

**On Haudenosaunee Land:**  
**Recognizing Indigenous People, History and Geography in Local Planning in Our Region**

## Introductions and Background

**Ronalyn Pollack**

Executive Director, Native American Cultural Center

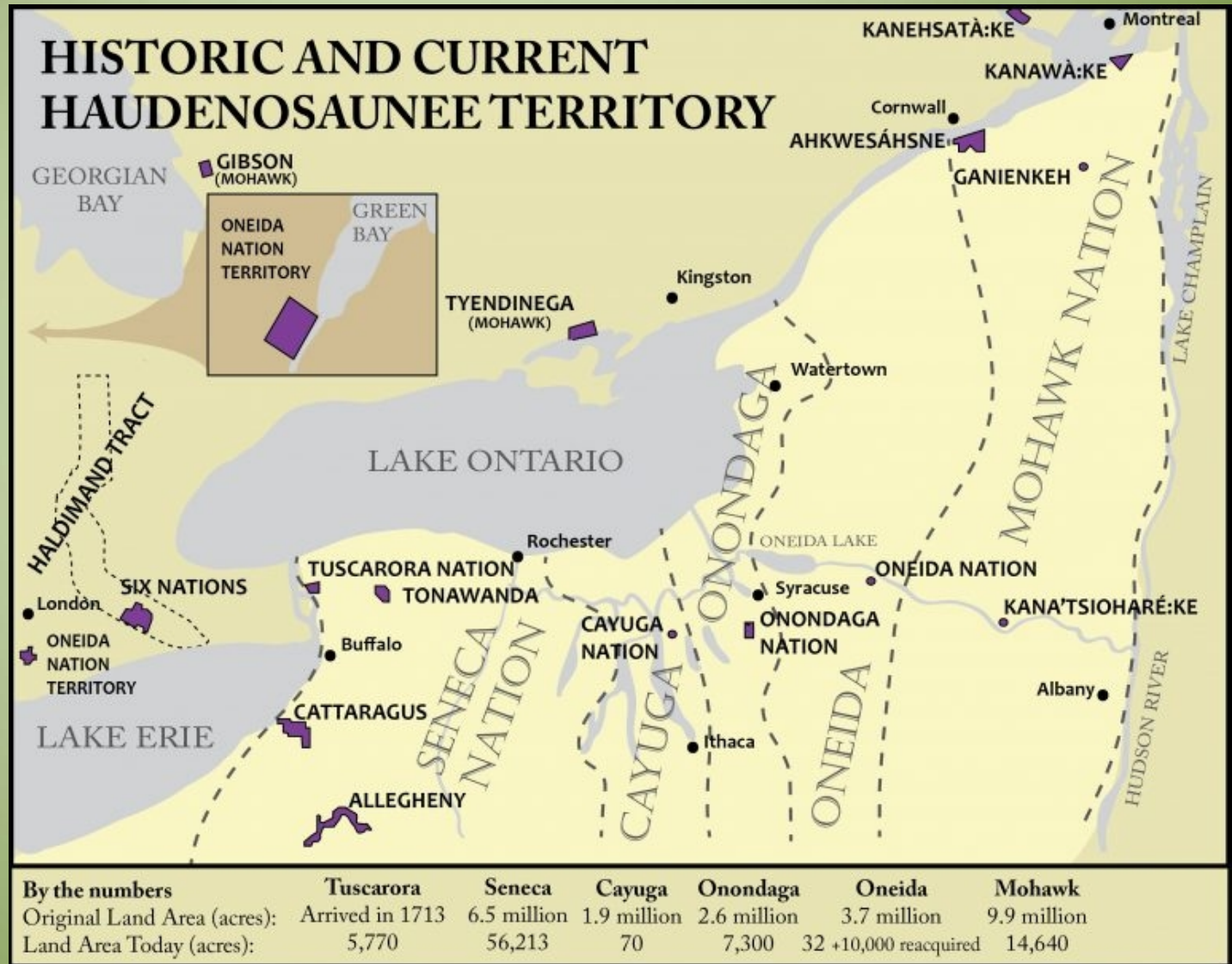
**Jason Haremza**

Senior Planner, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

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## A Short Background on the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois)

Seneca  
Cayuga  
Onondaga  
Oneida  
Mohawk  
Tuscarora



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## Why Do This?

