



Warren Sturgeon and Tasha Beeds 2017 FTE Water Walk,  
Photo by Tom Porter

Enji-Tibew'eseng: Nibi  
Nikwejiwong Nibi  
Mosaadimaang  
At the Water's Edge:  
Junction Creek Water Walk

Bi-wiidsemshinaang wii-  
mosaadimaang oodi Nibi  
Nikwejiwong Bemijiwang  
Come Walk with Us for  
Junction Creek

**May 5th - May 9th, 2021**

**Enji-Tibew'eseng Nibi  
Nikwejiwong Nibi  
Mosaadimaang** is an

Anishinaabe Ceremonial Water Walk to form connections with the Water and to understand our place as humans in Creation.

We walk for **Nibi**. We walk for **all of Life**. We walk for the **next 7 generations**.

## SCHEDULE

*\*Registration required to participate in-person\**

### Opening Ceremony

May 5th at 6:00am in Garson

### Brook Trout release with Junction Creek Stewardship Committee

May 5th at 10:00am at Twin Forks

### Final Ceremony & Private Recognition of Spanish Residential School Survivors

Sunday May 9th upon completion of walk

# Table of Contents

About Biidaasige-Ba Mandamin	3
What is a Water Walk	4
Why/How to Walk for Nibi (Water)	5
Acknowledging First Nations	6
A Story About Junction Creek	7
A Note on Residential Schools	9
COVID-19 Adaptations	10
Before You Walk	11
Get Involved/Contact Us	12



# Who is Josephine-Ba Mandamin?



Josephine-Ba, 2017 FTH Water Walk, Photo by Tasha Beeds



Nibi Emosaawadamajig, Kawartha Lakes Water Walks



Stephanie Recollect & Josephine-Ba, 2016 Water Keepers Canoe Journey

@For the Earth and Water on Facebook

The late Water Walker Biidaasige-ba, Josephine-ba Mandamin from Wiikwemikoong Unceded Territory is known as one of the first Grandmothers to organize and lead the Water Walk Ceremony around the Great Lakes to bring awareness of the consciousness of Nibi. When Josephine-ba heard Three Fires Midewiwin Ogimaa Bawdwaywidun Banaise-Ba's speak of the prophecy that "water will cost as much as gold" by the year 2030 and when he further asked what was going to be done to protect and help, she and a number of Mide Grandmother's stood up to "Walk the Talk" walking around the Great Lakes and other Waters. from 2003 to 2019 Josephine- ba walked over 20,000 kms for the Water

# What is a Water Walk?

A Water Walk is an Anishinaabe Ceremony emerging from the Midewiwin Tradition to raise awareness of the water as a living entity. Water is precious and sacred...one of the most basic elements needed for all life to exist. nîpîy/Nibi is one of our many relatives with whom we have a reciprocal relationship. Like our Indigenous Ancestors, we move our bodies in Ceremony to articulate that relationship and to protect the Beings who sustain us for future generations. Carrying nîpîy/Nibi connects Kwewag on a profound spiritual level and for the Niniwag, the Staff helps them to know their roles as protectors. Traditionally, women, because of their ability to carry life, carry the Copper Vessel and those who identify as men carry the Eagle Water Staff although if there are not enough men, the Grandmothers or 2 Spirits can step in to do their role.



**Josephine-Ba's sister Melvina Flamand and her Grandson Radon; Melvina is one of the original Mother Earth Grandmother Water Walkers, walking along side Jo-Ba for many years.**

Enji- Tibew'eseng Nibi Nikwejiwong, the first of four Water Walks which, led by nêhiyaw iskwêw (Cree) Water Walker and Grandmother Tasha Beeds, will continue late Grandmother Josephine-Ba Mandamin's legacy of Walking for Nibi (water). Historically, the Junction Creek has been polluted and damaged, and is slowly recovering with the aid of the community, but more help and awareness is needed about this important Water Way.

The 135km long Water Walk is to help raise consciousness of Nibi as a living entity that carries Life, not only in the form of animals, birds, insects, and fish but for us as humans. If the Water is sick, then we will be, too.

