

February 1st, 2025

Dear Students,

As we head into semester two, Canada enters uncertain times, facing what could be an existential crisis. For the first time in modern history, a US President is aggressively threatening the sovereignty of Canada.

Regardless of the courses that I will be teaching (this semester they are Grade Canadian History, World History and Treaty Studies) there are some local and world events that we will be focusing on:

- Greenland and Panama are also being threatened by the American President, including with the use of military force.
- 2024 was the 100th anniversary of the diplomatic mission by the Haudenosaunee Confederacy's Deskaheh Levi General to the League of Nations in Geneva. What is the legacy of this mission? How did Canada, which went to war in 1939 to protect democracy, attempt to overthrow one of the oldest democratic governments? What is the Indian Act, and how does it continue to operate in this land?
- The economic balance of power in the world is shifting back toward Asia, with China and India as emerging as the next global superpowers. The Silk Road, a network of trade routes stretching across the Asian supercontinent is reasserting itself as the most important political, economic, cultural and social space on the planet. What does this mean for Canada and the rest of the world?
- Violence continues to unfold in Ukraine, Gaza/Palestine, Yemen and the Red Sea, as well as the wider Middle East – what are the global implications of these events? What does it mean for Canada?
- Ontario is in an election cycle, with Election Day set for February 27th. A direct consequence of the US Election, Premier Doug Ford is hoping for an event stronger majority government has Ontario faces crushing tariffs from United States.



POLITICS

Donald Trump says U.S. tariffs on Canada will begin Saturday and may 'rise with time'

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said he will impose the 25 per cent tariff on both Canada and Mexico "for a number of reasons."

Toronto Star, January 30th, 2025



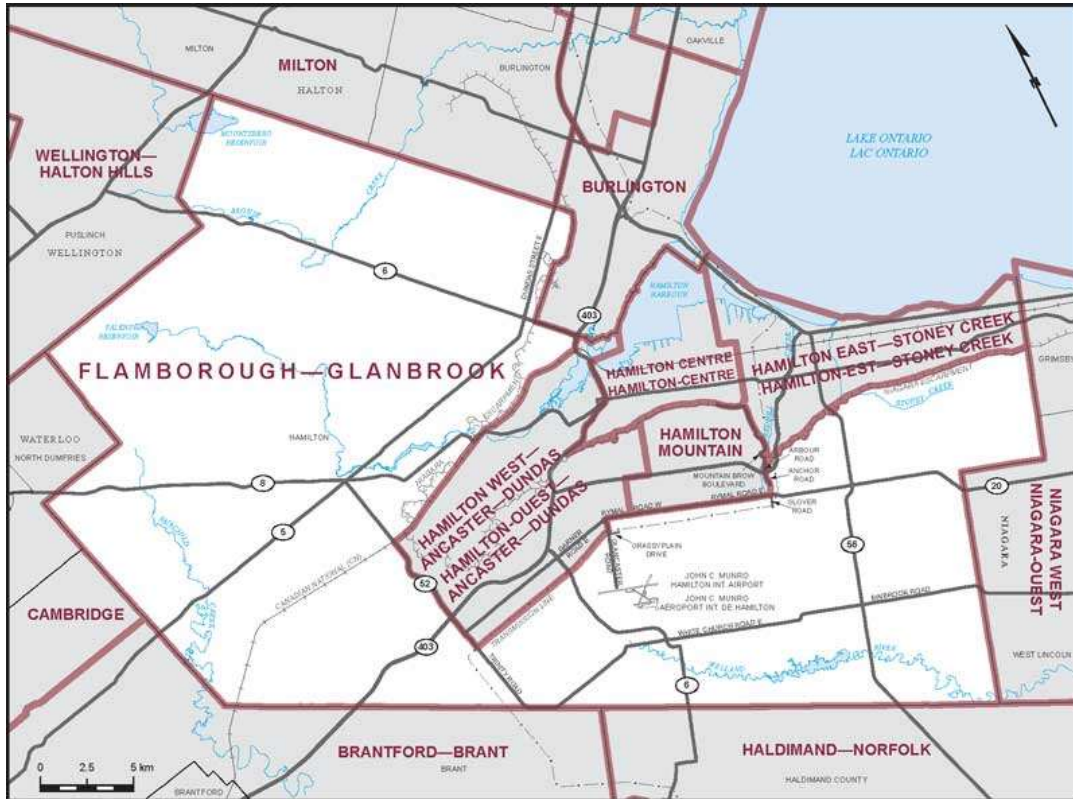
Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Many people in Canada LOVE being the 51st State. The United States can no longer suffer the massive Trade Deficits and Subsidies that Canada needs to stay afloat. Justin Trudeau knew this, and resigned. If Canada merged with the U.S., there would be no Tariffs, taxes would go way down, and they would be TOTALLY SECURE from the threat of the Russian and Chinese Ships that are constantly surrounding them. Together, what a great Nation it would be!!!

4.31k ReTruths 18.4k Likes

Jan 06, 2025, 10:52 AM

Our Riding is Flamborough-Glanbrook



Candidates:

Party	Candidate	Website
Conservative	Donna Skelly	www.donnaskellympp.ca
Green	Janet Errygers	https://gpo.ca/riding/flamborough-glanbrook-31/
Liberal	T.B.D.	
NDP	T.B.D.	

