

MISSISSAUGAS OF THE

# *New Credit*



PAST & PRESENT





Contributing artists: Kyle Sault and R. Stacey LaForme Graphics by Shelda Martin

After several years of consultation, the logo of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation was accepted in 1993. The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation is part Ojibwa (Anishinabe) Nation. The symbols on the logo are representative of five important aspects of our Nation's history:

#### Eagle...

The Eagle is used because it is the predominant totem of Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. The Eagle is viewed as the messenger—the Mississaugas were once considered to be great messengers, some days, traveling up to 80 miles on foot.

#### Three Fires...

The three fires is symbolic of the Mississaugas traditional and political alliance with the Ojibway, Ottawa, and Pottawatomi Nations. A council, the Three Fires Council, was established and still exists today.

#### The Circle of Life...

Within this category there are two aspects. One, First Nations teach that every living thing is related and interconnected—we are all a part of the Circle of Life. Secondly, the blue writing symbolizes the interconnectedness to the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Credit River and Lake Ontario.

#### The Peace Pipe...

The Peace Pipe is the New Credit people's equivalent of a Parliamentary Mace. The Pipe was given to the Mississauga Peter Jones by Queen Victoria's cousin Augustus d'Este. It is used in special opening ceremonies to thank the great spirit, mother earth, and the sun.

### **Past and Present**



# History of the Credit River Mississauga



## ORIGIN

The Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation is part of the Ojibway (Anishinabe) Nation, one of the largest Aboriginal Nations in North America. George Copway, an Ojibway Missionary, and Methodist Minister, notes that “those now called the Messasaugans, settled in Canada west after the years 1634 and 1635.

A word in the Indian language translates

“Missisakiss” into “many river mouths.” By the mid-nineteenth century, the Mississaugas believed they had obtained their name from the mouths of the Trent, Moira, Shannon, Napanee, Kingston, and Gananoque rivers.

The term New Credit is in reference to the relocation of the Credit River Mississaugas in 1847. The Mississaugas traded goods with “English fur traders [who] would extend credit to the Mississaugas. The

Mississaugas earned a reputation as a trustworthy people who when extended credit would always pay back the fur traders the following spring.

The term First Nation is derived from the fact that the Mississaugas are indigenous (First) people of this continent and are a separate Nation which should be dealt with on a government to government basis.



# An Era in Review . . .

In the Mid-Eighteenth Century, the Ojibway occupied almost all of Southern Ontario. The New Credit people's ancestors themselves owned all the territory from Long Point on Lake Erie to the headwaters of the Thames, Grand, Humber and Rouge Rivers.

New Credit Reservation is approximately 6,100 acres. This small land holding in Southwestern Ontario is all that remains of their once expansive

South lived a different group, with a different language and culture. They were the Iroquois groups, the Hurons and the Iroquois Five Nations. After routing the Hurons, the Five Nations attacked the Ojibway who had sheltered many refugee Hurons. The Ojibway defeated the invaders in several battles on Lake Superior, then on Lake Huron. By 1700, they had conquered most of Southern Ontario.

and later on others termed these Indians, "Mississauga Indians." Although a majority of the Ojibways remained in the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay areas, the band from the Mississagi River began to drift towards the Southeast section of Upper Canada.

As the Tribe travelled, they eventually came to the river where one group continued to drift South and the other group began to follow the direction of the river flowing Southeast. The Mississaugas travelled along the river until they came to Lake Ontario. While they may have wandered along the shores of this lake, their favourite camping grounds were at the mouth of the river. This river became known as the Credit River.

Mississaugas were outnumbered by white settlers more than one hundred to one. They were beginning to become outcasts in their own land. Many aspects of traditional Mississauga society had changed, their religious practices, their occupations, even their dress. Yet despite this, the Mississaugas still wanted to remain Indian people.

When the white settlers began to surround the Indian Village at the River Credit, the head Chief, Joseph Sawyer called a council with his people to discuss moving to a new area.

