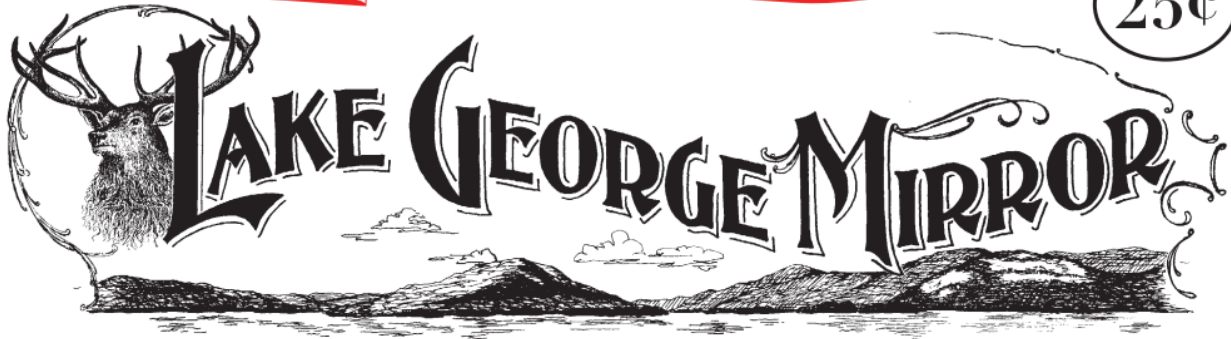


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June 30, 2023

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## FWH Consultant to Discuss History of Native Peoples in the Lake George Region

By Mirror Staff

Heather Bruegl, a historian and citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin who is assisting Fort William Henry incorporate the histories of indigenous peoples into its public programs, will present "A History of the Lake George Area & the Nations Who Called It Home" on July 5 at the Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George.

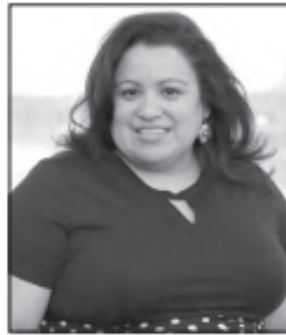
"All the land that makes up the United States was, in its entirety, Indigenous land. The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and all other nations called the Lake George area home well before colonization," said Heather Bruegl, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, where she is studying First Nations Education.

Among the topics to be discussed: the early Native peoples who lived and sustained themselves here as well as the policies that removed the Indigenous Nations from their homes and ultimately pushed them onto reservations.

The program is the latest in a series of talks intended by its joint sponsors, the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and the French and Indian War Society, to increase public awareness of the Lake George region's early history.

Bruegl's contributions to Fort William Henry's programs have been significant, said Kathy Flacke Muncil, CEO of the Fort William Henry Corporation and a founder of the French & Indian War Society at Lake George.

"Heather's personal background and extensive knowledge have provided an opportunity to enhance the representation of Indigenous allies' pivotal roles during 18th Century battles at and around Lake George. It has also expanded the educational narrative surrounding



*Heather Bruegl, historian and citizen of the Oneida Nation.*

pre-European contact," said Muncil.

Muncil said the July 5 program represents "Fort William Henry's commitment to present a more comprehensive and accurate account of Indigenous history. By harnessing Heather Bruegl's expertise, the museum aims to deliver an enriched understanding of the area's historical context to the public. Heather's presentation offers the opportunity to the public to hear from this expert ahead of a new exhibit Fort William Henry will soon be opening."

According to Jay Levenson, a Trustee of the Lake George Battlefield Park Alliance and a Native American living historian, "The history of Native Americans in the Lake George region is a story that needs to be told."

"It's a complex story of intertribal and European relations during both peace times and war," said Levenson.

The program on July 5 starts at 7 pm. Space is limited, so those planning to attend the program are encouraged to register in advance at the following email address: [info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org](mailto:info@lakegeorgebattlefield.org).