



UHS Parent Weekly Bulletin –Vol.10

Friday, November 6, 2020



201 Town Centre Blvd.

Markham, ON

L3R 8G5

(P) 905-479-2787

(F) 905-479-1539

Extensions:

Reception - 431

Attendance - 230

Guidance - 458

Principal

Suelyn Cheong

suelyn.cheong@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal

Andrew Gazaneo (A-L)

andrew.gazaneo@yrdsb.ca

Vice-Principal

Patrick Belmonte (M-Z)

patrick.belmonte@yrdsb.ca

Superintendent

Becky Green

becky.green@yrdsb.ca

Board Trustee

Ron Lynn

ron.lynn@yrdsb.ca

Email:

unionville.hs@yrdsb.ca

School Website:

[Click here](#)

Tweets

[@UHSupdates](#)

Rotation - 4	Oct 27 - Nov 9	Rotation - 5	Nov 10 - Nov 26
In Person 8:30-11:00 AM	Period 4	In Person 8:30-11:00 AM	Period 1
11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch	11:00 - 12:30 PM	Transportation and Lunch
Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 3	Synchronous Learning 12:30-1:20 PM	Period 2
Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 1	Synchronous Learning 1:20-2:10	Period 3
Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 2	Synchronous Learning 2:10—3:00 PM	Period 4

4B ⁹	Rotation #5 ¹⁰ (Day 1 T2 Careers/Civics) 1A	11	12	PA DAY ¹³
1B ¹⁶	1A ¹⁷	1B ¹⁸	1A ¹⁹	1B ²⁰
1A ²³	1B ²⁴	1A ²⁵	1B ²⁶	Rotation #6 ²⁷ 2A
2B ³⁰				



yung_pueblo

...

essential lessons from 2020:

stand up for what is right
prioritize your mental health
being flexible brings success
your voice makes a difference
do not hide from your emotions
hard moments do not last forever
healing yourself makes life better
pursue your goals no matter what
embracing change eases your mind

yung pueblo

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Monday, November 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotation 4 Ends • Graduation Items Pick Up
Tuesday, November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotation 5 Begins • Semester 1 Term 2 Begins • Civics/Careers Turnaround • Graduation Items Pick Up
Wednesday, November 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation Items Pick Up • Remembrance Day
Thursday, November 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 8 Information Session • Graduation Items Pick Up
Friday, November 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA Day
Monday, November 16	•
Tuesday, November 17	•
Wednesday, November 18	•
Thursday, November 19	• Electronic Report Card Distribution
Friday, November 20	•
Monday, November 23	•
Tuesday, November 24	•
Wednesday, November 25	• Virtual Graduation Broadcast
Thursday, November 26	• Rotation 5 Ends
Friday, November 27	• Rotation 6 Begins
Monday, November 30	• School Council (7:00pm) ELL Anthology Launch

NEW ITEMS

Masks Update

Please note that masks with valves meant to make the mask more breathable for the wearer are not recommended by Health Canada as the valves allow droplets to escape outside the mask. If a teacher, student, guardian, or family member has a question about masks, they should contact the main office and speak to a member of the administration team. In situations where a student needs a mask, staff in the main office are always able to help.

Special Education

Individual Education Plans (IEPs) were sent home with students October 19th to 22nd. If you have not already done so, please review your child's IEP and return one signed copy to their **Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT)**.

They can be returned to room 218, the main office or electronically. If you wish to return the signed IEP electronically please email your child's SERT to receive a secure link to do so confidentially.

Graduation Items Pick-Up

Hello Graduates.

If you have not yet arranged the pick-up of your graduation items, please reserve your date and time using the link below.

Distribution of graduation items runs until Thursday, November 12.

[Graduation Items Pick Up Schedule Form](#)

Many thanks for your ongoing cooperation.

Full Disclosure Memo

Attention Grade 12 students who have applied or are planning to apply to post-secondary institutions:

The Ministry of Education has indicated that, for the 2020-21 school year, course withdrawal dates should be determined based on the completion of approximately 75% of the total course hours. The full disclosure date for Grade 11 and Grade 12 courses is December 16, 2020. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course prior to December 16, 2020, the course will not be recorded on the Ontario Student Transcript. If a student withdraws from a Grade 11 or 12 course after December 16, 2020, a withdrawal (W) is entered in the credit column, and the student's mark at the time of withdrawal will be recorded as a percentage in the achievement column of the transcript.