# Why do we walk for Nibi?

**nibi = water**



**We walk for:**

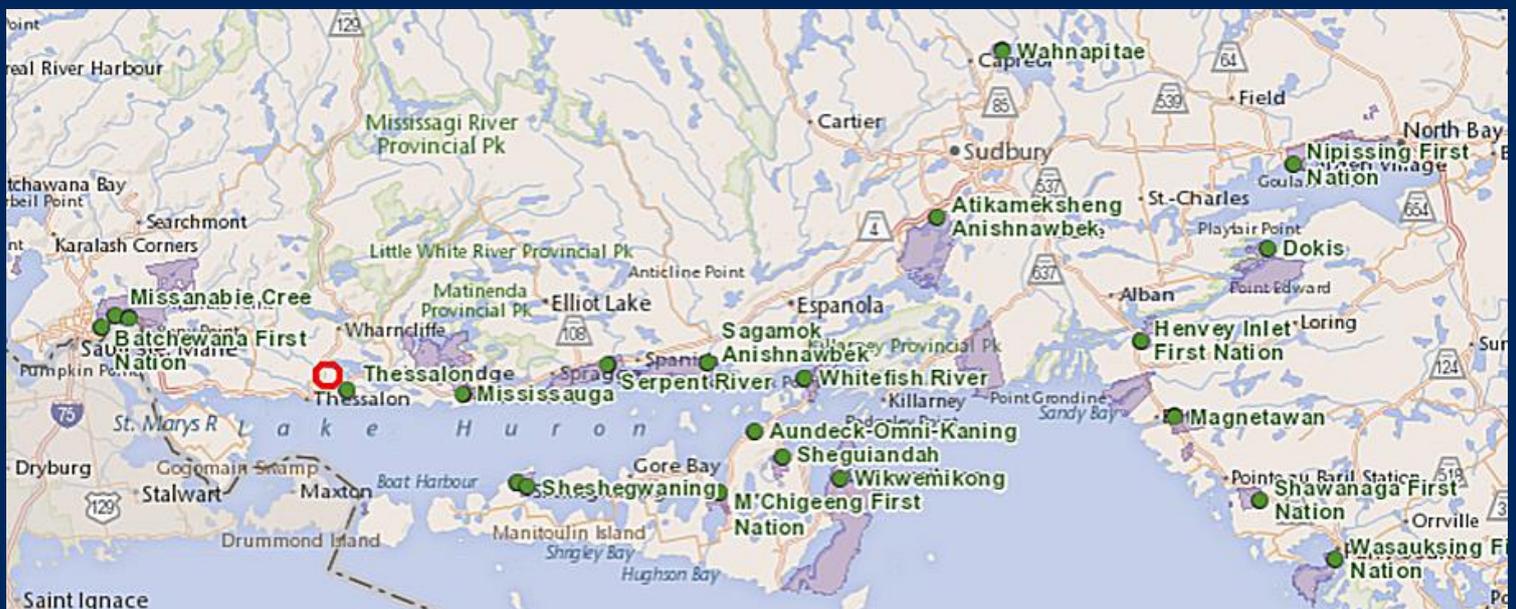
- **The Spirit of the Water**
- **Consciousness of the Water**
- **Water accessibility to all**
- **Clean Water**
- **Increasing Indigenous sovereignty in relation to Water**
- **Challenging property laws for Water**
- **Sustainable use of Water**

## How do we walk for Nibi?

- We walk with purpose and consciousness. As we carry the Water, we sing, petition, and express our gratitude. It is a time of deep reflection.
- Women carry the copper pail and the water closest to the body of water and the person holding the Eagle Water Staff protects the Water by walking alongside the lead walker.
- The Copper Pail and Eagle Water Staff must move with the water when being carried; they cannot come to a stand still, nor can they go backwards.

# First Nations Around N'Swakamok (Sudbury)

We acknowledge that Junction Creek (Anishinaabemowan translation: Nibi Nikwejiwong) falls under the boundaries of the Robinson-Huron Treaty (Treaty #61) of 1850 and spans the ancestral territories of the Anishinaabek, the Haudenosaunee and the Metis People. Junction Creek connects to the Vermillion River and Spanish River, spanning the lands of Atikameksheng Anishinaabek, Wahnapiatae, Whitefish River, Serpent River, Dokis, Sagamok First Nations, and Wiikwemkoong Unceded Nation. The watershed, although not passing through their territories, impacts the nNations along the North Shore, including Garden River, Batchewana, Missinabie Cree, and Metis Nations because it empties into Lake Huron. We acknowledge all Nations along the North Shore, and say miigwetch (Thank You) for your support.



For more information about Canada's Treaties and First Nations, visit:  
<https://native-land.ca/>

Government of Canada, First Nations of Canada QR Code:



# A Story About Junction Creek



## 1.8 million years ago...

A meteorite, about 10 to 15 kilometers in diameter, strikes Turtle Island (North America) on what we now know as the Sudbury Basin (called N'swakamok), creating a region rich in minerals, forests, biodiversity, and waterbodies

## Pre-Colonisation

The Junction Creek is a part of the ancestral territory of the Anishinaabek, the Haudenosaunee and the Metis People. First Nations Elders tell stories of the creek being used as a 'water highway' by their Ancestors.



## 1883 to late 1900's

European colonizers enter the scene, and with their lack of knowledge about sustainability, developed a transnational railway as a stop-over, harvested the plentiful forests, scarred the Earth after discovering the mineral ores, added waste to the landscape; designed to remove Indigenous people's connections to the lands and waters, colonial and assimilative policies such as sending First Nations children to residential schools were enacted.



