

business, and in order to set these people's minds at ease, as well as those settled at Grand River, You will take the earliest opportunity to do in their behalf, what you may think proper.¹³

The Gun Shot Treaty was more than a sharing of the use of land:

When King George the 3rd sent out John Graves, [sic] Simcoe, as his representative to govern Canada in 1792 he made a treaty with the Indians at the Bay of Quinte, called the Gun Shot Treaty, [.] Thousands of Indians were present including the principal Chiefs of the different tribes. The Gov'r [Governor] stated although the Gov't [Government] wanted the land it was not intended that the fish and game rights be excluded or that they were to be deprived of their privileges of hunting, trapping and fishing as it was a source of their living and sustenance. These provisions were to hold good as long as the grass grows and water runs, and as long as the British Gov't [Government] is in existence. According to the ruling of the Gun Shot Treaty, the Indians to have first rights to all creeks, rivers and lakes, 16 feet on both sides of the said creek, 66 feet on both sides of all rivers and 99 feet around all lakes and island[s] on said lakes. This land mentioned is their inheritance where they can camp and abide while pursuing their occupation of fishing and trapping and while occupying said land [.] no white men can order them off...¹⁴

The Gun Shot Treaty was also remembered in the oral tradition of the various First Nations who were in attendance at the Council meetings and at subsequent Treaty meetings at the same place of Council Fire, at the Bay of Quinte. For example, Shaw-Wun-Dais (b. c. 1795-1875), or John Sunday¹⁵ remembered the Gun Shot Treaty in his evidence presented to the British Imperial Select Committee on Aborigines (British Settlements) on March 17, 1837. This evidence was presented, as follows:

136. Do the Chippeway Indians border immediately upon the British possessions in Canada?-- Yes.

137. What is the tenure upon which they hold their lands? - They are not certain of holding their land; they cannot get any writings at all.

138. They do not hold their lands under any official document or written grant, but solely by what is called the royal word? - Yes, that is exactly the case.

139. That is by a promise from the Crown that they shall be permitted to hold it, which is called the "Royal word"?--Yes, it is only that.

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