Planning has historically been dominated by people of European descent, largely male.

Planning, as a profession but also as a collective endeavor that communities engage in needs to acknowledge past wrongs.

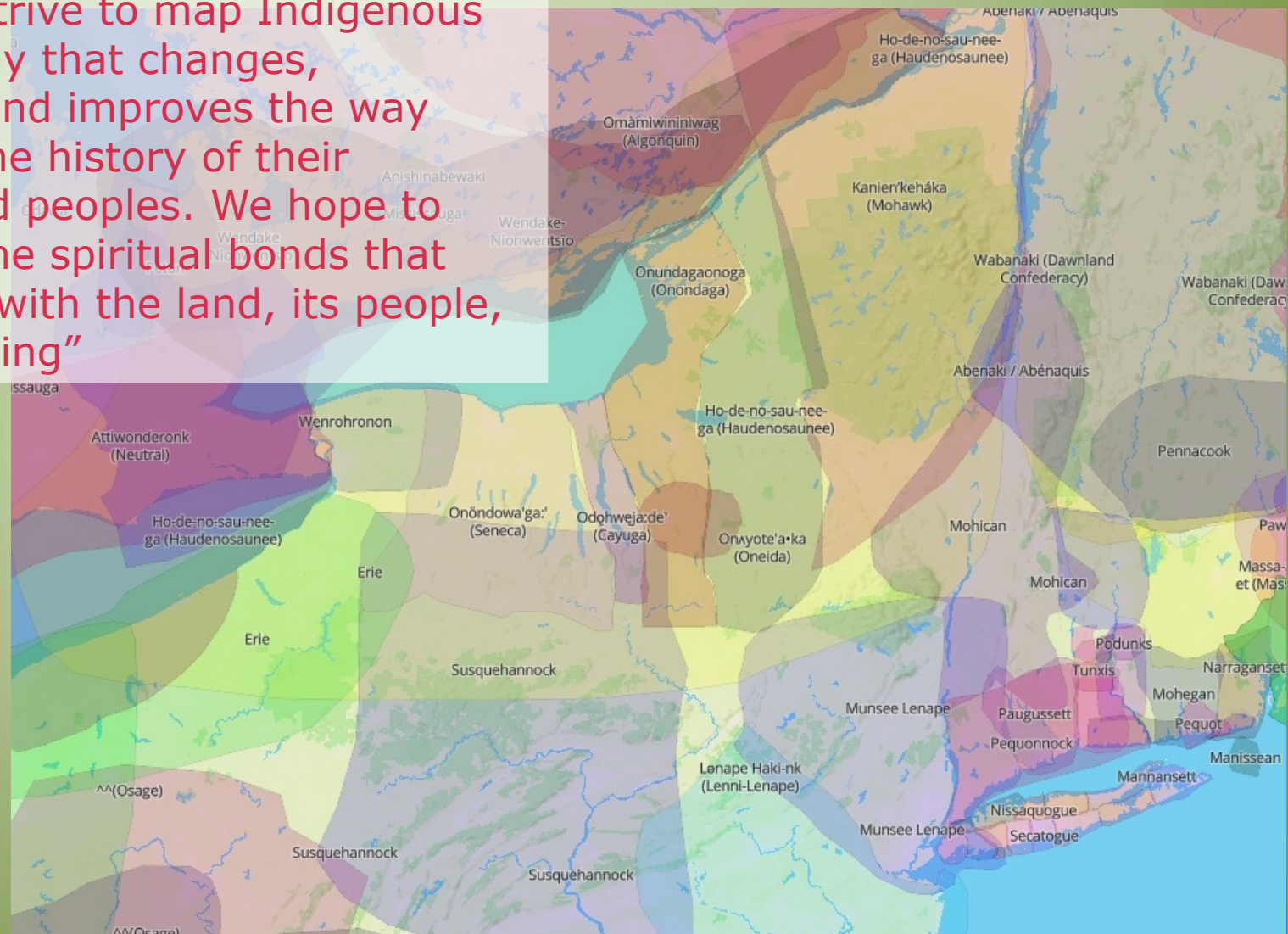
Planning, more than most activities, is directly related to the land and water, the physical place.

