

THE TWO ROW WAMPUM RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

The Two Row Wampum Renewal Campaign is a year-long educational and advocacy effort to commemorate the first agreement (treaty) between the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois Confederacy) and the incoming Europeans, the Dutch, who at that time were entering and beginning to trade and settle near the “Eastern Door” of the Confederacy (Kanienkehaka [Mohawk] Country) around 1613.



Jack Manno and Shirley Hill during the Two Row Wampum trial run 2012.

The Haudenosaunee taught the sailors what foods they could gather, how to grow crops in this ecosystem, where to hunt, and how to survive. They encouraged trade and mutual understanding. An agreement was reached that welcomed the Dutch as long as they and their descendants agreed to live in peace and friendship, and with respect for the land and waters of this area. This agreement was recorded in a belt of beaded wampum, as was the custom of the Haudenosaunee (and other Native peoples), known as the Guswenta or the Two Row Wampum. The two rows symbolize the Dutch—in their sailing ships with their customs, songs, and ways of life—and the Haudenosaunee—in their canoes, with their customs, songs, and ways of life—traveling down the river of life together, respecting each others’ ways, in peace and friendship as long as the grass is green, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west, and water flows downhill (forever). In the four hundred years since that agreement was made, its obligations have passed from the Dutch, to the English and French, to the United States and Canada. The Haudenosaunee Confed-

eracy continues to meet at Onondaga (in central New York) and continues to believe that the Two Row describes our obligations to each other. The Two Row history also includes an understanding that the chain that secures our relations with each other must occasionally be polished and brightened. This is what this summer’s paddle down the Hudson is all about. It is sponsored by the Onondaga Nation; the Neighbors of Onondaga Nation (NOON), an ally organization; and nearly one hundred additional co-sponsors. It is supported by the Grand Council of Chiefs of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Over one hundred Native paddlers from over twenty territories, nations, and reservations—and an equal number of allies—will travel together down the Hudson River, from the likely location of the negotiations that led to the Two Row agreement in Albany to New York City. The symbolic enactment will begin with a cultural and educational festival in Albany on Saturday, July 27, and the flotilla will set off the following morning. We will paddle between nine and fifteen miles each day and camp along the route. There will be several educational and cultural events, some large and others small. The gatherings will feature cultural sharing and talks by Haudenosaunee and other Native leaders and allies. The itinerary is still being finalized. For more information visit <http://honorthetworow.org>.



Onondaga Chief Jake Edwards teaching with a reproduction of Two Row Wampum Belt