MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER

The School

The Mohawk Institute: the school that was promised, what it became, and what the Nation keeps of it.

The building; its story; the years on one line; the people's own schools today; where to turn



The Mohawk Institute as it stands, the 1904 building, restored by the Woodland Cultural Centre as a site of conscience, drawn after its photograph. The owl on the roof, at the left, watches over learning. From Book VIII.

THE SCHOOL, PLAINLY

- **The promise.** A school, the second of three: to learn, and to keep a people. Brant wanted a school where Mohawk children learned English without losing their own.
- **1828.** The New England Company opens the Mechanics' Institute; boarders from 1831, girls from 1834.
- **What it became.** The oldest and longest-running residential school; the children called it the Mush Hole. Fifty-four deaths recorded, and the records are incomplete.
- **1904.** The brick building, after a fire likely set by students.
- **1970.** Closed on 27 June; in 1972 the Woodland Cultural Centre opened in it.
- **The Nation's record.** The office's mandate of 12 April 2011, under its own seal; others' findings marked as theirs.
- **Today.** Save the Evidence restored the building; the people's own schools teach in Mohawk and Cayuga from the first day.
- **If you need to talk.** The Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line, day and night: 1-866-925-4419.

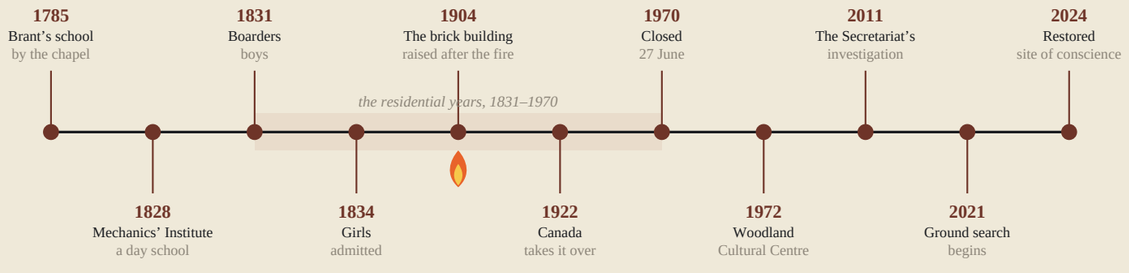
AT A GLANCE

Opened	1828, the Mechanics' Institute
Residential	1831 to 1970, the longest of all
Building	1904, after a fire
Deaths	54 recorded; the records are incomplete
Closed	27 June 1970
Woodland	opened in it, 1972
Restored	Save the Evidence, $23.5 million
Searched	from November 2021, 500 acres

WHERE TO HEAR IT

Woodland Cultural Centre, 184 Mohawk Street, a short walk west of the chapel: guided tours of the restored building. **The survivors' own accounts:** the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation; the Survivors' Secretariat; Elizabeth Graham's The Mush Hole. **Calls to Action 71 to 76:** the records, the register of the dead, the cemeteries, the families first.

THE YEARS ON ONE LINE



The ticks are spaced evenly to be read, not to scale; the shaded band is the residential years, 1831 to 1970. The flame at 1904: the building before it burned, and this one was raised in its place.

MOHAWK NATION OF GRAND RIVER
SECRETARIAT

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

Sources: the published record of the Mohawk Institute; the Woodland Cultural Centre; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the Secretariat's own papers.

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