MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER

The Royal Chapel

His Majesty’s Royal Chapel of the Mohawks: the faith, kept since 1785, and the Crown face to face.

The chapel and its yard; its story in eight lines; the Royal Arms over the door; the windows; the Nation’s reading



HER MAJESTY’S CHAPEL OF THE MOHAWKS
LA CHAPELLE DES AGNIERS DE SA MAJESTÉ
NE IAKOTANERAIENTAHTSERA NE IEKORA NE KANIENKEHAKA ROTERONNAIENHS

The plaque’s title in English, French and Mohawk: “the Rosetta Stone”, unveiled by the Queen, 1 October 1984

1 Joseph Brant, Thayendanegea, and his son John, in the tomb, 1850
2 Catherine Brant, his widow, died 1837
3 E. Pauline Johnson’s boulder, with its bronze arrowhead
4 The tree the Prince of Wales planted at the tomb’s foot, 1919

THE CHAPEL, IN EIGHT LINES

- **1710.** The Four Kings ask Queen Anne for a chapel; she sends silver, a Bible, and a chapel at Fort Hunter.
- **1785.** The Crown builds the chapel on the Grand River for the Loyalist Mohawk, by the Loyalists John Thomas and John Smith.
- **1829.** The door moved to the tower, the inside turned to face the gable; in 1869 the pointed windows.
- **1850.** Joseph Brant and his son John laid in the tomb; Catherine Brant beside them.
- **1904.** Edward VII makes it a Chapel Royal. 1919: the Prince of Wales made a chief, Dawn of Day, and plants a tree at the tomb’s foot.
- **1951–2010.** Elizabeth signs the Queen Anne Bible as Princess, then as Queen in 1959, 1984 and 2010; in 1984 she unveils the plaque in English, French and Mohawk.
- **2024.** The chapel’s own arms, the Bible over two swords under the Royal Crown, the pine below: Faith, Hope, Charity.
- **The Nation’s reading.** A free chapel of the Crown, the first of three promises: a church, a school and a mill.



the eight windows, lit from behind

AT A GLANCE

Built	1785, by John Thomas and John Smith
Royal	1904, by Edward VII
Historic Site	13 November 1981
Its arms	granted 15 May 2023
Windows	eight, 1959 to 1962, from David Mitson’s designs
Silver	Queen Anne’s, 1712
Where	301 Mohawk Street; Six Nations Tourism
Bell	the original, with the King’s broad arrow

THE PLAQUES



The main plaque, 1984, in three languages, and the seven smaller ones; their words are in the book.

THE CROWN’S MARKS INSIDE



over the door

Walk in, turn, look up: the Royal Arms of George III, carved in oak, the oldest in Canada; given by the King by one account, carved by Percy Wood, sculptor of the Brant Memorial, by another.



the chalice · the paten · the flagon · the Bible, 1712

Queen Anne’s gifts, 1712: the chalice, paten and flagon, with her cipher and her arms, and the Bible, For Her Majesty’s Church of the Mohawks; buried in the war and dug up at the peace; signed since by the Crown.



The Silver Chain of Friendship, 1710–2010: a peal of eight handbells, C to C, given by the Queen in Toronto, 4 July 2010.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

From Book VII, The Royal Chapel; the companion posters are The School and The Mill, the other two promises.

Sources: Parks Canada’s designation; the plaques as cast; the Six Nations Public Library’s archive; the Canadian Heraldic Authority’s register; the Brantford Expositor, 1919.

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