On August 6, 1840, Chiefs, Joseph Sawyer and John Jones commenced this council meeting and was a topic for the next six years. A decision regarding their relocation was not made until the winter of 1846. Peter Jones achieved chieftainship around 1826. had been involved in the negotiations of a relocation settlement. By this time, John Jones had retired from council and was replaced by his nephew Reverend Peter Jones. All possible relocation sites had been investigated by Chiefs Joseph Sawyer, John and



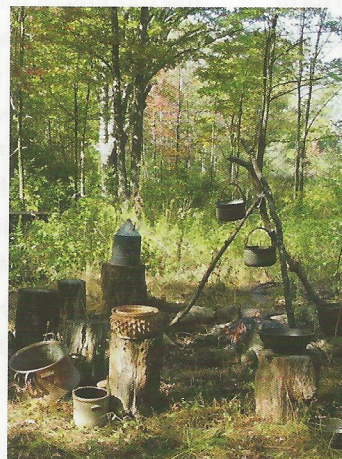
property.

When the French arrived in Canada, the Ojibway were living around the shores of Lakes Huron, and Superior. In the Spring, families joined together to fish and collect maple sugar. In the fall, they would harvest wild rice. During the winter months, the Ojibway hunted and trapped in small family units. Furs were traded with the French in exchange for European goods. To the

## MISSISSAUGA NATION

With the Ojibway defeat of the Iroquois, and the dispersal of the Hurons, the entire area was now inhabited by Ojibway tribes. Some of the Ojibway who went South came from the Mississagi River area on the North shore of North Channel, which is located at the head of Lake Huron. Consequently, the French

## INDIAN VILLAGE



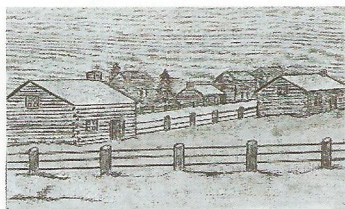
By the third decade of the nineteenth century, the



Peter Jones. The prospective site were found unsatisfactory. Eventually, lands were purchased in Southwold for their people to relocate. In the meantime, the Six Nations Confederacy in Council remembered what the Mississaugas had done for them. A delegation was sent to the River Credit requesting that the Mississaugas relocate to their lands in Tuscarora Township. The confederacy offered to the Mississaugas, as a gift, 4,800 acres in Tuscarora Township.

Later on, in 1865, the Mississaugas asked for and received an additional 1,200 acres in Oneida Township. On June 15, 1903, the Mississaugas bought the 6,000 acres for the sum of \$10,000.00 for the all time right of, and undisturbed use and occupancy of the land. The Reserve as it stands today consists of lots 1 to 12 in the first and second concessions in the Township of Tuscarora, in the County of Brant and Lots 1 to 6 in the first concession in the Township of Oneida. In 1997 the New Credit Band purchased an additional 59 acres bordering on Highway # 6. The Commercial Plaza and Industrial Building, housing a variety of shops and services, are located on this property. In 2000 another

parcel of land, known as the Kuiper Property was purchased by the New Credit First Nation.



***The Indian Village on the Credit River during the winter of 1826-27. Completed houses were dressed log cottages with two rooms. Two families occupied these houses, each family having its own room. Originally twenty of these two-family houses were built at the Credit River.***

## MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT RIVER

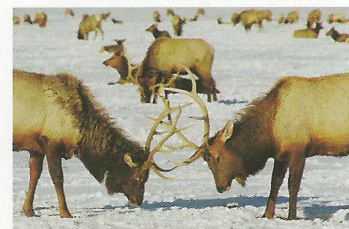
In the 1720's, the French set up a trading post at the mouth of the river, near the Indian Village. Trading with the French sometimes went on for days. If an Indian did not have enough furs to trade for whatever goods he wanted, he was allowed to take the goods on credit. The Indians traded this way and the post became known as the "Credit Trading Post." The river was named the "Credit River" and the Mississauga Indians (who had been named from the Mississagi River) became known as the "Mississaugas of the River Credit Indians."

An English woman who had traveled with her husband to the Credit Trading Post published a book in which she says of the Mississauga Indians: "This might seem a hazardous arrangement, yet I have been assured by those men long engaged in the trade that for an Indian to break his debt is a thing unheard of." If, by any personal accident he should be prevented from bringing the stipulated number of beaver skins, his relatives and close friends consider their honour implicated and make up the quantity for him.

During the American Revolution, Europeans began to occupy the Mississaugas' land. In the 1780's, several thousand United Empire Loyalists arrived, including most of the Six Nations Confederacy (the adhesion of the Tuscaroras in 1712 made up the Six Nations).