Junction Creek Stewardship Committee

### 1999 to present

The larger Sudbury community, with the help of Junction Creek Stewardship Committee, began to and continues to, research, restore and conserve the creek to repair the damage was done - working towards Truth and Reconciliation with the Anishinaaebg Nations and the healing of N'swakamok and Nibi Nikwejiwong . There is still a great deal more work to be done and many opportunities to come together in a good way.

# 2021 Enji-Tibew'eseng Nibi Nikwejiwong

**We Walk for Nibi.**

**We Walk for All of Life.**

**We Walk for the Next 7 Generations.**

**We Walk Today for Nibi Nikwejiwong - Junction Creek.**



**The route of Nibi Nikwejiwong**

Lake Huron

# We Remember & Stand By those Impacted by the Spanish Residential School

We recognize the presence of the largest residential school in Ontario that once stood at the cumulation of Junction Creek's flow into Lake Huron, in Spanish, ON. The Water Walk will finish on Mother's Day, at the "Water's edge" beside the grounds where many children were taken to by force and held against their will, removed from their Indigenous families, communities, culture, and life. The school became the last place many would see. As the Truth and Reconciliation Commission noted, over 6000 children lost their lives through murder, violence, abuse and neglect at the church and government run schools.

Here, a private closed Ceremony will be held to mourn the children whose lives were lost, to honour the mothers whose children were taken, and to celebrate the living, recognizing the power of Indigenous Nations today.

Learn more about the Spanish Residential School by scanning the QR Code here:



**Grade 3 Girl's Class, Spanish**



**Boys at Spanish**



**Names of Indigenous Children who died in  
Residential Schools**



**Spanish Residential School from the  
View of the Water**



# Who can walk for Junction Creek?

Anyone can participate in the Water Walk for Junction Creek.

The walk itself is a connection to the water, whether you are spiritual, religious or not. The walk will be a learning and sharing experience, with the water and for the water. There will be opportunities to walk in-person (through registration and following COVID safety protocols), watch from a distance, or follow virtually.

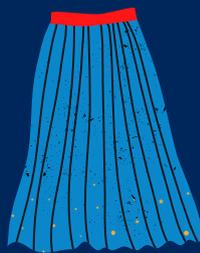


## Before you Walk

*\*Registration required to participate in-person*



Wear appropriate and comfortable footwear



Women (kwe) wear long skirts  
Men (inini) wear pants



Bring hand sanitizer and face mask/covering

# COVID- 19 Adaptations

As we move and conduct gatherings, we will respect provincial safety guidelines for ensuring everyone's health during these turbulent times and we will adjust to new policies accordingly.

To help manage activities and adhere to social gathering limits, registration will be required for all in-person activities.

The Water Walk will also be documented virtually over various social media platforms, and the public will be able to follow the Walk from the comfort of their own homes. There will also plenty of opportunity for public engagement and participation remotely through various Zoom talks, youth call outs for logo designs and "fish art" in addition to a pre-Water Walk clean-ups!

Keep an eye out for public safety changes, and we will update our pages accordingly with any changes to the Water Walk.

# Want to get involved?



## Support Us

Offer in-kind or charitable donations.  
Become a sponsor or partner.  
Help spread the word!



## Participate In-Person

Help with creek clean-ups.  
Join us for part or all of the walk.  
Attend activities and ceremonies, following COVID safety guidelines.



## Participate Virtually

Attend virtual activities.  
Join us on our social media channels.  
Follow the walk online with 'Spot', the GPS tracker.

## For the Earth and Water Enji-Tibew'eseng Nibi Nikwejiwong



### FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Tasha Beeds, Lead Water Walker  
nikwejiwong@gmail.com

Lili Paradi, Junction Creek Stewardship Committee  
programs@junctioncreek.com

Lead Water Walker: Tasha Beeds | Elder: Shirley Ida Williams  
Advisors: Andrew Mandamin, Liz Osawamick, Waasekom  
**Supported by: Indigenous Screen Office; Anishinaabek Chief Water Commissioner Autumn Peltier; Swirling Wind Designs; Algonquin Textiles, Indigenize.Ca, Kent Monkman, Na'ah Illahee Fund, & Minisinook Canoe Journey.**

In partnership with



**Special Thanks to:**  
Wahnapiatae First Nation  
Atikameksheng First Nation  
Sagamok First Nation  
Serpent River First Nation  
Dokis First Nation  
Garden River First Nation  
Batchewana First Nation  
Missinabie Cree First Nation  
Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory  
the North Shore Tribal Council and  
the Robinson Huron  
Waawiindaamaagewin.