

Awen' Gathering Place Terms of Use

As an outdoor space, the Awen' Gathering Place is available free of charge to the community for ceremonies, celebrations, teachings, contemplation and other peaceful and respectful gatherings. The Awen' is made use by the Town of Collingwood for events and gatherings but is meant to be used informally by the community. There is no booking of the space or rental fee, however we ask that you adhere to the following:

- Include an *Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory* prior to each gathering. A land acknowledgement is a reflection process that helps set a positive intention for use of the space that is respectful of First Nations and Indigenous Peoples and recognizes their presence today and in the past. The land acknowledgement adopted by Collingwood Council in September 2018, is below however you can use your variation.
- If you are referencing or incorporating the Seven Grandfather Teachings into your gathering, we ask that you acknowledge that these teachings have, for thousands of years, been part of First Nations and indigenous culture. You can find out more about the Seven Grandfather Teachings in the brochure about the Awen' or for further reading, *The Mishomis Book, The Voice of the Ojibway* by Edward Benton-Benai, available for loan from Parks, Recreation & Culture (PRC).
- Prohibit the use of alcohol and drugs.
- For an ongoing series of workshops or events at the Awen' for which you are charging a fee and that has been successful, we ask that you consider a donation to the Town of Collingwood to support future events at the Awen' Gathering Place.

Territorial Land Acknowledgement:

"Today we acknowledge that this event is taking place on the traditional territory of the Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. We are thankful to share in the special spirit of this place, rich in the energy of Mother Earth, our ancestors and the love of all Creation."

Other Information:

- Dr. Duke Redbird wrote a poem in honour of the Awen' which he recited at the opening in 2018. It's available the Town's website.
- If your wish to invite an Elder or Indigenous Knowledge Keeper to your gathering to provide a teaching or ceremony, PRC may be able to assist.