This year report cards are being issued one day before the OCAS and OUAC upload is to be completed. As such, if a Grade 12 student does not want to disclose their mid-semester grade on November 20th to avoid having a very low or failing mark transferred to post-secondary institutions, then they must drop the course prior to the transfer taking place. As a result, you must make an appointment with your alpha Guidance Counsellor as soon as possible, so that you can start the process to drop a course.

****Students are required to adhere to the course drop process****

Summary of important dates:

November 17 - deadline to virtually speak to your counsellor about dropping a course

November 18 - signed drop form due to your counsellor by end of school day

November 19 - you will receive your mid-semester report card electronically

November 20 - transfer of mid-semester data to OCAS and OUAC

December 16 - official full disclosure date

Please be aware that your teachers have been asked to provide you with your mid-semester mark in all Grade 11 & 12 courses by November 12th to assist you in making any decisions relating to full disclosure.

USAC Elections

On Thursday, November 5, teachers posted instructions and links in their Google Classrooms so that students could access an electronic ballot and select five candidates from their grade. Ballots will close at midnight on Friday, November 6, 2020. UHS students at Virtual School received a ballot link directly via their gapps email. The USAC Staff Advisory Committee had to make some very difficult decisions in selecting candidates for each ballot. Once the USAC executive team is assembled (5 students from each grade), work will begin on our three priorities:

1. To build a dynamic, engaging and inclusive student community while elevating student voice to ensure that all our students feel they belong at UHS and their voices are heard
2. To ensure timely communication of critical information among students, staff and administrators
3. To develop students' leadership skills through mentorship

The structure of USAC will be changing to a 'flat model.' Once members begin their virtual meetings, roles will be discussed and shared. The new USAC representatives will collaborate on committees to execute projects that align with the main goals. Members will take turns organizing and chairing meetings.

For those applicants who were not selected for the ballot, we hope to provide opportunities for you to participate in USAC moving forward. Future roles are likely to be developed as we navigate our new structure and processes. All unsuccessful applicants will be contacted by Friday, November 6.

We want to thank all of the students who applied to take part in USAC. We very much appreciate your enthusiasm and commitment!

Appropriate and Safe Use of Digital Tools During Synchronous Learning- Part A

Dear parents/guardians,

The Board requires that all teachers present the information in Parts A and B below to students as soon as possible.

UHS staff will be presenting this information to students on **Tuesday, November 10** and **Wednesday, November 11** in their block one face to face class.

Similar to this year's start up package, secondary students will receive an electronic form via their Gapps account and parents/guardians will receive a notification. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure that their child completes the Google form. Once the student submits the form, a copy of the response will be sent to the student's Gapps email account. Translated versions will be provided.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. If you have questions about the policies below, please contact a member of the administration team.

Part A: Expectations for Use and Behaviour

When participating in "real time" synchronous teaching and learning, students and families are agreeing to the following:

- Use only YRDSB approved tools for digital learning.
- Follow YRDSB Appropriate Use of Technology Policy and Procedures including Information Technology Acceptable Use Agreement
- Adhere to all rules of conduct and behaviour for the regular classroom, as they also apply to the virtual classroom;
- Participation in synchronous sessions is limited to students only. Parents/Guardians may assist and support their child logging into or accessing learning platforms or digital tools. In all cases, parents are reminded of the importance of student independence in learning.
- Parents/Guardians and students are to refrain from:
 - ⇒ -Recording any aspect of a Google Meet or Zoom session (including pictures, voices or video) using internal or external recording devices;
 - ⇒ -Distributing/posting any recorded, copied or distributed materials in any way, including to all social media platforms;
 - ⇒ -Taking photos or screenshots of anything other than when given explicit permission or direction by the teacher to do so (e.g. a visual used for instructional purposes that won't be reposted later);
 - ⇒ -Editing or manipulating materials in any way; and
 - ⇒ -Sharing/distributing links to Google Meet and Zoom sessions provided by the teacher.

Failure to comply with these expectations may involve student discipline, which could include suspension or expulsion.

