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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE MUSEUM RECEIVES PROVINCIAL RECOGNITION 'Archaeology Alive!' recognized with Ontario Museum Association 2020 Award of Excellence

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – The Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre is proud & honoured to be the recipient of the 2020 OMA Award of Excellence in Exhibitions for the exhibit *Archaeology Alive! The Jean Baptiste Lainé Site in Whitchurch-Stouffville*.

The Ontario Museum Association (OMA) presented the OMA Awards of Excellence 2020 at the OMA's first virtual Conference on Thursday, October 29.

"We are tremendously excited and proud to accept this recognition," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum and Community Centre Curator/Supervisor Krista Rauchenstein. "This is a testament to the many hours of hard work put in by our staff & exhibit partners and to the importance of recognizing Huron-Wendat history in the community."

The Museum's acceptance remarks can be found here: youtu.be/0M4LatcymQk

"Technologically ambitious and innovative, *Archaeology Alive! The Jean Baptiste Lainé Site in Whitchurch-Stouffville* leverages digital resources to enhance visitors' experiences and present history in an exciting fashion," the OMA said in a statement.

"Staff at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum & Community Centre (WSM) demonstrated creativity and initiative in the development of this exhibit. Acknowledging the significance of the site to the Huron-Wendat, they actively sought opportunities to build relationships with this community. The result is a display in which indigenous voices are ubiquitously present."

The Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site, which was previously referred to as the Mantle Site, was home to a remarkable late 16th century ancestral Huron-Wendat community uncovered in southeast

Stouffville between 2003 – 2005. The exhibit provides an entryway into the rich history of the site and to the ways of life of Iroquoian societies at that time.

“The Huron-Wendat Nation is proud to recognize the Ontario Museum Association Award of Excellence presented to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum for the exhibition on the Huron-Wendat Jean-Baptiste Lainé site,” the Huron-Wendat Nation said in a statement. “We are proud to be able to collaborate with the Museum and we thank everyone who contributed to this exhibition being seen. We also thank Town Council for its support of the Huron-Wendat Nation.”

Seeking to expand their technological horizons, the Museum partnered with Ryerson University to design a 3-D virtual Longhouse gaming experience that was made specifically for this display. Not only did the staff develop new skills but also decided to add this element of the exhibit to its permanent collection.

Archaeology Alive! The Jean-Baptiste Lainé Site in Whitchurch-Stouffville is open to the public until August 2021. Please contact the Museum to book your visit at 905-727-8954 or wsmuseum@townofws.ca. Components of the exhibit can be seen virtually at L4A.ca.

Quotes:

Statement from the Huron-Wendat Nation:

The Huron-Wendat Nation is proud to recognize the Ontario Museum Association Award of Excellence presented to the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum for the exhibition on the Huron-Wendat Jean-Baptiste-Lainé site. The Nation is continually working to showcase our heritage, which is bursting with priceless treasures. We wish to share our history and introduce the public to the great Huron-Wendat Nation and its contribution to what is today the home of many other peoples in Whitchurch-Stouffville, in the heart of Huronia. We are proud to be able to collaborate with the Museum and we thank everyone who contributed to this exhibition being seen. We also thank Town Council for its support of the Huron-Wendat Nation.

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