Claremont
- Rockleith Stone
- Elite Award Manufacturing
- Orillia Metal Fabrication
- Hermanns Mulch
- Muskoka Teak
- Castaway's Foundry

Private Donations

- Lindsay and Patience Commanda
- Max's Smoke Shop
- K&C Sweetgrass Products
- Bria & Co. Cookies/Stephanie Card
- Kathryn Manners
- Mya Magee and Evan Savoie

This commemorative space is for all of us;

those who have come home, those we are waiting for, those who never left and those who have gone on to the Spirit World.



This sacred place was imagined by our members as part of the healing journey. It was designed to incorporate the four elements: Ishkode(Fire), Aki(Earth), Nibi(Water) and Noodin(Wind). We acknowledge the traumatic historical events of Residential Schools, Indian Day Schools and the 60's Scoop that took our children away from the safety of their families and community.



Nibi/Water

Nibi is life giving, sustains all of Creation and is the blood memory of Mother Earth. In this area, we pay tribute to the many children taken into the Child Welfare System. The term “60’s Scoop” refers to the mass removal of indigenous children from their family, nation and traditional lands. Through the healing powers of nibi, we re-establish our connections with all of Creation.

Aki/Earth)

Aki is our mother who provides us with the four sacred medicines to help us on our life journey. The Indian Day school was designed to infiltrate our First Nation communities in order to further destroy our culture and way of life. We are grateful knowing our children now have opportunities to learn and grow in a loving environment. It is through knowledge, teachings and the nourishment from Mother Earth that helps us to be grounded and to flourish.



Noodin/Wind

Noodin is a powerful force that cannot be captured or contained. This element was chosen to represent those who have not returned. We have created this space so they know they are always welcome. We pray the winds of change will bring our loved ones home.

Ishkode/Fire

Ishkode represents the Spirit. Residential schools were designed to kill our spirit by removing our children from their home, their culture, their language and their community. The sacred fire welcomes our children home and helps us all to rekindle our spirits and our connection to our Ancestors.