Appropriate and Safe Use of Digital Tools During Synchronous Learning- Part B

Part B: Informed Consent for Participation

Parents and students need to be aware that:

- Portions of synchronous sessions may be recorded by the teacher:
 - ⇒ -Recordings that are made for learning purposes (e.g., the ability for students to access learning material at a later date) will be posted/accessible within the digital classroom and may include student voices, but no student pictures, names or other personal identifiers;
 - ⇒ -Where teachers record a segment of a synchronous learning session for individual assessment purposes, or for classroom management purposes, the recording will not be shared, posted or accessible to students; and
 - ⇒ -All one-to-one synchronous interactions (video and/or audio) between a teacher and a student will be recorded, but not shared/posted or accessible to students.
- At times, transcripts of closed-captioned notes are needed to support students with Individual Education Plans. In these instances:
 - ⇒ -There is a written record of what was said during a lesson or class discussion;
 - ⇒ -There is no personal identifiable information captured (i.e. no student pictures or names or other personal identifiers);
 - ⇒ -The transcript is not posted to the learning platform, but shared only with the students who require it; and
 - ⇒ -These notes are used by the student who requires them in accordance with their Individual Education Plan and are used for concept attainment and executive functioning purposes only.

OSSLT

In a recent memo, the Ministry of Education indicated that the literacy graduation requirement will be waived for all students graduating during the 2020-21 school year. The Ministry is continuing to explore a field test of the online OSSLT in Spring 2021, which could allow the opportunity for non-graduating students to write the test and have successful attempts counted on their transcript. Further instructions on next steps regarding the online OSSLT in Spring 2021 will be forthcoming.

Scholarship News

Scholarship News:

Continue to check the Guidance Moodle for upcoming scholarship information as well as application and eligibility details, including the Scholarship Report.

Upcoming School sponsored Scholarships (due to Ms. Hawkins - stephanie.hawkins@yrdsb.ca by 3pm or in the Guidance drop box outside of our office).

DUE: November 13th, 2020 (school sponsored)

- Lester B Pearson Scholarship (for International Students)
- Queen's Chancellor Scholarship

DUE: January 8th, 2021 (school sponsored)

- Schulich Leaders Scholarship (student must be pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering or Math)

Direct Applications:

TD Bank Community Scholarship - apply directly by November 13th, 2020

<https://www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/solutions/student-banking/community-leadership-scholarship-for-canadians/>

Volunteering Opportunities:

Online/virtual opportunities have been added to the Volunteering Google Classroom. Please continue to look for eligible non-profit organization volunteer opportunities to complete your hours.

Get hands-on and transform "trash" like plastic bags or an old shirt, into treasure!

ONE'S TREASURE

An online workshop on repurposing used items into something fun and functional

Term 1: Sept 12 - Oct 3, 2020 Saturdays
Term 2: Oct 31 - Nov 21, 2020 Saturdays

Time: 2-4pm
Age: 14+
Fee: \$10 per 4 week term

Registration: www.105gibson.com/online-registration



105 GIBSON CENTRE
105 Gibson Drive
Markham ON L3R 3K7
905.946.8787
info@105gibson.com
www.105gibson.com



105 GIBSON CENTRE PRESENTS

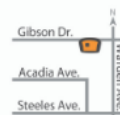
RISEBROUGH PARK CLEAN UP

A chance for youth to make a difference in our community!
Participants can earn volunteer hours!
Strict measures will be placed to ensure everyone's safety.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020
10AM - 12PM AT RISEBROUGH PARK IN MARKHAM
TO REGISTER, GO TO [HTTPS://105GIBSON.COM/ONLINE-REGISTRATION/](https://105gibson.com/online-registration/)
AND CREATE AN ACCOUNT. *NOTE THAT THE PERSON REGISTERING THE PARTICIPANT
MUST BE 18 OR OLDER.




105 Gibson Drive
Markham ON L3R 3K7
905.946.8787
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www.105gibson.com



Youth Success Initiatives



DATE: Sep 19 - Dec 12, 2020 Saturdays

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

Grade: 9-12

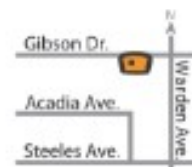
Location: Online

Registration: [www.105gibson.com/
online-registration](http://www.105gibson.com/online-registration)

Youth Success Initiatives
offers **FREE** tutoring on
Math, Science and ESL for
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.
Register online!



