

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

DRUM BEAT NEWSLETTER

Healing and Reconciliation Ministry



September 2026



Sharing stories and reflections that build understanding, healing, and unity
with Indigenous peoples, a journey of truth and reconciliation.

Let the drum guide our hearts forward.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – SEPTEMBER 30

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is held each year on September 30. This day provides an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect and honour Survivors of residential schools and those who support them. In a special way, we remember the children that never returned home, and acknowledge the lasting wounds carried by Indigenous families and communities. The Archdiocese of Toronto recognize this painful history and, as a Catholic community, acknowledge our involvement in the residential school system. On this day, we pray, educate and advocate, looking for opportunities to discern how each one of us can participate in the journey of healing, reconciliation and hope.

For Christians, reconciliation is more than remembering the past. Jesus calls us to conversion of heart: to listen to those who have been wounded, to seek truth rather than comfort, and to repair relationships where harm has occurred.

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
— Matthew 5:9**

On this National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we can ask:

- What truths about residential schools have I taken the time to learn?
- Have I listened to Indigenous Survivors and voices without becoming defensive?
- How can my faith community contribute to healing rather than simply commemorating?
- What concrete action can I take toward justice, respect, and reconciliation?
- How can I teach children and young people that Every Child Matters?



On this day, we pray, educate and advocate, looking for opportunities to discern how each one of us can participate in the journey of healing, reconciliation and hope.

Take time to learn the stories, experiences and ongoing effects of Residential Schools on the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Ontario.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – SEPTEMBER 30



CHIPPEWAS OF GEORGINA ISLAND
POW WOW
"SPIRIT OF THE DRUM" 2026

EMCEE:
Alan Manitowabi

HOST DRUM:
Charging Horse

INVITED DRUMS:
Young Tribe
Snye Creek

ARENA DIRECTOR:
Animikeence Plain

ELDER:
Shelley Charles

VETERAN:
Jeffrey Plain

VENDORS CONTACT:
Lauri Hoeg
Pow Wow Coordinator
lauri.hoeg@gmail.com

SPECIALS!!!
GRASS!
FANCY!
JINGLE!
TRADITIONAL!
WOODLAND!
TINY TOTS!

\$5 ENTRY FEE
ELDERS AND CHILDREN FREE

SUNRISE CEREMONY
SUNDAY @ 7AM

GIVEAWAY
SUNDAY @ 4PM

FACEBOOK:
Georgina Island Pow Wow 2026

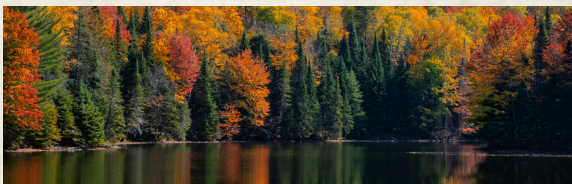
INSTAGRAM:
@georginaislandpowwow

LOCATION:
SUTTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
20798 DALTON RD. SUTTON, ON L0E 1R0

ROUGH CAMPING AVAILABLE. NO DRUGS, ALCOHOL, OR PETS.

Experience the Traditions of Georgina Island

On Sat, Sep 26 2026 and Sun, Sep 27 2026 experience the traditions of the Chippewas of Georgina Island at the 2026 Pow Wow – Spirit of the Drum. This two-day celebration welcomes everyone to enjoy powerful drumming, traditional dancing, singing, authentic crafts and food vendors. Experience the warmth of community in a family-friendly atmosphere.



A Catholic Prayer

Loving God, Creator of all,

On this National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, we remember with sorrow the children who never returned home and honour the Survivors of residential schools, their families, communities, and generations who continue to carry their wounds.

Forgive us for the times when we have remained silent, failed to listen, or turned away from painful truths.

Give us the humility to learn, the courage to speak truth, the compassion to listen, and the wisdom to walk respectfully with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

May your Holy Spirit guide our Church from sorrow toward healing, from remembrance toward action, and from broken relationships toward genuine reconciliation.

Help us to recognize the dignity of every person and to live the Gospel through justice, mercy and love.

May we never forget the children.
 May we honour the Survivors.
 May we walk together in hope.