## ***What to Do?***

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"Native-Land.ca is a website run by the nonprofit organization Native Land Digital. We strive to map Indigenous lands in a way that changes, challenges, and improves the way people see the history of their countries and peoples. We hope to strengthen the spiritual bonds that people have with the land, its people, and its meaning"

<https://native-land.ca/>





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## Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

<https://nativegov.org/a-guide-to-indigenous-land-acknowledgment/>

"It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the land, and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgements do not exist in a past tense, or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process, and we need to build our mindfulness of our present participation." Northwestern University

**"When we talk about land, land is part of who we are.** It's a mixture of our blood, our past, our current, and our future. We carry our ancestors in us, and they're around us. As you all do."  
Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe)

## Public Meetings

## Public Places



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Local Planning

Local History

Description of the Community

The earliest known inhabitants of the land where the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ is located were the Seneca of the Iroquois Confederacy. \_\_\_\_\_, the native settlement in present-day \_\_\_\_\_, was home to about 4,000 people. In 1687, the town was destroyed by Marquis de Denonville, the Governor of New France, during his expedition against the Seneca. Shortly after the destruction, ***the surviving natives moved elsewhere***. The rest of the Seneca suffered a similar fate when, in 1779, Major General John Sullivan was ordered by George Washington to wage war against Loyalists and four nations of the Iroquois Confederacy who had sided with the British in the Revolutionary War. The Sullivan Expedition ***pushed the tribes*** to the British-controlled Niagara Frontier, the western edge of Western New York.

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## Local History

### Fairport Example

Once upon a time — a different time, as we say when excusing the inexcusable customs of the past — early American settlements commemorated the birth of their “first white child.” For European colonists, the occasion was the equivalent of a dog marking its territory.

“In each of these cases it was an emblem that Euro-American white settlers have claimed the land enough to start peopling the land themselves,” said Michael Leroy Oberg, a history professor at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

Plaques marking the event can be found in cities big and small, suburban towns, and on rural roads in the middle of nowhere.

One is outside of the Blowers Homestead, the first settlement in Jamestown, New York, honoring the birth of the “first white child” in 1810.

And, until recently, one stood off the sidewalk in Fairport, where it had been since it went up in 1949.

<https://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/rochester/fairport-says-farewell-to-a-first-white-child-memorial/Content?oid=12304908>



“The text on this sign is inappropriate,” Fairport Mayor Julie Domaratz said. “It might have been appropriate for the people who were living in Fairport in 1949. It’s not appropriate for the people living in Fairport in 2020.”

