

Land Acknowledgement - March 2025



World Water Day has been held on 22 March every year since 1993. It is an annual United Nations Observance focusing on the importance of freshwater. But from time immemorial people from around the world understood the importance of water. And here in Etobicoke, where we meet on the traditional territory of many nations, most recently the Mississauga of the Credit First Nation, we honour water.

Anishinaabe elder, Josephine Mandamin, who lived from 1942 to 2019, said, "We are all of water and all united by water."

As a woman, Josephine was a "life-giver", and "water-keeper". She felt a sacred duty to pass on her water knowledge to present and future generations, leaving a lasting legacy of inspiring others to protect and preserve water resources. Between 2003 and 2017 Josephine led walks along the shores of waterways in Canada and the United States. A bucket filled with water and a walking stick were always at her side.

In June of 2024, Canada Post issued a postage stamp to honour Josephine Mandamin, Grandmother Water Walker. Water walks still continue to this day.