105 Gibson Drive
Markham ON L3R 3K7
905.946.8787
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www.105gibson.com





Parents for Children's Mental Health

SUPPORT. EDUCATE. EMPOWER.

Monday, November 16th, 2020 6:30 pm - 8 pm

PARENTS' Support Group-All are welcome!

VIRTUAL MEETING

Topic: Anxiety in COVID times with Guest Speaker

**Does your child's anxiety, ADHD, mood disorders, learning disability, or
behaviour challenges make parenting difficult? Join us...**

Aurora York PCMH Chapter Meeting
Mon, Nov 16, 2020 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/264461077>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Canada: [+1 \(647\) 497-9373](tel:+16474979373)

Access Code: 264-461-077

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/264461077>

Benefits of PCMH Support Group:

- meet other parents with children who have similar challenges
 - find encouragement and emotional support
- learn strategies to help your child or youth at home/school
 - learn how to access resources in the community

PCMH is the only provincial, family-led, non-profit organization that provides a voice for families who face the challenges of child and youth mental health issues. PCMH provides support, education, and linkage between families, communities, agencies and government. PCMH believes in the promotion of family-centred principles of care. PCMH envisions a future in which children and youth with mental illness enjoy a high quality of life in welcoming and supportive communities. For more information and resources, please visit www.pcmh.ca.

Next Meeting: Monday, December 14, 2020 6:30 pm – 8 pm. (Flyer will be sent out late November.)



**HARRIET'S YOUTH
SUPPORT LINE**

**ONE-ON-ONE CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE COUNSELLING
FOR AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND BLACK (ACB) YOUNG PEOPLE**

**EXPERIENCING
ANXIETY &
DEPRESSION?**

**LIFE SKILLS
COUNSELLING &
GUIDANCE**

TALK TO US NOW:



1-877-695-2683

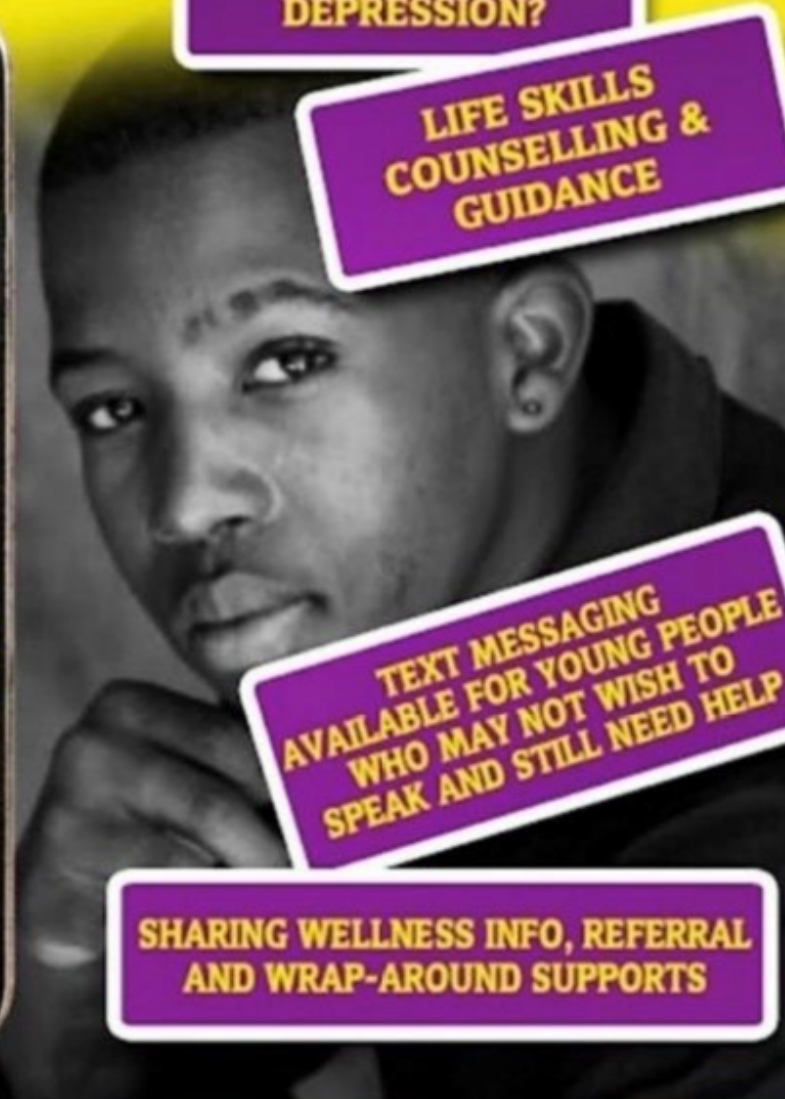
- 24 Hour Mental Health Crisis Response
- Appointment Based One-on-One Counselling
- Youth Justice Wrap- Around Supports
- Peer to Peer Mentorship

