

MEDIA PRESS KIT

Echoes of the Ancestors

The History of Indigenous Burial Sites of Fort Erie

FORMAT	Three-part documentary series
RELEASE	Scheduled for September 10, 2026
PLATFORM	Bell Fibe TV1
PRODUCED BY	Mitch Baird/Michael Summers/McLean Consulting Group

MEDIA CONTACT

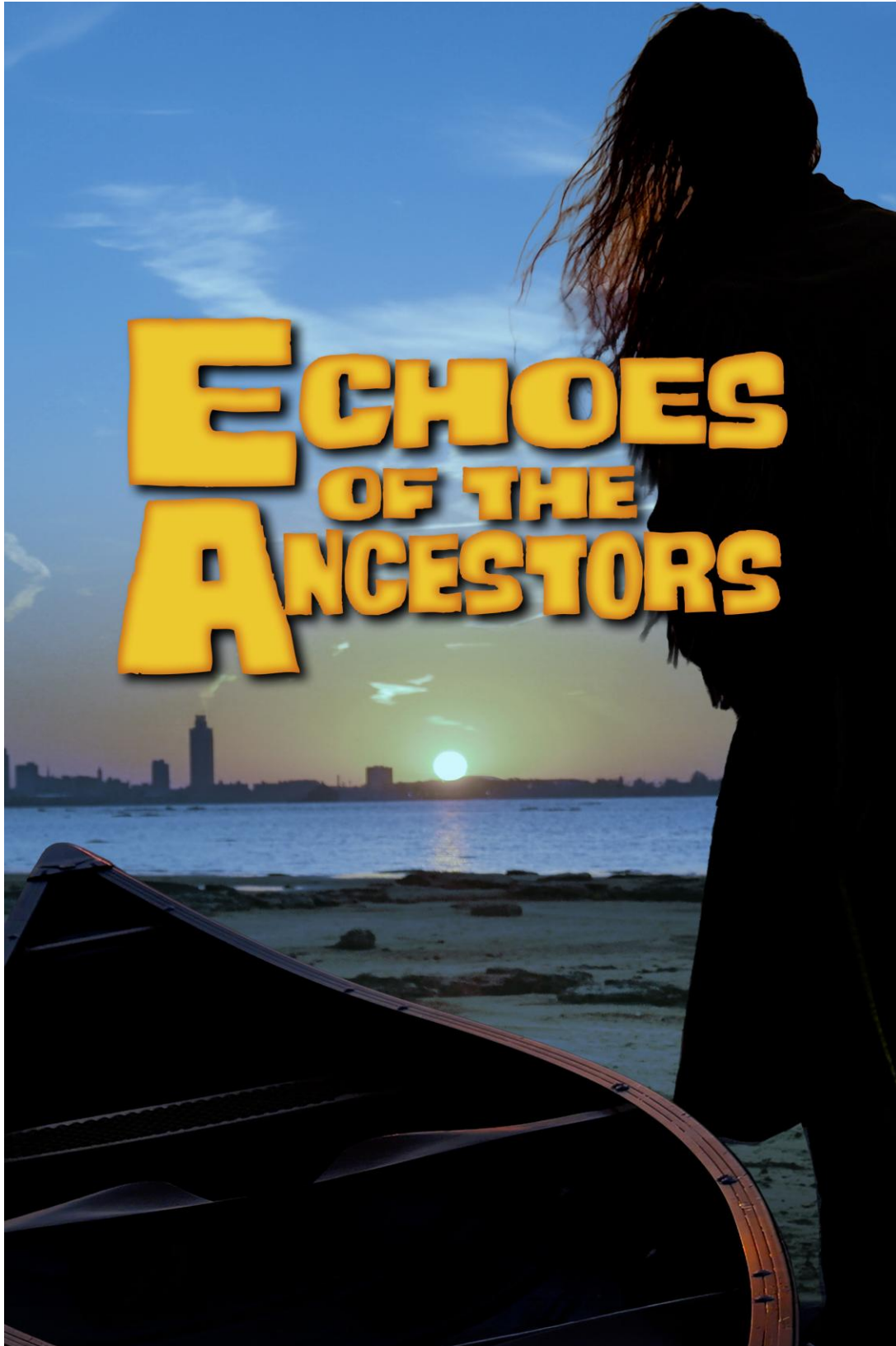
Mitch Baird, Producer
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Host Michael Summers



Host Michael Summers (pictured in screen capture from documentary) explores sensitive Indigenous heritage areas in Fort Erie and how we develop communities today while respecting the past.

Documentary Poster



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New documentary series *Echoes of the Ancestors* brings Fort Erie's Indigenous history into focus

Three-part series scheduled to premiere September 10, 2026, on Bell Fibe TV1

FORT ERIE, ON, August 31, 2026 – *Echoes of the Ancestors* is a new three-part documentary series produced by Michael Summers and Mitch Baird of the McLean Consulting Group, is scheduled to launch September 10 on Bell Fibe TV1.