The Mississauga embraced the Iroquois, their traditional enemies, as they would brothers. In order to present a united front to the white newcomers, they elected Captain Joseph Brant, of the Six Nations as one of their Chiefs. Thousands of American immigrants followed in the next two decades. Forced to sign treaties, many

Mississaugas retreated further north to find new hunting grounds. Hunting was becoming impossible in the South. The farmers cut the forests, wild game declined and by 1812, farms covered the area. Towns grew up, first on the Lake Front, then at the cross roads. The Mississaugas wandered over the countryside searching for fish and wild game.



## TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

The Mississauga Indians of New Credit were the original owners of the territory embraced in the following description, namely commencing at Long Point on Lake Erie thence eastward along the shore of the Lake to the Niagara River. Then down the River to Lake Ontario, then northward along the shore of the Lake to the River Rouge east of Toronto then up that river to the dividing ridges to the head waters of the River Thames then southward to Long Point the place of the beginning.



# New Credit Today

## RELOCATION OF THE CREDIT RIVER MISSISSAUGAS

Approximately 266 members of the Mississaugas of the Credit Indians moved from the Indian Village in May of 1847. Some of the common family names were: Sawyer, Halfday, Finger, Herkimer, King, Chechock, Sault, and LaForme. With the sale of their land at the Credit River they used the money for improvements at the new settlement.

The Elective System began in 1924, but there is documentation stating that the Mississaugas held elections for their Council as early as 1871. The Band would elect councillors who in turn would elect a head Councillor or Chief amongst themselves. The *Indian Act* allows for band elections to be held every two years. A majority of eligible voters elects one chief and seven councillors.

The Band membership is now comprised of approximately 1,700 people. Nearly two-thirds of the members live off-reserve. Amendments to the Indian Act in 1985 resulted in the Band's population, more broadly to all bands, to

increase by 25%. A majority of the reinstated members have stated a desire to relocate to the reserve.

**The 'Vision' of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation is that of living a joyful celebration of our heritage. Our heritage includes our culture, identity, beliefs, and traditions as Anishnabe.**

Regardless of the changes over the years, the reserve has grown and prospered very well. In April of 1971, a factory was started which produced burlap insulation pads for car seats. This factory was discontinued a short time later. In the fall of 1972, the factory was turned into an Adult Education Resource Centre operated through Mohawk College. The local College continued to utilize classroom space on the Reserve for a number of years throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

## COUNCIL HOUSE



The historic Council House was built in 1882. It served as the seat of Chief and Council and the First Nations programs and services until 1987/88. It is modeled on a standard building type constructed of brick and clap wood.



*This picture was taken of Frank Laforme in c. 1974. Photograph courtesy of the Records Management Department.*

In the 1970s the Council House underwent a series of renovations. The windows replaced taller and slimmer windows with more energy efficient windows. The shutters are still intact but they do not serve any functional use. Carpeting has replaced the wooden floor and some of the walls have been dry walled. A

heating system has been installed.

The Council House is used as office space for the Community Developer and a storage space for powwow materials.

The New Credit Library, at one time, was located in the century old Council House. As the library's inventory and services increased there was a need to occupy a larger facility. As such the library now occupies what used to be the day care centre.

The exterior grounds and grove are undergoing revitalization. The aim is to restore the original growth indigenous to the area.

Maintenance and care for public buildings are provided by the Public Works Department.



# Culture at New Credit

## POWWOW

The Homecoming Powwow has been held at New Credit for approximately 22 years (as of 2008). In 1987 there was a relighting of the fires ceremony, held in Port Credit, after which the fires were carried back to the reservation.



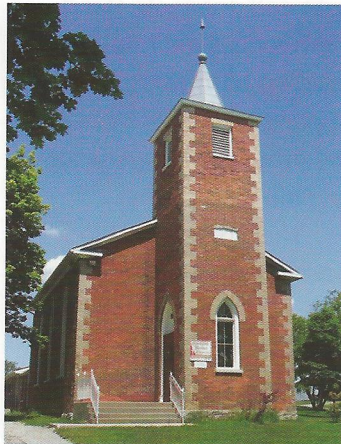
*This photo is of the first powwow held on the reserve, c. 1984. Photograph from Carolyn King's personal collection.*

This first powwow at New Credit was held on the existing baseball field. The following year it was moved to the grove. The grove area is currently undergoing a revitalization program, as of 2008, to restore the earth to its original state. As such, the powwow is held in the grounds adjacent to the grounds that used to be New Credit School.

