

The name proposed for the facility currently known as "Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois" is **Skä·noñh – Great Law of Peace Center** (hereinafter referred to as "the Center"). Skä·noñh (pronounced "skano") is an Onondaga greeting which means "peace" and "wellness".

Planning for the Center is still in progress and will continue throughout 2013. Currently, a general plan for the Center consists of the following:

- A museum interpreting the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) heritage based on the oral history tradition of the Haudenosaunee. It will contain exhibits that incorporate art, artifacts, crafts, descriptive panels, text labels, and audio/visual components to tell the story of the history of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy from the Haudenosaunee perspective, including issues related to European contact, with special emphasis on the traditional Thanksgiving Address and the Great Law of Peace.
- An educational center with a developed curriculum, as well as programs, presentations, conferences, and printed materials that reflect the Haudenosaunee heritage and the lessons inherent in the Thanksgiving Address, and the Great Law of Peace. Emphasis will be on the appreciation of indigenous values and how they came to influence our modern way of life. The educational center will encourage the study of, and dialogues about, the history of the Haudenosaunee and related issues, including European contact from 1492 with particular focus on the contact between the Haudenosaunee and Europeans and European Americans from 1613 to the present.
- The Sainte Marie Mission, a recreation of the 17<sup>th</sup> century fortified French Mission, which will include a museum that contains exhibits that incorporate art, artifacts, descriptive panels, text labels, and audio/visual components to interpret the day-to-day life and purpose of the inhabitants of the Mission in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century.
- A retail store to sell products that are consistent with the themes of the Center and that include educational materials related to those themes and products.
- A health food and drink "café" representing Haudenosaunee-inspired recipes.
- Recreational amenities on the grounds around the Center that are developed within a didactic landscape to educate patrons about the Haudenosaunee concept of wellness and the close relationship between the Haudenosaunee and the environment, as well as the peace traditions oriented around creating harmonious and balanced relationships between human beings and other living things. Sporting events, camps, and exhibitions, particularly for lacrosse, will be emphasized at the Center to represent the important role that games have played in the spiritual, and medicinal history of the Haudenosaunee.

The Onondaga word, Skä·noñh (meaning "peace" and "wellness"), appropriately represents the themes and plans for the Center as described above. It also speaks to a variety of issues relevant to our local community's past, present, and future.

The recreational, environmental, and healthy food components of the Center are not only tied to the history and traditions of the Haudenosaunee concept of wellness, thanksgiving, and environmental stewardship, they will also attract the existing population that currently uses Onondaga Lake Park for the purposes of recreational and environmental enjoyment. Those components are also important aspects of our community's current-day interest in developing healthier, and more environmentally conscious, life-styles.

According to Haudenosaunee history, it was along the shores of the sacred Onondaga Lake that the Peacemaker, Hiawatha, and the Onondaga Nation's Tadadaho came together to establish the "Great Law of Peace". The influences of the Great Law of Peace have been formally acknowledged by the United States (in 1987) as having inspired the development of western democracy as well as the United Nations. The idea of varying ethnic cultures living together respectfully and peacefully for the benefit of all is a concept that has special meaning and lessons for our local community that has such a long history, and a current and future composition, of diversity, from immigration to refugee resettlement.