Amen.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – SEPTEMBER 30

St Patrick's Healing and Reconciliation Ministry encourages you to participate in a local event. September in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) is rich with Indigenous-led events that honour culture, spirituality, and the journey of reconciliation. Here's an overview of some gatherings happening throughout the month. These events offer space for spiritual reflection, cultural celebration, and community healing. Many are free and open to all, with opportunities to learn from Elders, artists, and knowledge keepers.

Date	Event	Location	Focus
Sept 30	Truth and Reconciliation / Orange Shirt Day Ceremony	Flato Markham Theatre, 171 Town Centre Blvd.	The City of Markham's event includes an Indigenous Elder-led ceremonial opening, remarks, reflection and opportunities for relationship-building. Admission is free.
September 28-30	Indigenous Legacy Gathering	Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto	Indigenous vendors, community booths, educational workshops and traditional performances. Admission is free.
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Art Gallery of Ontario	The AGO is holding Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation from 11 a.m.–8 p.m. on September 30, featuring short films and guided tours focusing on First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists.
Sept 28-29	Virtual Catholic/academic reflection opportunity	Harbourfront Centre, Toronto	The University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management is hosting "Truth Before Reconciliation: A Conversation with Sean Carleton" virtually on September 30, 9:30–10:30 a.m., focusing on residential-school history, Survivors and the danger of denialism.

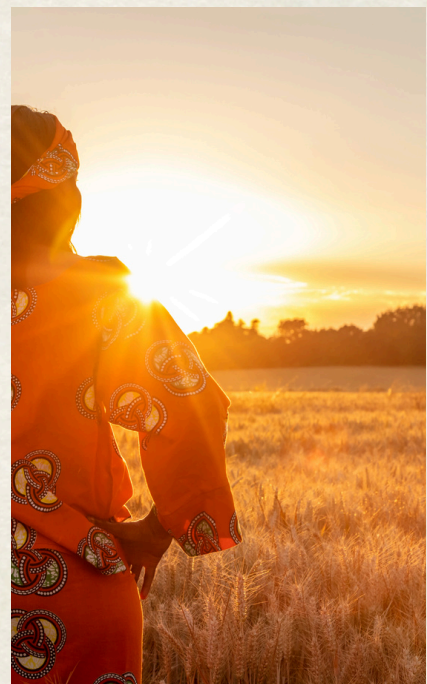
We would suggest combining **prayer + learning + concrete action** rather than treating September 30 simply as another commemorative day. The Archdiocese of Toronto's Healing and Reconciliation resources provide a particularly appropriate framework for parish reflection.

Morning: Mass or prayer for healing and reconciliation

Midday: Indigenous-led educational event or teaching

Afternoon: Personal reflection on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action

Evening: Prayer for Survivors, families and communities, followed by a concrete commitment to reconciliation.



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION – SEPTEMBER 30



Orange Shirt Day is an opportunity to enter into truth, repentance, prayer, and reconciliation. We acknowledge that Catholic institutions were involved in operating residential schools and that Indigenous children and families experienced profound harm.

Orange Shirt Day

Orange Shirt Day is observed each year on **September 30**, alongside the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. It honours residential-school Survivors, remembers the children who were taken from their families, and affirms the message **“Every Child Matters.”**

The orange shirt comes from the experience of **Phyllis Webstad**, whose orange shirt was taken from her when she arrived at the Mission school in British Columbia as a six-year-old in 1973. Her story helped inspire the Orange Shirt Day movement.

The Gospel calls us not only to remember, but to seek healing and justice:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

— Matthew 5:4

Wearing orange can therefore be more than a symbol. It can be a commitment to listen to Indigenous voices, learn the truth about residential schools, honour Survivors, remember the children, and work toward respectful relationships and reconciliation.

Loving God,

On Orange Shirt Day, we remember every child who was separated from family, culture, language and community through the residential-school system. We pray for Survivors, their families and communities, and for the children who never returned home. Give us courage to face the truth, humility to listen, and compassion to walk the path of reconciliation.

May the words “Every Child Matters” become more than words. May they guide how we live, how we treat one another, and how we work for justice and healing. Amen.