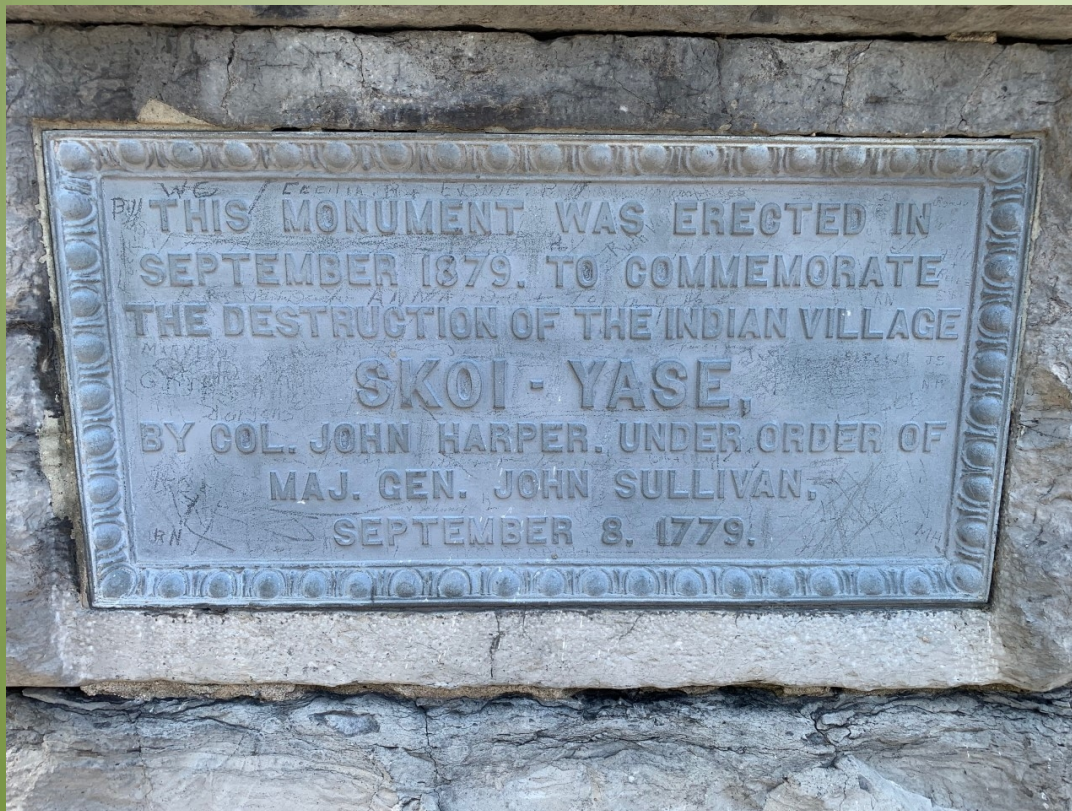


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## Local History – How to portray