Culturally, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation are actively involved in events within its traditional territory.

The summer months are the busiest. Display materials and information packages are distributed by the Research, Lands, and Membership Department. The Women's Hand Drum and drum group make appearances at various events within the Mississaugas traditional territory, namely Mississauga and Toronto.

## NEW CREDIT UNITED CHURCH



*New Credit United Church, circa 1852.*

Formerly known as the New Credit Methodist Church, the church became the New Credit United Church of Canada in 1925. Lloyd S. King, a now deceased community historian and elder, states the New Credit United Church was dedicated July

27, 1852. Reverend Enoch Wood, President of the Methodist conference was in charge of the dedication. Reverend Peter Jones was a special minister at the dedication ceremony when the church was open.

The simple frame building was erected by local labour. A gothic style building with polychrome brickwork. This same pattern of brickwork is found on the home of Peter Jones, known as Echo Villa, located in the city of Brantford, Ontario. The original church was made of clapboard, which consisted of flat pieces of wood horizontally overlapping, it was bricked over in 1890. The roof was also replaced that same year. In 1956 a steel roof replaced the wooden roof.

A dining hall was added in the 1970s. It can be rented for special occasions and comes with a complete kitchen.

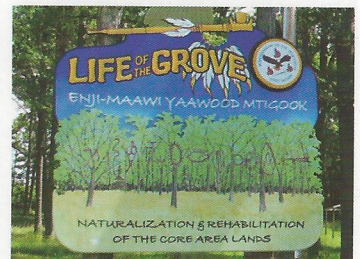
The church is maintained by New Credit First Nation. Services and other events are held by church officials.

A parsonage, that was a house reserved for the member(s) of the clergy, was completed in September of

1851. It was demolished in 1977.

## REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Carolyn King, an active community historian has applied for funds to revitalize the grounds around New Credit. The purpose of it is to let the grounds grow back to their natural state. The program is taking place in front of the Council House and also in the grove area, the arena for New Credit's Traditional Homecoming Powwow.



*Life of the Grove Enji-maawi Yaawoob Mtigook reads the sign in front of the grove where the powwow arena is located.*



# Administration



The Administration Building was built in 1987-88 to house the programs and services offered through the First Nation's Administration.



***View of the Administration Building under construction. Photograph courtesy of Carolyn King.***

The Administration of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation are overseen by departments, Chief and Council, and an Executive Director. The Council Chambers, Public Works, Finance, Economic Development, and the office of the Executive Director and office space for elected Council to use.

The mission statement of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

Administration is to "meet the needs of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation by providing the best possible services and programs, administer the resources entrusted to it in the most effective and responsible manner, contribute to the future progress and strength of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation by participating in the planning process through the identification of needs, providing analysis and recommendations, and by effectively implementing the approved plans. In this manner, the Administration has a responsibility to ensure the survival of the Mississaugas of the New Credit as a unique First Nation. In all its work, the Administration is accountable to the Chief and Council who, in turn, are accountable to the people of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation."

The *Indian Act* has guidelines and procedures for carrying out elections. Elections are held every two years. All Band members who have reached the age of majority are eligible to vote and nominate Band members. Band members residing off-reserve have the opportunity to be involved in the process of nomination and election by mail.

The Administration hours are from Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



***New Credit Elected Chief and Council 2007-2009. From left to right: Councillor Arland Laforme, Maureen Laforme, Chief Bryan Laforme, Councillor Georgina Sault, Cecil Sault, Kerri King, Clynten King, and Dan Laforme.***



# Sustainable Economic Development



The Sustainable Economic Development Department of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation operates under three mandates. To be a self-sufficient and independent First Nation, with our economic development achieved in a

manner which is consistent with our Anishinabek values. To have sufficient commercial enterprise to provide employment to meet the basic needs for our members. To generate funds and finance the necessary services for the First Nation.

Sustainable Economic Development is a department within the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation Administration that looks after the industrial park and the commercial plaza. The Industrial Park houses a

1997. Soon to be opened is a Country Style franchise. New Credit Variety & Gas Bar and Country Style, scheduled to open in 2008, are both Band operated businesses.



## New Credit Public Library

The New Credit Public Library has a very diverse history within itself. The building was moved from Brantford where it served as an army barracks. Around 1981 the building was placed on a basement foundation, repainted, and became one of the buildings now located in the Core Area of New Credit.