The series explores the cultural and historical significance of Indigenous burial grounds and archaeological sites in the Fort Erie region, including the Orchid and Surma ossuary sites and the area surrounding the Peace Bridge. Through archaeological research, community perspectives and conversations with Indigenous knowledge holders and heritage professionals, the documentary connects the region's ancient Indigenous presence with questions that remain urgent today.

Across three episodes, *Echoes of the Ancestors* examines what archaeological discoveries can teach us about the communities that lived, gathered and traded along the Niagara River and Lake Erie. It also considers the responsibility to treat burial grounds, ancestral remains and cultural materials with respect while communities navigate development, infrastructure and preservation.

"This documentary is about learning from the land, listening to the people who carry this history, and helping viewers understand that Indigenous presence in Fort Erie reaches far beyond the written record," said Mitch Baird, producer with McLean Consulting Group. Host and producer Michael Summers adds "We hope the series becomes a useful starting point for education, respectful discussion and stronger collaboration,"

The production brings together interviews and perspectives from Indigenous knowledge holders, archaeologists, historians and community partners including Ron Williamson of ASI Heritage, Rick Hill, Six Nations knowledge keeper and Order of Canada Recipient, Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop and many others. Filming took place in Fort Erie over two years, and included locations connected to the Niagara River, local archaeological history and the documentary's central themes of memory, responsibility and cultural continuity.

Echoes of the Ancestors is scheduled to be available through [Bell Fibe TV1](#) September 10th, 2026. Viewers should consult the official Bell Fibe TV1 listing at launch for availability and viewing details.

Release details

- Title: *Echoes of the Ancestors: The History of Indigenous Burial Sites of Fort Erie* – [Short Trailer](#)
- Format: Three-part documentary series
- Scheduled release: September 10, 2026
- Platform: Bell Fibe TV1
- Producer: Mitch Baird/Michael Summers
- Production team: McLean Consulting Group
- Director/Host: Michael Summers
- Media contact Mitch Baird | Producer, McLean Consulting Group | 289-968-6670 | mitch@mcleanconsultinggroup.com

Quick Fact Sheet

Official title	Echoes of the Ancestors: The History of Indigenous Burial Sites of Fort Erie
Short title	Echoes of the Ancestors
Genre	Documentary / history / Indigenous perspectives
Format	Three episodes. Approx 20 mins each
Scheduled release	September 10, 2026,
Platform	Bell Fibe TV1
Geographic focus	Fort Erie, Ontario, including the Niagara River and Peace Bridge area
Core subjects	Indigenous burial grounds; archaeology; cultural continuity; respectful treatment of ancestral sites; preservation and civic development
Story approach	Archaeological research, community insights, historical context and interviews
Primary media contact	Mitch Baird, 289-968-6670, mitch@mcleanconsultinggroup.com

Editorial Copy

Logline

Echoes of the Ancestors is a three-part documentary exploring the Indigenous burial grounds and archaeological history of Fort Erie, and the responsibility to preserve sacred places while communities respond to modern development.

Short synopsis

Echoes of the Ancestors explores the cultural and historical significance of Indigenous burial grounds and archaeological sites in Fort Erie. Drawing on community perspectives, historical research and archaeological expertise, the three-part series connects the region's ancient Indigenous presence with present-day questions about preservation, development and respect for ancestral places.

Long synopsis

Fort Erie sits where Lake Erie meets the Niagara River, on lands shaped by Indigenous life, movement, trade and ceremony for thousands of years. Beneath the modern landscape are archaeological sites and burial grounds that carry evidence of the people who lived here long before the colonial era.

Echoes of the Ancestors will examine this history through archaeological discoveries, community knowledge and on-location storytelling. The series considers sites including the Orchid ossuaries and the Peace Bridge area, while exploring how artifacts, ancestral remains and the landscape itself reveal a deep cultural connection to place.

The documentary also turns to the present. As development and infrastructure projects continue, communities face difficult questions about how significant sites are identified, protected and interpreted. By bringing Indigenous knowledge holders, archaeologists, historians and community voices into conversation, Echoes of the Ancestors encourages learning, respect and collaboration.

Echoes of the Ancestors: Key Messages and Talking Points

The land holds a much longer history.

Fort Erie's story did not begin with colonial settlement. Archaeological evidence and Indigenous knowledge point to a deep and enduring Indigenous presence in the region.

Burial grounds are not simply archaeological sites.

They are sacred places connected to living communities, family histories, cultural responsibilities and relationships with ancestors.

The series connects research and lived knowledge.

The documentary brings archaeological and historical insights into conversation with Indigenous perspectives and community experience.

Preservation requires partnership.

Respectful outcomes depend on meaningful collaboration among Indigenous communities, archaeologists, municipalities, heritage organizations and developers.

This is a local story with wider relevance.

Questions about cultural heritage, development and the treatment of ancestral places arise in communities across Canada.

The goal is education and respectful dialogue.

The series invites viewers to learn, reflect and consider how communities can better honour the people and histories held within the land while balancing the needs of current and future development.