### Denonville Expedition 1687

### Clinton-Sullivan Expedition 1779





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Language

Seneca Language



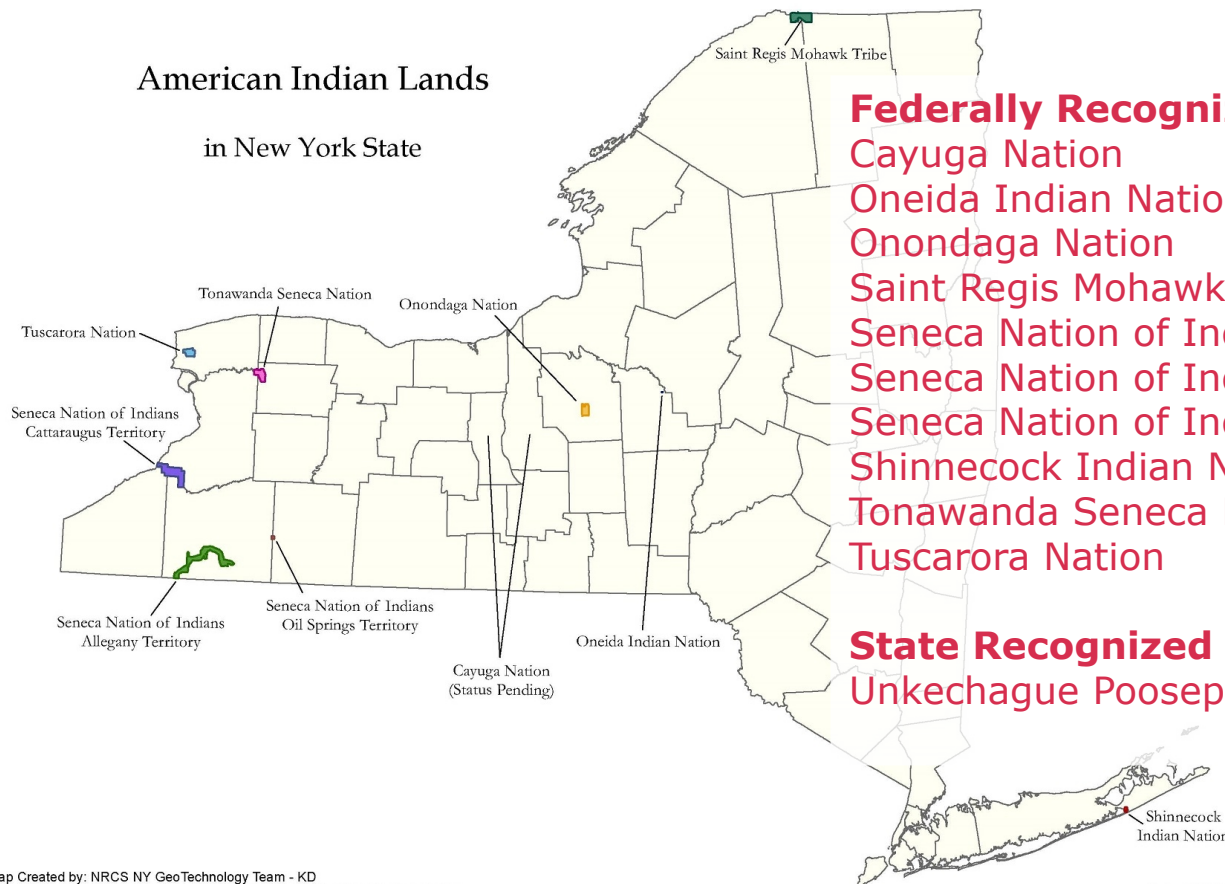
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## Indian Reservations and Recognized Tribes in NYS



Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

### American Indian Lands in New York State



### Federally Recognized

Cayuga Nation  
Oneida Indian Nation  
Onondaga Nation  
Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Seneca Nation of Indians - Allegany Territory  
Seneca Nation of Indians - Cattaraugus Territory  
Seneca Nation of Indians - Oil Springs Territory  
Shinnecock Indian Nation  
Tonawanda Seneca Nation  
Tuscarora Nation

### State Recognized

Unkechague Poosepatuck Tribe (Unkechaug Nation)

Map Created by: NRCS NY GeoTechnology Team - KD  
Source Data: 2010 Census data - American Indian Lands & County Boundaries

Date: 4/16/2014

# Additional Resources on Indigenous Peoples

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## Web Resources

<https://woodlandculturalcentre.ca/>

Woodland Cultural Centre serves to preserve and promote Indigenous history, art, language and culture

<https://dawnland.org/>

The feature-length documentary DAWNLAND follows the first government-sanctioned truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) in the US to contemporary Wabanaki communities to witness intimate, sacred moments of truth-telling and healing. The film reveals the untold narrative of Indigenous child removal in the US

<http://mncfn.ca/category/culture-history/historical-tidbit/>

Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Historical Tidbits by Darin Wybenga

<https://www.ganondagan.org/>

Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor, NY is a National Historic Landmark, the only New York State Historic Site dedicated to a Native American theme, and the only Seneca town developed and interpreted in the United States. Spanning 569 acres, Ganondagan (ga·NON·da·gan) is the original site of a 17th century Seneca town. The Seneca Art & Culture Center tells the story of Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) contributions to art, culture, and society. Designed to fit into the natural landscape, the center features an interactive, multi-media Exhibit Gallery, auditorium, and gift shop.

<https://michaelleroyoberg.com/>

Michael Leroy Oberg, the author of *Native America*, is Distinguished Professor of History at SUNY-Geneseo and director of the Geneseo Center for Local and Municipal History

## Books

- *And Grandma Said... Iroquois Teachings: as passed down through the oral tradition* by Tom Porter
- *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer



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**Nya:wëh (Thank you)**