



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO  
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

June 18, 2022

I am very sorry not to be able to join you today in person as you complete the planting of the Platinum Jubilee Treaty Forest. Please know that I am with you in spirit.

When I first heard of this remarkable initiative, the first word that came to mind was 'courage'. The second was 'leadership,' and in my role as Lieutenant Governor, I've often found that the two go hand in hand.

You, the students of Waterdown District High School, have shown both today in choosing to help educate local residents about the treaties that connect us and the obligations of those who share this land. And that decision means so much to your communities and the world you will inherit.

Today's ceremony, and this project, are one of the many acts of symbolism we will make in the healing process. But these symbols tell stories. They teach lessons; The imperative of reconciliation, the history of our country, and the future of humanity.

I congratulate you on taking the first step in the journey of becoming citizens of compassion, integrity, and purpose. The work of your generation is to build a stronger, kinder, and more prosperous Canada for all who walk upon this land. My congratulations to this wonderful project's many organizers and supporters for setting such an inspiring example of togetherness and hope for the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C. Dewar".