

TORONTO INDIGENOUS AND TREATY HISTORY TIMELINE

AFTER 500 AD

Corn (maize) introduced from the south, followed by squash, beans, sunflowers and tobacco. Iroquoian longhouse cultures develop.

1649 - 50

Five Nations Haudenosaunee from south of Lake Ontario attack and disperse Wendat Confederacy, absorbing many Wendats. GTA becomes Haudenosaunee (esp. Seneca) hunting territory.

C.1700

Mississaugas move into GTA; Five Nations Haudenosaunee retreat south of Great Lakes.

C.11000 BC - C.1000 BC

As glaciers retreat, nomadic peoples hunt mastodon, caribou and other big game over tundra. When the climate warms c. 7000 BC, Indigenous people hunt elk, moose, and deer in mixed forest, catch salmon and other fish. By about 1000 BC, a growing population trades over long distances.

C.1300 - 1600

Huron-Wendat longhouse villages surrounded by corn fields flourish along the Humber, Don, Rouge and other rivers. Wendats move north to join other Wendats in Georgian Bay area.

1660S TO 1687

Seneca villages Teiaiagon and Ganetsekwyagon established on Humber and Rouge Rivers, visited by French traders and missionaries.

1796

Wabakinine asks Haudenosaunee leader Joseph Brant to negotiate a better deal for Mississaugas as British seek waterfront west of TP to Burlington Bay. New Indian Agent at York directed to prevent unity between Mississaugas and Haudenosaunee. Wabakine murdered on Toronto waterfront by off-duty soldier. York fortified as British fear Indigenous uprising.

1813-1820

Mississauga warriors are the first line of defence against American invasion of York in 1813. After War of 1812, further land cessions dispossess Mississaugas of northern Mississauga tract and all but 200 acres along Credit River, even though Mississaugas followed government advice to put Credit lands and fisheries "in trust" with the government to preserve them for future generations

1793-1794

York founded as military outpost. Next year, as settlers establish homes and farms, Crown officials realize TP deed is invalid because no boundaries are recorded -- decide to do nothing.

1805

All Mississauga signatories of original TP dead, population severely diminished from colonial impacts, and Joseph Brant discredited. Colonial officials prepare two different maps of disputed TP boundaries for treaty council but only show map with largest cession. Weakened Mississaugas "confirm" more extended boundaries of Toronto Purchase and reluctantly agree to cession of waterfront lands west to Burlington at 2.5% market value.

1825

A Mississauga Methodist mission village is founded on the Credit River by Peter Jones/ Kahkewāquonāby. Many Mississaugas convert and adapt to western lifestyle, including farming.

1720 - 1759

First French trading fort built on Humber River. Fort Rouillé, a larger fur trading fort, at modern Exhibition Grounds from 1750.

1783-84

After the American Revolution, Loyalists arrive in Upper Canada, including Haudenosaunee who lost lands in New York. Mississaugas relinquish lands then granted by British to Haudenosaunee as Haldimand Tract near Brantford.

1788

British surveyor and his interpreter try to survey TP lands, confronted by Chief Wabakinine over incorrect boundaries. Colonel Butler brought in to persuade Wabakinine to extend the boundaries to Ashbridges Bay and Etobicoke Creek. More presents given.

1701

39 First Nations, including the Mississaugas and some Haudenosaunee, agree to French-led Great Peace of Montreal. Other Haudenosaunee enter into Nanfan Treaty with English to protect hunting territories in southern Ontario. Older Dish With One Spoon sharing agreement between Anishinaabeg and Haudenosaunee renewed.

1763-64

After 1760 defeat of French in Seven Year's War, British "frauds and abuses" lead to Pontiac's War. Royal Proclamation of 1763 counters this by recognizing Indigenous territories, making rules for land cessions. 1764 Treaty of Niagara extends Covenant Chain alliance between British and Haudenosaunee to Indigenous allies of French, including Mississaugas.

1787

So-called "Toronto Purchase" (TP), intended by Mississaugas as land-sharing agreement, discussed at meeting with British at Bay of Quinte; presents given, but not understood as payment for land.

1834-1836

York become City of Toronto. Lieut. Gov. Bond Head tries to expropriate all Indigenous peoples in Upper Canada and move them to Manitoulin Island.

1923

Williams Treaty purports to address improper 1788 surrender of land along the north shore of Lake Ontario, east of the Toronto Purchase, including Scarborough.

1986-2010

Mississaugas of New Credit pursue Toronto Purchase land claim; finally awarded \$145 million.

2018

Williams Treaty Claim settlement, also pertaining to Scarborough, ratified by seven First Nations (Mississaugas of the Credit not included). Toronto's Indigenous population estimated at 70,000, of various heritages.

1847

Crowded out by settlers and unable to acquire clear title to lands on the Credit despite many petitions, most Credit Mississaugas move to land in Brantford area acquired from Six Nations and renamed New Credit. After 1847, few Indigenous people live in or near Toronto.

AFTER 1945

Large numbers of Indigenous people move into the city. Native Canadian Centre and other, Indigenous community organizations founded.

2015-16

Rouge Tract Land Claim launched by Mississaugas of New Credit for Rouge River Valley. Mississaugas of the Credit Water Claim asserts unextinguished title to all water, lands under water, and floodplains in their territory.