- On November 1, 2023, an important case was released by the Quebec Superior Court which declared the Silver Covenant Chain a “meta oral Treaty” which is part of the Canadian Constitution thanks to Section 35 of the Constitution Act (1982). How could this historic rule impact the Canadian federation? What is the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People*?
 - What could the recent moves by the United States mean for Treaty Rights and the Silver Covenant Chain?
- In November 2022, *ChatGPT* (Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer), a chatbot, was launched by *OpenAI*. What are the implications of this extraordinary evolution in AI? How has technology dramatically changed Canada and the world?
- Waterdown has been inhabited by Indigenous People for millennia, including the Neutral Nation who were the first to make contact with the French in the 17th and 18th centuries. Currently, we are located within the Treaty Territory of the [Mississaugas of the Credit](#).

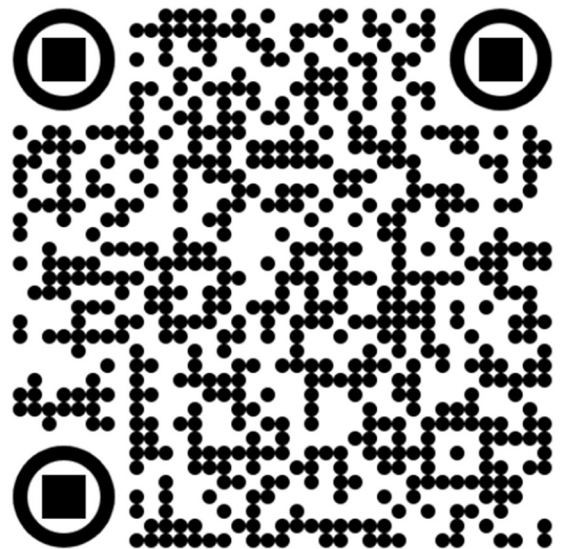
- As well, this land is connected with, and inhabited by, the [Haudenosaunee Confederacy](#) (Flamborough borders the Haldimand Tract). What responsibilities do we have as Treaty partners? – and this very much includes responsibilities to the land. [Waterdown's Souharissen Natural Area](#) and the [Treaty Forest](#) reminds us of some of these responsibilities, but also challenges us to learn more.



WDHS mural exploring the Indigenous history and identity of this region. The mural can be found on the first floor (near the Auto Shop). Click on it to learn more.

(Learn more about the mural using the QR Code on the left)

- Learning about our local history is a great way to understand Indigenous history, as well as the history of Canada and the wider world – our community has been shaped by events and concepts like the Reformation, Colonialism, Industrial Revolution, Private Property Ownership, etc. During this semester we will be using *The Platinum Jubilee Edition of The Extraordinary History of Flamborough* to analyse the links between Flamborough/Waterdown and the outside world.



HWDSB Cellphone Policy

This classroom will be strictly following the [new personal electronic devices policy instituted by the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board](#) in September 2024. The new policy is as follows:

Students must not use their personal electronic devices (e.g., cell phones, laptops and tablets) during the instructional day. Please see below for more information about different expectations for different grade levels:

- Students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 must have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) throughout the full instructional day (school day), including nutrition breaks unless permitted by the educator.
- **Students in Grade 9 to 12 must have their devices stored out of view and powered off (or on silent mode) during instructional time (class time) unless permitted by the educator as outlined below:**
 - For educational purposes, if explicitly permitted by the educator.
 - For health and medical purposes, as outlined in a medical plan of care.
 - To support special education needs, as documented in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Students are responsible for their personal mobile devices and how they use them. **If an educator sees a personal mobile device not stored out of view and powered off, the student must hand it in for the instructional day (elementary) or instructional period (secondary).** It will be placed by the student in a storage area in a location designated by the educator.

The importance of this policy is reflected in a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) report which raised concerns about the excessive use of smartphones in schools worldwide. As reported by *The Telegraph* on July 26th, 2023, "[The] Report warns excessive mobile phone use is associated with poor educational performance and emotional instability." Read the report here: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/07/1139122>

It has been said that studying history is like playing a huge game of telephone - sifting through various stories, exaggerations and factual evidence. This course will present you with all kinds of information that affects you as a Canadian.

In looking at Indigenous Nations, Canada, and the World, we will make use of many different resources: artefacts, elders, video, primary sources, secondary sources, oral histories, archives, novels, etc. This course has been designed with many elements that you will see following high school, including if you decide to enter post-secondary education. I want you to enjoy history, and will do my best to present a positive experience. Please feel free to bring to my attention any questions or concerns you might have during the course.

Some resources to keep in mind:

This class has its own website that can be accessed at: www.tidridge.com

This website is as important as your textbook – check here for assignment checklists, class news, links to sites of interest, and other important information.



This class will also make use of “The Hub” – please make sure you have your account up-to-date. All outstanding assignments and notes will be posted here for you.

Wishing you success,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "N. Tidridge", with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr. N. Tidridge
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