Media Interview Q&A

Q: What is Echoes of the Ancestors about?

A: It is a three-part documentary about the Indigenous burial grounds and archaeological history of Fort Erie. The series looks at what these places reveal about the region's long Indigenous presence and why their respectful preservation matters today.

Q: Why did you make this series?

A: We wanted to help bring a lesser-known part of Fort Erie's history into public view and create space for community knowledge, archaeological research and present-day concerns to be considered together.

Q: What makes Fort Erie important to this story?

A: Its location at Lake Erie and the Niagara River made the area significant for Indigenous communities over many generations. Archaeological sites near the Peace Bridge and elsewhere in Fort Erie provide evidence of longstanding settlement, trade and cultural life for over 10,000 years.

Q: Who appears in the documentary?

A: The project includes Indigenous knowledge holders, archaeologists, historians and community partners. Including, Knowledge keeper and Order of Canada recipient Rick Hill, Ron Williamson of ASI Heritage, Elders Dave Labbe and Alan Jamieson, Fort Erie Mayor Wayne Redekop, Former Peace Bridge Authority CEO Ron Rinus and many others.

Q: How does the documentary approach sensitive subjects?

A: The series treats burial grounds and ancestral remains as culturally significant and sensitive. Its central approach is respect, education and the importance of Indigenous participation in decisions affecting these places.

Q: What do you hope audiences take away?

A: We hope viewers understand that the land carries stories and responsibilities, and that preservation is strongest when research, community knowledge and respectful collaboration come together.

Q: Where can people watch it?

A: The series is scheduled for Bell Fibe TV1 September 10th, 2026. The official public show-page link and final access instructions should be inserted once Bell confirms them.

Q: Is the film available for community or educational screenings?

A: We welcome conversations about future community and educational use. Any screening must follow the Bell licence and promotional approvals, so interested organizations should contact Mitch Baird at McLean Consulting Group for more information.

Boilerplates and Bios

About the series

Echoes of the Ancestors: The History of Indigenous Burial Sites of Fort Erie is a three-part documentary series exploring the cultural and historical significance of Indigenous burial grounds and archaeological sites in the Fort Erie region. Through research, interviews and community perspectives, the series examines the relationship between the past, present and future, and the responsibility to preserve sacred places with care and respect.

About McLean Consulting Group

McLean Consulting Group is an Indigenous-owned and operated consulting firm supporting community-driven projects, research, education, technology and organizational development. For this production, the company served as the producer and licensor.

Mitch Baird, Producer

Mitch Baird (Cayuga, Wolf Clan) is a consultant, project manager and producer with McLean Consulting Group. His work focuses on digital collaboration, accessibility, community-driven planning and projects with Indigenous organizations, non-profits and community partners.

Mitch has over 20 years of providing technical solutions and staff training in the Indigenous and mainstream nonprofit and small business sectors where budgets are always an issue. Mitch provides hands on work developing websites and providing graphic design as well as consult on large IT projects and Federal Privacy compliance issues. Recently, Mitch was recruited to be on a Federal Accessibility Advisory Board due to his passion and expertise in ensuring that technology can work for everyone!

Michael Summers, Director/Host

Michael Summers (Oneida, Turtle Clan) led filming and post-production for Echoes of the Ancestors and appears as host.

Indigenous Film Maker located in Southern Ontario, Canada. Since 1999, Michael has been taking steps towards his dream of becoming part of that magic of telling stories through film and video. After graduating college with an advanced degree in Broadcasting – Radio, Television & Film, Michael began creating videos for local businesses along with events like weddings and concerts.

In 2017, Michael began creating a series of documentaries for Ontario Arts Council, Canada Arts Council, Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres, Bell Media (FibeTV 1) and Aboriginal People's Television Network. Each documentary has covered an area of Indigenous culture and history that have meant a great deal to Michael. Although there is lots of experience behind Michael, he is always learning and continues to look forward to telling stories that are impactful and cinematic.

Social Media Toolkit

Launch announcement

A story held in the land. Echoes of the Ancestors: The History of Indigenous Burial Sites of Fort Erie is scheduled to launch September 10 on Bell Fibe TV1. This three-part documentary explores archaeological discoveries, Indigenous perspectives and the responsibility to protect sacred places.

Local history angle

How much of Fort Erie's history lies beneath the landscape we pass every day? Echoes of the Ancestors explores Indigenous burial grounds, archaeological sites and the deep history of the Niagara River and Peace Bridge area. Watch on Bell Fibe TV1 beginning September 10.

Conversation angle

Preservation begins with listening. Echoes of the Ancestors brings community knowledge, archaeological research and historical context together in a three-part documentary about Fort Erie's Indigenous burial grounds and cultural heritage. Scheduled for September 10 on Bell Fibe TV1.

Suggested hashtags

#EchoesOfTheAncestors #FortErie #IndigenousHistory #IndigenousStorytelling #Archaeology
#CulturalHeritage #FibeTV1