

Museum of Ontario Archaeology

...where the past is present!

1600 Attawandaron Road
London, Ontario
N6G 3M6

September 9, 2013
For Immediate Release

O'y ya'h ohdiwena goh: Through the Voices of Beads

A temporary exhibition on Iroquois Beadwork

Opens at: The Museum of Ontario Archaeology
September 14 to November 10, 2013

London, ON Opening during the Annual Traditional Pow Wow & Native Harvest Festival, the Museum of Ontario Archaeology offers visitors a chance to see a selection of **Iroquois beadwork** on loan from the Royal Ontario Museum (**ROM**) and from artist **Samuel Thomas**. **O'y ya'h ohdiwena goh: "Through the Voices of Beads"** runs from September 14 to November 10 in the Museum's Feature gallery. This exhibition reveals the meaning expressed in Iroquois beadwork and how this art still thrives and continues to hold meaning today. **Learn about the history of beadwork and Iroquois culture, legends, and symbols of nature and clothing.**

Items on display include **twenty historical and contemporary pieces from the ROM's collection** such as beaded purses, corn husk dolls, and moccasins. **Ten works** are also on exhibit from contemporary Iroquois beadwork artist **Samuel Thomas**. Several of these pieces were created in collaboration with Ontario non-Aboriginals and aboriginals working under Thomas' guidance to demonstrate that traditional Iroquois teachings can be of great value to the modern world.

History of Iroquois beading

The Iroquois originally adorned their animal-skin clothing with porcupine quills. When they began trading with Europeans, the Iroquois transferred their skills to cloth and threaded beads. They retained the same imagery that they had always used, imagery that represented Iroquois beliefs, values, and legends.

##

About the ROM

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) is an agency of the Government of Ontario. Created in 1912, Canada's largest museum of natural history and world cultures has six million objects in its collections and galleries showcasing art, archaeology, and natural science.

About Samuel Thomas

Samuel Thomas has spent 27 years as an Iroquois beading artist. Over his career, he has earned over 90 awards for his work and collaboration with other cultures around the world. Sam's pieces incorporate traditional Iroquois design, symbolism, and teachings.

Museum of Ontario Archaeology

...where the past is present!

1600 Attawandaron Road
London, Ontario
N6G 3M6

About the Museum of Ontario Archaeology

The MOA's collection started in the 1920s out of the amateur collection of artifacts found on Wilfrid Jury's family homestead in Lobo township. As the collection grew, it was then donated to Western University (1933) and the Museum of Indian Archaeology was founded. The museum is located in North London beside the Lawson Prehistoric Iroquoian Village, a site occupied by the Neutral Iroquoians in the 16th century A.D. The MOA's collections reflect 13,000 years of human habitation in South Western Ontario

Media Contact:

Jennifer Stead
Public Relations Officer
Museum of Ontario Archaeology
1600 Attawandaron Rd
London, ON N6G 3M6
T: 519-473-1360 F: 519-850-2363
jstead3@uwo.ca
Facebook.com/ArchaeologyMuseum
Twitter.com/MuseOntArch