CALL OR TEXT NOW



**TEXT MESSAGING
AVAILABLE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
WHO MAY NOT WISH TO
SPEAK AND STILL NEED HELP**

**SHARING WELLNESS INFO, REFERRAL
AND WRAP-AROUND SUPPORTS**



The Unionville Howl

An Informative Newsletter



8:15 a.m. (2020) by Lois Chan

Feeling overwhelmed and not knowing what to do is a struggle we all go through. According to The Center for Addiction and Mental Health, 34% of all high-school students in Ontario indicate a moderate-to-serious level of psychological distress. Our newsletter team means it when we say you are not alone. The purpose of The Unionville Howl is to help you (yes, you!) the amazing students at UHS. We want to give you a voice. We want you to be able to express your thoughts in a community that supports each other. It doesn't matter what grade you're in or what your background and unique experiences are. We want to make sure this newsletter is a safe and engaging place for everyone by ensuring that what you read here reflects our diverse voices, ideas, and opinions.

**"A CHOIR IS MADE UP OF MANY VOICES,
INCLUDING YOURS AND MINE. IF ONE BY ONE
ALL GOES SILENT THEN ALL THAT WILL BE
LEFT ARE THE SOLOISTS. DON'T LET A LOUD
FEW DETERMINE THE NATURE OF THE SOUND.
IT MAKES FOR POOR HARMONY AND
DIMINISHES THE SONG."**

*— Vera Nazarian, The Perpetual
Calendar of Inspiration*

We encourage everyone to participate. That is the main point of this newsletter. We are on Instagram (@theunionvillehowl) where you can follow us to get up-to-date information. The Unionville Howl will be published monthly. We hope to include writeups about school events and personal essays that reflect student life, as well as jokes and riddles just for laughs, and much more. We hope you look forward to it!

A MESSAGE FROM THE UNIONVILLE HOWL TEAM

WRITTEN BY SYEDA SHANZAY KAMRAN



Social Distancing (2020) by Lois Chan

As we continue to take preventative measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, many individuals have ventured outdoors to reconnect with nature and its fresh, clean air.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT US OR OUR NEWSLETTER? CONTACT US AT:



@theunionvillehowl



theunionvillehowl@gmail.com

Through My Eyes: A Student P.O.V.

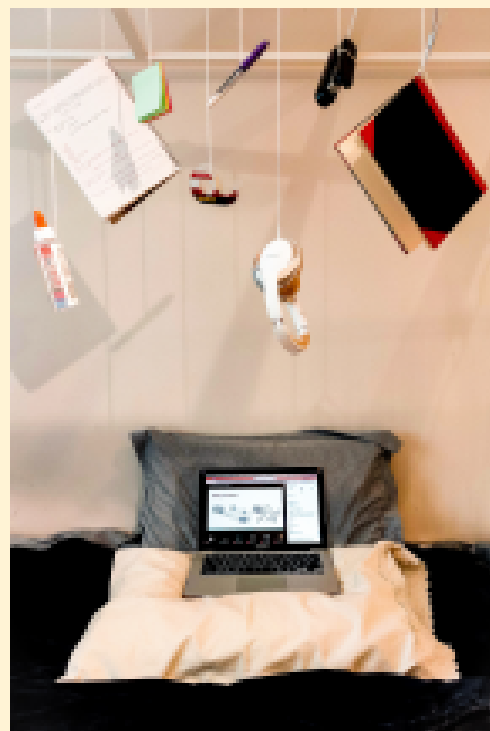
WRITTEN BY CANDY ELIZA HUA

At the beginning of this school year, I was confused and anxious because the starting date kept getting postponed. We got our new timetables but they looked different with the cohorts. This new adaptive learning model made my heart race and I felt panicked because of the unknown. At the same time, I was excited to be back at school. I missed my classmates and teachers and looked forward to seeing them again.