The library collection was stored and began in the Council House. It became a formal library when it moved into the Rumpus Hall.



In its earlier life the building served as recreation facility, office space, and the New Credit Day Care before being converted into the New Credit Public Library.

The Library is open to the public during the evenings and weekends.

The library is equipped with seven public access computers, a digital library including CD, VHS and DVD movies, a Native book collection, and an assortment of children's books. A

summer reading program is currently underway. Reservations can be made to have meetings and other special events.

The library is open to the New Credit community and surrounding area.





# Education

The Education Department contributes to the vision statement of the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. As the vision states it is a celebration of our heritage. Our heritage now includes the education of elementary, secondary, and post-secondary students. Band members can apply for funding to pursue college certification, university undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees.

Post-secondary education is pursued off-reserve throughout Canada, nearby Six Nations Polytechnic, and in the United States. Students and athletes are being sought by schools in the United States opening the door for scholarships and bursaries.

The education department provides assistance with tuition, books, and living allowance. Students are asked to apply yearly for post-secondary student assistance.

In addition, the education department cares for the Lloyd S. King Elementary School. Since 1992 the Band has been in charge of the educational programming

## NEW CREDIT SCHOOL



**New Credit School**

The one room school house was built in 1921. It is located on the old school grounds. It is now the home of the Lands, Membership, and Research Department, a branch of the administration.

The main school building (pictured above) had three classrooms for grades 1 through 6. It was open in October 1965. Children were sent locally for grades 7 through 8 at J.C. Hill Elementary School in Ohsweken. Up to 1998 children were also sent to Hagersville Elementary (formerly Parkview Public School) for grades 7-8.

Construction of the new school began in 1997. The following year the old school was renovated and converted into office space.

## LLOYD S. KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In September 1998 the Lloyd S. King Elementary

School was open for the fall intercession. The school is now staffed for students in kindergarten through grade 8.



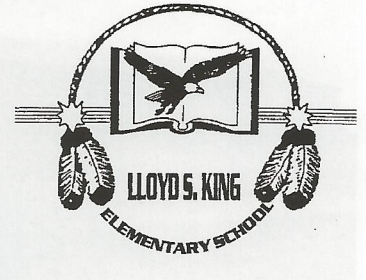
**Lloyd S. King Elementary School.**

The school is equipped with a fully functional gym, multi-purpose room, and stage. Clerestory windows afford natural lighting. The gym and multi-purpose rooms are available for rentals too Band and non-Band members.

A playground fitting height requirement for kindergarten is installed in the vicinity of the classroom. A separate playground has been added for students in grades 1 through 8. Also located on the school grounds is a regulation sized running track. A potential that an elementary football team could make use of the football posts that are within the confines of the track.

Students are bused off-reserve for secondary school. In the future, perhaps, New Credit will consider operating a

secondary school.



## EKWAAMJIGENANG CHILDREN'S CENTRE



The dining hall of the New Credit United Church housed the first Day Care Centre, which started as a pilot project. The success of it resulted in the opening of a day care centre in what is now known as the Rumpus Hall.

In 1994 the Ekwaamjigenang Children's Centre expanded services to include infants and toddlers. The new facility has services for infant, toddler, juniors, seniors, and a half-day program for kindergarten children. The day care has a licensed capacity for up to 65 preschool children.

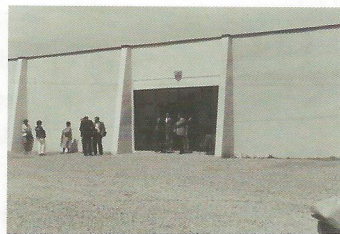


# Social and Health Services



The building opened its doors in 1993. Social and Health Services is housed in the Maamwi-gnawending. This Ojibway word means "Caring Together." The name Social and Health Services was chosen because it represents the people and services available. The employees strive to achieve a common goal of creating health and wellness within the community. They provide confidential/non-judgmental counseling and a broad range of services including Home Support for the elderly and disabled, Family Support, Community Support, Health Services, Welfare Department, Employment and Training, Healthy Babies/Healthy Children, and Skills Development for adults and children. Personal Support Workers, R.P.N.'s, Community/Family Support Workers provide services to the community.

