



# NIAGARA FALLS PUBLIC LIBRARY

4848 Victoria Avenue, Niagara Falls, ON L2E 4C5 | 905 356 8080

## For Immediate Release

### **New art exhibit at Niagara Falls Public Library features Tuscarora artist Raymond Skye**

*The exhibit runs from September 1 - October 4*

**Niagara Falls, Ont.** - Niagara Falls Public Library will be home to a new exhibit in September as Haudenosaunee/Iroquois artist Raymond Skye will showcase his art in the Rosberg Gallery all month.

Skye, whose name Awendodyoh means “the day has ended”, was born at the Six Nations Grand River Territory in Southern Ontario. A self-taught artist who favours pencil and charcoal, Skye juxtaposes and blends reality and illusion to present to the viewer his passion and romance for history. Skye’s father was a member of the Seneca Nation and his mother was Tuscarora. He credits much of the inspiration for his artwork to the traditional teachings of his parents.

“We originally planned to welcome Raymond Skye and his art to the Library in June 2020 so this exhibit has been a long time in the making,” says Library CEO Alicia Subnaik Kilgour. “It is an honour to host Skye’s artwork here at the Niagara Falls Public Library. Having the exhibit at the Library allows the whole community to experience, and learn, from his impactful artwork.”

Raymond Skye’s name may be recognizable to some as he was the commissioned artist for the Landscape of Nations memorial at Queenston Heights. Skye designed the statues of the warriors at the memorial as well as the bronze plaques. He also worked with the District School Board of Niagara for the logo and art pieces at John Brant Public School in Fort Erie.

Skye’s exhibit will include a selection of painted canvases and paper prints that feature and honour his culture and notable figures. One print in particular will showcase E. Pauline Johnson, a well known poet who was born in 1861 on the Six Nations Reserve. With a Mohawk chief father and an English mother, Johnson felt connected to both sides of her heritage and chose her Mohawk name, Tekahionwake (meaning “double wampum”), to reflect that.

“Much of my artwork reflects my cultural teachings,” says Skye. “I believe those teachings continue to guide me, and help me to portray my culture with the authenticity and dignity it deserves. Visuals are very important to the learning process for it helps the viewer to better comprehend the story behind the imagery. I would like to think my art is a representation of my ancestral bloodline, a connectedness to my soul, and a portal by which to celebrate the resilience of my people, the Haudenosaunee”

The Rosberg Gallery is located at the Niagara Falls Public Library’s Victoria Avenue Location at 4848 Victoria Avenue. The Gallery is open for public viewing during the Library’s operating hours. Raymond Skye’s exhibit can be viewed until Tuesday, October 4.

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**About the Niagara Falls Public Library:**

*The Niagara Falls Public Library is a free, inclusive community space open to all. Residents of the City of Niagara Falls are invited to register for a free library card to access all of our resources, both physical and digital. The Niagara Falls Public Library dates back to 1878, and today has four library locations serving the City of Niagara Falls - Victoria Avenue Library, Community Centre Library, Chippawa Library, NovelBranch library kiosk at the Gale Centre as well as the Stamford Centre Library which is currently closed for construction. Please visit our website at [my.nflibrary.ca](http://my.nflibrary.ca) for more information.*

**For more information, please contact:**

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