On the first day of school, it was different because social distancing protocols were put into place. We could only walk in certain directions. We had to use hand sanitizers every time we touched anything and had to sanitize our desks and electronics. Our class sizes were cut in half and the school was very quiet in general. While I appreciated that the routines were effective in protecting our health, I felt that UHS was not the school I knew and loved.

The adaptive model has caused a lot of stress for many students. Sitting in one spot for 2.5 hours takes its toll on us emotionally and physically. I am constantly tired in the mornings. And then in the afternoons, I have to sit for three periods in a row. For the first time, I've been having back pain as a result. Some of my classmates have complained about eye strain and wrist pain from typing on a laptop for long stretches of time.

The afternoon online portion has other challenges. It's also hard because teachers can't be there to physically support us and answer our questions. The online engagement is not the same because part of communication is facial gestures and body language - things that get lost during an online exchange.



Through My Eyes (2020) by Lois Chan

On top of that, wifi issues are abundant for most households. This poses huge challenges in trying to communicate with teachers through messages and emails. Teachers can end up missing important student inquiries.

I know many of us have been feeling out of sorts due to the unforeseen circumstances of these times. This is where this newsletter comes in! We want to create a safe space for students to share our feelings, opinions, and stories. By doing this, we can support one another in staying strong through these unprecedented, difficult times. We may be a generation facing a challenging reality, but we can be united nevertheless and create a vibrant welcoming community for everyone at UHS.



FRANCIS PEGAHMAGABOW (1891-1952)

According to Canadian federal office of Veteran's Affairs "While exact statistics are difficult to determine, the rate of Indigenous participation in Canada's military efforts over the years has been impressive. These determined volunteers were often forced to overcome many challenges to serve in uniform, from learning a new language and adapting to cultural differences, to having to travel great distances from their remote communities just to enlist".

What they don't mention is that those Indigenous military volunteers who were lucky enough to return to Canada after major conflicts abroad found themselves dealing entirely alone with their PTSD and, in most cases, ineligible for the benefits available to all other Canadian war vets.



One famous and extreme instance of this situation is Francis Pegahmagabow, a World War I hero of Anishinaabe heritage who returned to Canada after performing astonishing feats on behalf of his country, only to be told again and again that he was unable to access support from the Canadian government. Again, according to Veteran's Affairs. "Francis Pegahmagabow was one of the most highly decorated Indigenous soldiers of the First World War. An Ojibwa from the Perry Island Band in Ontario, he was awarded the Military Medal plus two bars for acts of bravery in Belgium and France. Soldiers who had been awarded the Military Medal and later performed similar heroic acts could receive bars to it, denoting further awards. Pegahmagabow was one of 39 members of the Canadian Expeditionary Force who received two bars in addition to the Military Medal". They cite his home—*still*, on their website—as the "Parry Island Reserve" near Parry Sound, which is more appropriately referred to now as the Wasauksing First Nation.

There are two excellent and beautifully written books about Pegahmagabow that tell his story in a much less propagandistic and fairer way: *Sounding Thunder: The Stories of Francis Pegahmagabow* (by his great-grandson Brian McInnes) and *Pegahmagabow: Life-Long Warrior* (by Adrian Hayes).



As we commemorate Aboriginal Veterans Day on November 8 and Remembrance Day on November 11, save a thought for Francis Pegahmagabow and all of the Indigenous soldiers who—despite their poor treatment here at home—still served their country in time of need. In the words of Duncan Pegahmagabow, Francis' son: "He felt very strongly about his country. He was always saying how we have to live in harmony with all living things in this world".

In addition to the books mentioned above, Francis Pegahmagabow was the inspiration for the 2005 novel *Three Day Road*, by the controversial Canadian novelist Joseph Boyden.

CALLS TO ACTION (FROM THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION REPORT, 2015)

- #10. . We call on the federal government to draft new Aboriginal education legislation with the full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal peoples