## RECREATION COMPLEX



*Inauguration of the complex, 1982. Photograph from the collection of Carolyn King.*

Regardless of the changes over the years, the reserve has grown and prospered very well. In April of 1971, a factory was started which produced burlap insulation pads for car seats. This factory was discontinued a short time later. In the fall of 1972, the factory was turned into an Adult Education Resource Centre operated through Mohawk College. The local College continued to utilize classroom space on the Reserve for a number of years throughout the 1980s and 1990s. In the late 1970s and early 1980s Mohawk College of Applied Arts and

Technology had a satellite campus located on New Credit. Students from New Credit and Six Nations were enrolled in programs such as carpentry and welding.

Over the years the Complex has undergone some changes in purpose and function. As Mohawk College it had two classrooms and a main hall. A kitchen used to be operated providing students and staff, of the nearby Council House, with breakfast and lunch. Community Christmas parties, assemblies, community meetings, regular council meetings were held in the main hall. It was the largest space prior to the building of the Lloyd S. King Elementary School. More recently, the main hall has been renovated into a fitness facility that Band members can access free of charge.

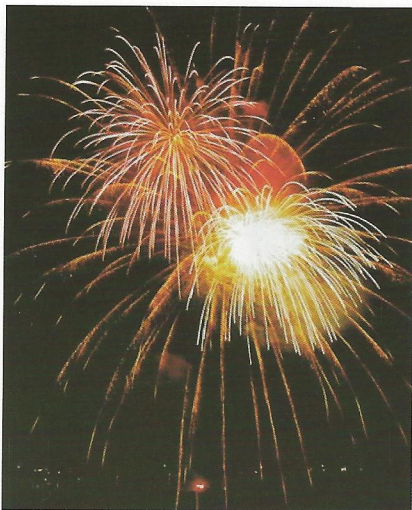


*The Recreation Hall as it looks today.*

Renovations and landscaping has changed the face of the building. It was painted brown, an awning was added above the entrance doors.

The complex also serves as a place where the youth of New Credit can visit during scheduled hours. The Social and Health Services Department arranges nights and activities such as movie nights, for youth of New Credit, in local communities such as Brantford and Hamilton.





## SESSIONAL EVENTS

### *August*

Three Fires Annual Homecoming Powwow.  
Stay tuned for information at:  
[www.newcreditpowwow.com](http://www.newcreditpowwow.com)

### *October*

Community Halloween Party held at the  
Lloyd S. King Elementary School.

### *November*

Caring Together Week: events are  
scheduled throughout the week to bring  
the community together.

### *December*

Community Christmas Party held at the  
Lloyd S. King Elementary School. Stay  
tuned to the Eagle Press Newsletter.

[WWW.NEWCREDITFIRSTNATION.COM](http://WWW.NEWCREDITFIRSTNATION.COM)

### Community Directory

#### New Credit Administration

T: (905) 768-1133  
F: (905) 768-1225  
R.R. #6, 2789 Mississauga Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### Lands, Membership, and Research Department

T: (905) 768-0100  
F: (905) 768-7311  
R.R. #6, 468 New Credit Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### Education Department

T: (905) 768-7107  
F: (905) 768-7108  
R.R. #6, 468 New Credit Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### Community Trust

T: (905) 768-4908  
Toll Free: 1-866-253-8671  
R.R. #6, 2789 Mississauga Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### New Credit Public Library

T: (905) 768-5686  
F: (905) 768-4592  
R.R. #6, 2789 Mississauga Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### New Credit Social and Health Services (Including New Credit Community Health)

T: (905) 768-1181  
F: (905) 768-0404  
R.R. #6, 659 New Credit Rd.  
Building #2  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### New Credit Variety & Gas Bar

T: (905) 768-8787  
F: (905) 768-1225  
R.R. #6, 78 Mississauga Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### Lloyd S. King Elementary School

T: (905) 768-3222  
F: (905) 768-4100  
R.R. #6, 659 New Credit Rd.  
Building #3  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### Ekwaamjigenang Children's Centre

T: (905) 768-5036  
F: (905) 768-2219  
R.R. #6, 659 New Credit Rd.  
Building #1  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

#### Recreation Complex

T: (905) 768-2217  
R.R. #6, 2789 Mississauga Rd.  
Hagersville, ON  
N0A 1H0

***If you have any questions for a  
department not listed, please contact  
the New Credit Administration.***

Revised in 2008  
by: Amanda Sault



Funded By:



**TransCanada**